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Words to live by:

"An honest fearless press
is the public's first
protection against
gangsterism."

-Humphrey Bogart

The Alestle

ALTON, EAST ST. LOUIS & EDWARDSVILLE

a student publication

LIFESTYLE



Warped Tour hits the
river bend.
see page 4

◆ WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1999

<http://www.siu.edu/ALESTLE/Alestle.html>

Vol. 51, No. 67 ◆



T. Cho/Alestle

SIUC student parodies spending at recent board meeting.

New lap-tops

Trustees abandon 2-year-old computers

BY ANTHONY WATT
NEWS REPORTER

Computers have again become an issue at SIUC.

SIU President Ted Sanders and the board of trustees recently purchased nine Compaq Presario notebook computers to replace the IBM ThinkPads bought in 1997 for \$70,000 as part of a \$300,000 computer upgrade for Sander's office.

The new computers cost \$22,000, are faster and have more capacity than the ThinkPads.

"The Compaq Presarios are cheaper now, but they wouldn't have been two years ago," said Jack Dyer, Sanders' administrative assistant.

"The ThinkPads were no longer capable of doing the job," Dyer said. "Technology is outdated every 18 months. The computers being used were not fulfilling the communication needs of the president or the board of trustees."

Dyer said that the old computers have been spread out amongst members of Sanders' staff and are still in use.

Paul Nuernberger, of Baron Computers in Edwardsville, said that despite the fact the ThinkPads were two years old, they were probably still capable of providing efficient e-mail and Internet access. He also said that spending approximately \$7,000 a piece on them for these services was a waste of money.

Nuernberger was contacted by the Alestle. He was not involved with the SIU purchases.

The back-to-back purchases of computers for the trustees have been criticized by two dissident Carbondale groups that say the money would be better used for student computer labs.

Dyer defended the purchases. "In fiscal year 1998, the president's office spent \$48,000 in computing costs," he said, "\$22,000 of which went for the purchasing of the Presarios. SIU spent \$8.5 million on computing. The whole university budget is \$500 million. With that kind of budget, it is important that the president, the board and the various SIU campuses communicate rapidly and efficiently."

see COMPUTERS, page 2

Bluff Road to be rebuilt in spring

BY DANIELLE STERN
NEWS STRINGER

The SIU Board of Trustees has approved \$500,000 in funding for Bluff Road improvements.

At the monthly board meeting July 8, the trustees OK'd the university's 25 percent share of the \$2 million project to rebuild Bluff Road on the west side of campus. The cost is being shared by Edwardsville Township, the city of Edwardsville and Madison County. Construction by the Madison County Highway Department is expected to begin in spring 2000.

According to Ken Neher, vice chancellor for administration, Bluff Road has needed improvements for years, but money was not available. The repair project became more of a priority about six months ago when the funding partnership took effect, he said.

"With the additions of the new residence hall, the Engineering Building and the Art and Design Building," Neher said, "Bluff Road is becoming more important to the university."

Along with regular usage, increased traffic to these areas has worn the narrow, two-lane farm road.

Neher said the road is being



T. Cho/Alestle

Drivers will see major changes in Bluff Road come spring.

completely rebuilt because it cannot carry existing traffic successfully. Two 12-foot lanes and 8-foot shoulders are replacing the narrow, badly surfaced road. The improvements also include a better drainage system and a new intersection at University Drive.

The Bluff Road reconstruction is one of the largest internal projects the university has ever undertaken. The university's share of the cost comes from a special fund for deferred maintenance, according to Neher. This fund finances many overdue projects, including

various painting and recarpeting needs and the repair of the Lovejoy Library roof. Neher added that the board puts money in all types of projects, especially road maintenance, such as that of the recent sidewalk repairs and the \$125,000 construction of Whiteside Drive.

Drivers can expect the same conditions on Bluff Road until repairs begin next spring. In the meantime, Edwardsville Township will continue maintenance as usual.

Neher said he expects the project to be completed no later than fall 2001.

Hear ye, hear ye

Renaissance fete returns to Kingdom of Cougar Lake

BY COLIN FRIES
NEWS STRINGER

Royalty will be visiting SIUE soon.

King Valerian III and Queen Verity will be receiving visitors when the SIUE Cougar Lake Recreation Area transforms into the Renaissance Festival.

On the weekends of July 31, August 1 and August 7, the Trails West Boy Scout Council will return with the second Southern Illinois Renaissance Festival.

"The period costumes, the dialect spoken by the entertainers and the rustic appearance of the

Cougar Lake area, all lend to the distinct impression that you have just stepped back in time to the year 1550," said Robert R. Roberts, festival chairman.

New this year is the addition of jousting knights. The minstrels, merchants, knights, artisans, crafters, peddlers, magicians, combat demonstrators and fire-breathers who took part in the first festival last year will be returning.

This year there will be two combat arenas and four stages.

"When you pass the castle gates at Cougar Lake, you are entering King Valerian III and

Queen Verity's court," said Doug Taylor with the Trails West Boy Scout Council. The festival is a fund-raiser for the council.

Tickets are \$7.50 for adults; \$5 for senior citizens, SIUE students and children between the ages of 5 and 16 and \$3.50 for Scouts. Children under 5 are free. A four-day pass is available for \$12. Advance tickets are available by calling Trails West Council at 259-2145.

If anyone would like to be a volunteer for the festival, call 259-2145.

Textbook Service

FALL 1999

**TEXTBOOKS AVAILABLE STARTING
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AUG. 16	Mon	8:00 A.M.-6:30P.M.
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AUG. 19	Thurs	8:00A.M.-6:30P.M.
AUG. 20	Fri	7:30A.M.-5:00P.M.
AUG. 21	Sat	8:00A.M.-4:30P.M.
AUG. 23,24,25,26	M-Thur	8:00 A.M.-8:00P.M.
AUG. 27,28	Fri, Sat	8:00A.M.-4:30P.M.
AUG. 30,31	Mon, Tue	8:00 A.M.-8:00P.M.
SEPT. 1,2	Wed, Thur	8:00 A.M.-8:00P.M.
SEPT. 3	Friday	8:00A.M.-4:30P.M.

September 4,5,6, 1999

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REMINDER:

Textbooks may be returned at
ANY TIME
during the semester.

Trouble Connecting to the Network?

Technicians from Library and Information Services hold Network Clinics to help SIUE students and employees connect to the SIUE Network from home, Prairie Hall, Woodland Hall, or Cougar Village.

Who? Current SIUE students and employees

What? Questions answered, instructions given, and computers configured (Windows 95/98/NT and MacOS 7.5 or higher only)

When? By appointment only, on Thursdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where? Academic Computing Lab in Lovejoy Library, Room 0033A

How? Call 650-5234 for an appointment or for more information.

COMPUTERS

from page 1

SIUC is in the process of upgrading its student computers.

"We are in the process of getting 110 450-megahertz computers for fiscal year 1999," said Letitia Bullard, lab manager for Computer Learning Center One at SIUC.

"The Board of Higher Education has awarded approximately \$350,000 to Information Technologies for fiscal year 2000 and a portion will go to upgrading the computer labs."

Jim Tweedy, former vice chancellor for administration at SIUC, said there are four Information Technologies labs for student use.

There are other labs under various deans on campus for particular departments, but it is up to the individual colleges in the university to keep those computers upgraded.

At SIUE, "we constantly upgrade the computer labs in cycles," said John Drueke, director of Academic Computing

here.

"Some are newer than others and some will have more powerful computers based on what is taught in that lab. It varies from lab to lab but we do our best within the limit of our budget. We put in our classrooms what our professors need to teach their subjects, and in the public labs we try to supply what the students need for doing homework and general computing. We are in the academic support business."

SIUE taking steps to get the lead out

BY ANTHONY WATT
NEWS REPORTER

The Madison County Health Department is encouraging parents to have their children screened for lead poisoning.

Lead is a toxic substance that can be harmful to young children and cause prenatal birth defects. It can cause brain and nervous system damage or harm the kidneys, blood formation and the body's ability to regulate vitamin D.

Problems have not been found on the SIUE campus.

Families in homes built before 1978 should be careful because of the possibility of paint in their homes containing lead. Paint chips or dust can be a hazard to children around three

years old because they are likely to put things like paint chips in their mouths.

Other sources of potential lead hazards include old lead water pipes, newer pipes with lead solder, food grown in contaminated soil or stored in handmade pottery and open cans, stained glass, fishing sinkers, imported crayons, folk remedies and older vinyl miniblinds. This is only part of the list provided by the Madison County Health Department.

Mike Shultz, director of SIUE Housing, said that the paint in the Cougar Village buildings, which were built between 1970 and 1975, were tested for lead content in 1997 and the tests came back negative.

Bob Legate, director of housing maintenance, said plumbing in Cougar Village is made of copper piping. Although it is possible pipes could have lead solder, workers use lead-free solder in repairs or replacements.

By Illinois law, children in day care, nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten must provide proof of a lead screening.

LaVernn Wilson, director of the SIUE Early Childhood Center, said all children at the center have been screened for lead poisoning. She added that no cases have been detected.

For more information on lead screenings, contact the Madison County Health Department at 692-8954

Minorities are targeted for better health

BY THOMAS OLSEN
NEWS REPORTER

This month is dedicated to making all people more aware of African-American health problems.

The Center for Minority Services of the Illinois Department of Public Health has designated July as Minority Health Month.

According to the Madison County Health Department, there are higher rates of disease such as high blood pressure and diabetes for African-Americans than for other races.

High blood pressure, or hypertension, is a condition when the flow of blood through veins

and arteries is constricted, thus straining the heart and blood vessels. Hypertension can lead to other health problems such as cardiovascular disease, kidney damage and stroke.

Diabetes is a disease that diminishes the body's ability to produce the hormone insulin that converts sugar and food into energy for the body. Symptoms of diabetes can include excessive thirst, an increase in urination, hunger, unintended weight loss and fatigue.

Jamie Moxey, health educator for the Madison County Health Department, said, "The Madison County Health Department is helping bring attention to the health issues of

racial and ethnic groups in our county and encourage the adoption and maintenance of healthy lifestyles."

Area hospitals are offering blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose (blood sugar) screenings to the public weekdays throughout the month, Moxey said.

"All you have to do is call the hospital closest to you and they will give you information about dates, registration and cost. Sometimes there is a minimal cost for a screening but it is a small price to pay for catching a disease early and getting treatment," Moxey said.

For more information, contact the Madison County Health Department 692-8954.

Police incidents

Traffic

7/13/99

Officers were called to University Drive for a traffic accident. Tajesh Patel, 18, of Springfield, was going north when his vehicle collided with another driven by Jeri Wilke, 23, of Glen Carbon. Wilke said she had stopped at the stop sign and proceeded to cross University Drive to University Park when she was struck. She added that she did not see the oncoming car. There were no injuries. Wilke was issued citations for failure to yield, driving an uninsured vehicle and no driver's license.

Both vehicles were towed to Cross Towing.

7/16/99

Maggie Burkhead, 35, Belleville, reported that someone struck her car on the passenger-side rear bumper while her vehicle was parked at the East St. Louis Center.

A citation for driving an uninsured vehicle was issued to Jaime Travis.

A citation was issued to Chauncy Randal Letner for speeding on Poag Road near Bohm Road.

7/19/99

7/14/99

Erika Hollingshed was issued a citation for driving with a revoked license.

Gordon J. Hayman and Naser Al Masalmeh were issued citations for speeding.

A citation for expired plates was issued to Elizabeth Nash.

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We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. However, great care will be taken to ensure that the message of the letter is not lost or altered.

Letters to the editor will not be printed anonymously except under extreme circumstances.

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Have a comment?

Let us know!

Send us an e-mail:

alestle_editor@hotmail.com

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Commentary

John F. Kennedy Jr. is remembered

They were going to a wedding. A family wedding on Cape Cod that promised jokes and fun and dozens of happy Kennedy cousins. Instead, last Saturday, spotter planes and patrol boats crisscrossed the ocean off Martha's Vineyard, searching for signs of the single-engine Piper Saratoga that John F. Kennedy Jr. had been flying to the island the night before, along with his wife, Carolyn, and her sister Lauren Bessette. It had evidently crashed at sea. The wedding was hastily postponed, and once again tragedy engulfed the Kennedy clan.

Blessed with a handsome face and a famous name, ample wealth and five-star celebrity, JFK Jr. was the golden boy of his generation, a darling of magazine covers (the sexiest man alive, cooed People) and a sort of American royal. He had carved his own path in life, launching the magazine George that explored the star-spangled intersection of politics, celebrity and pop culture. He was, by all accounts, thoroughly unpretentious.

But he was, indelibly, a Kennedy, bearer of the most famous Kennedy name of them all. And the accident that apparently claimed his life—he was only 38—was just the most recent of a remarkable string of tragedies, the Kennedy curse, that have struck the family for more than half a century. Most Americans caught their first sight of JFK Jr. on another day of tears, when as a boy of 3 he raised his arm in salute to the casket of his fallen father. His uncle Robert was cut down by another assassin in 1968. Joseph Kennedy Jr., Jack and Bobby's older brother, had been killed in World War II when he volunteered to fly a dangerous mission and his plane exploded over the English Channel. Another uncle, Ted Kennedy, survived a crash in a small plane in 1964, then wrecked his presidential chances when he drove off a bridge in Martha's Vineyard exactly 30 years ago last weekend, drowning a young campaign worker who was with him. Their mother, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, succumbed to cancer in 1994, at the age of 64. Of the immediate family, only John's sister, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, survives.

It is a terrible toll for a single family, any family, and the tragedy is etched in even sharper relief by the Kennedys' prominence in American life. The patriarch, Joseph Kennedy Sr., was a self-made millionaire, head of the Securities and Exchange Commission under FDR and ambassador to Britain from 1937 to 1940. Jack was president, Bobby and Ted ran for president. In the next generation, there is one congressman and one lieutenant governor. Although the Kennedy influence on American politics is perhaps more symbolic than real, the shock of the two Kennedy assassinations invested Jack and Bobby with an almost mythic stature. In posterity's eye they—and the family—stand for ideals that Americans still cherish: grace under pressure (the Cuban missile crisis), a tradition of service (the Peace Corps), high aspiration (going to the moon) and physical vigor (lots of touch football).

It can't have been easy growing up as JFK Jr. Yes, he had a loving mother and sister, and the privileges that money can buy. But he also had to live his life in the glare of flashbulbs and, what must be equally annoying, in the heat of expectation. Will he live up to the name? Will he carry on the tradition? It's to his enormous credit that he made his own life rather than trying somehow to echo his father's. He was his own man. Not the least of the sad ironies of this tragedy is that now, in the public reaction, he will be gathered back into the clan. His life will be seen as part of the Kennedy melodrama, and his loss part of the Kennedy curse.

By Kenneth Auchincloss
In the Washington Post

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22,000 ways to say...



John Klimut
Editor In Chief

Imagine you're the top dog, the big cheese or the CEO of a major corporation. Say one of your top managers spends \$70,000 to buy 10 lap-top computers for your board. Imagine that the money used to buy those lap-tops was not allocated in the budget and an extra \$40,000 was spent to "train" a small group of people on how to use those new computers.

Now imagine, a mere two years later, that same manager spends \$22,000 on new lap-tops, to replace the first batch because they are "old." Then imagine he or she bought these computers without your knowledge.

More than likely you'd be very upset, at the very least, and probably consider and or simply outright fire the manager who spent the money.

Well, folks, this example leads me to a certain word which, in order to provide a common reference point, I thought I'd take the time and space to define.

stu-pid-i-ty (stōō pid'ə tē, styoo-) *n.* [L. stupiditas] 1. the quality or condition of being stupid 2. *pl.* -ties something stupid; foolish remark; irrational act, etc.

That is the definition of stupidity, according to the Webster's NewWorld Dictionary, second college edition.

Now that we are all on the same page, pardon the pun, I can get into how the word applies to SIU.

In 1997 Mr. Ted Sanders used \$300,000 to upgrade the computers in his office. Of that sum, a total of \$110,000 was used to buy the board of trustees new lap-top computers and provide training on how to use the computers. Seventy-thousand dollars was spent on purchasing the actual computers and the remaining \$40,000 was spent on training.

Sanders has defended the decision to spend \$300,000 to upgrade his office, purchase lap-tops for the board and train all involved on how to use the new computers. He has said that the computers were purchased so the board members could stay in touch with one another.

It seems a bit extravagant to me, but then I don't have \$300,000 to spend on new computers.

It has been learned that Sanders and the board have recently spent \$22,000 to replace the IBM ThinkPad lap-tops they bought for \$70,000 a mere two years ago.

Why? Well, according to Jack Dyer, Sanders' administrative assistant, the ThinkPads were "no longer capable of effectively handling e-mail and Internet access."

Now I'm a bit of a tech-head and I can tell you those computers are more than capable of handling e-mail and Internet access. Here's something you may not know if you're not big into computers, games and graphics drive the computer power race. It takes massive amounts of computing power to handle games and graphics. Word-processing and Internet access, while helped by faster machines, do not need the latest and fastest processors.

What bugs me the most about the whole thing is the attitude of Sanders and the board. Technically they are responsible to us, the people of Illinois. They seem to take the attitude that they are responsible to no one. Which leads me to another word I'd like to define:

ar-ro-gance (ar'ə gəns, er'-) *n.* [ME. & Ofr. < L. arrogantia] the quality or state of being arrogant; overbearing pride or self-importance Also **ar'ro-gan-cy**

SIU is one of the few public school that does not have a board of trustees elected by popular vote. The board is handpicked by the governor of Illinois. The board then picks the president who serves at the "pleasure of the board." It sounds a bit Marxist to me, but then I'm just a lowly student who simply cannot be expected to understand the complex nature of the SIU power structure.

In a democratic nation with a Constitution that places the power in the people's hands, it seems to me that the board and the president should serve at the "pleasure of the people." God forbid SIU, a public and government institution, be held to the standards of the U.S. Constitution. For some reason the phrase, "of, by and for the people" keeps resonating in my head. I wonder why.

It seems to me if you give someone—or in this case a group of people—absolute power, that power will corrupt absolutely. We need look no further than Sanders and the board to see that statement is true.

John Klimut
Editor In Chief

Photo essay
by Sheri McWhirter
Lifestyles Editor

People, Entertainment & Comics

VANS

WARPED
TOUR 99

Life

Eminem

Black Eyed Peas

Suicidal

On July 13, the Vans Warped Tour skated into town and conquered Riverport Amphitheatre. With more than 30 bands including The Vandals, Less Than Jake, Pennywise, Buck O Nine, Zebrahead, Lit and Ice T, plus six local groups like Playground King and Dogfight, there were options for everyone. Some shows were running consecutively, so you had to pick and choose what you wanted to see. The pictured bands had the standout performances of the day.



Lifestyle

YET ANOTHER "FEAR YOUR NEIGHBORS" CONSPIRACY THEORY SINKS AGAIN

BY STEPHEN WHITE
LIFESTYLE REPORTER

In Screen Gem's latest dramatic thriller, "Arlington Road," Jeff Bridges plays an American history teacher who specializes in terrorism. When he gets a hunch (and he gets a lot of them), he's full of suspicion and paranoia and wears his spectacles on the tip of his nose, sifting through mounds of evidence like a self-appointed FBI agent.

"No one is safe," according to Michael Faraday, the witty, idealistic hero of "Arlington Road," who inadvertently stumbles onto a major terrorist threat right in his own neighborhood. That's because the man living next door to you could be the next Timothy McVeigh.

If you think this sounds far-fetched, you haven't seen "Arlington Road." Sure, the many coincidences and ironies in "Arlington Road" could actually happen, but does this story make for a psychologically satisfying drama?

First of all, the cat is already out of the bag. We already know from the previews who-done-it—Oliver Lang (Tim Robbins), the friendly neighbor who says he's a structural engineer working on a shopping mall, but he has the blueprints for several major landmarks, including The Arch and The Pentagon hanging up in his office. Are you suspicious yet?

Oh, and by the way, he was arrested as a teenager for blowing up a government building with a pipe bomb. His real name isn't even Oliver Lang, and when he was a child the government stole his father's property.

You don't have to be a sleuth to figure out this mystery, but remember to bring a bottle of Prozac with you to the theater because it's about as tedious as a day in front of a microfiche machine. Faraday goes to great lengths to prove to us the things we already know, and his research is downright boring. His girlfriend, Brooke Wolfe (Hope Davis) doesn't believe a word Faraday says. It takes her too long to figure out the truth and her denial of the overwhelming facts her boyfriend presents doesn't seem to

make psychological sense. She seems too cold and snippy to be a human being, much less Faraday's girlfriend. She needs a bucket of ice water thrown in her face. So does the "street smart" FBI agent Whit Carver (Robert Gossett), who thinks that the terrorism class is "getting inside your (Faraday's) head."

Joan Cusack plays Oliver's wife, Cheryl Lang, and she does a pretty good job of portraying this appropriately one-sided, congenial though creepy, character. Her smile seems almost like something out of "The Stepford Wives," and from the moment she comes on the screen you can tell that something isn't quite right.



"Arlington Road" definitely makes its point. It seems like a made-for-

TV movie in its cheesy coincidences, ironies, foreshadowing and its one-dimensional characters. It also seems preachy and people explode at awkward moments just for dramatic effect. Jeff Bridges in particular is way over-the-top, even for a conspiracy theorist whose wife was killed by a terrorist's family in a government raid on an old country home. His performance makes him look more like a street corner preacher in New Orleans than the high-powered smart guy Washington, D.C., professor he's supposed to be.

"Arlington Road" deals with the issue of terrorism in mainstream America, but it doesn't delve into the psychological complexities of what makes a terrorist a terrorist, and it doesn't provide interest on any other level than the superficial.

While watching "Arlington Road," I kept saying to myself, "blow something up, blow something up," but when the final explosion occurred, I still felt unsatisfied. Why didn't they blow up the entire world and say that Oliver Lang was an emissary to a race of aliens who were tired of watching cheesy disaster movies?

Now that would have made a good plot twist.

"Arlington Road" is rated R for violence and crude language and is now playing at theaters everywhere.

Sheri's picks:



If you're looking for enlightenment or at least a good time, check out one of my ace pick concerts. You'll have a hell of a time, but I'm making no promises. If you look hard enough, you'll probably find me there!

Here you have a couple of oldies, but goodies. There's nothing better than kicking back and enjoying music from somebody who's considered a classic.

Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers
with special guest
Lucinda Williams

Saturday
Riverport Amphitheatre
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lawn seat tickets \$25

Chicago & Doobie Brothers

Sunday
Riverport Amphitheatre
St. Louis

reserved seat tickets \$37.75, \$28.75, and \$22.75

lawn seat tickets \$15.25

Top Ten ways to treat extreme boredom:

By Sheri McWhirter

10. Visit www.bored.com and be bored on line.
9. Contemplate your navel.
8. Pick up a "person of the night" down by the riverfront.
7. Chew a whole package of Bubble Yum.
6. Search for toe lint.
5. Attempt to drown yourself.
4. You could try doing your homework.
3. Read the Lifestyles section of the Alestle.
2. Ask yourself if there really is a Dog.
- and the number 1:
Go to a concert, you idiot!

On July 19, 1962, in Germany, France's Jose Meiffret set the world record for fastest speed on a bicycle with a speed of 127.243 mph.

Sports & Cougars

Coming UP Next

SUMMER CAMPS

Softball
July 22-23, Nike Hitting Day Camp.
Volleyball
July 26-27, Individual Skills Camp.
July 29-31, High School Team Camp.
Soccer
July 26-29, CoEd Youth Camp.
Girl's Basketball
July 21-24, High School Varsity Team Camp

◆ WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1999

The Alestle

PAGE 7 ◆



BY TONY AMMANN
SPORTS EDITOR

Baseball

Last year, people liked to believe that the home run race between Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa saved the game of baseball when it seemed as if it was close to hitting rock bottom.

Then Tuesday, at the Major League All-Star Game in Boston, the All-Century Team was revealed. Players like Willie Mays and Hank Aaron were joined with current stars like Ken Griffey Jr. on the same field.

Boston Red Sox legend Ted Williams was escorted to the mound by a golf cart, which left practically everyone in tears.

Yes, baseball was definitely going north again. What could possibly happen to mess it all up? The fans were happy and the players were happy. Unfortunately, the umpires care nothing about baseball's rebirth.

Exactly one day after some of the greatest players of all time were reunited, the Major League umpires decided it was time that they were shown some respect.

Thursday, the umpires, who are unhappy with their current salaries, called a different kind of strike when they announced that their union would resign on Sept. 1.

That's right. Some of the most arrogant people on the baseball field want more respect. Wouldn't you know it, the Cardinals won a game the very next night on a blown call at first base.

What's the big deal, you ask? When October rolls around, the umpires still might not be happy with what they are offered. Therefore, we may see replacement umpires calling the balls and strikes in the World Series.

Basically, it seems there always has to be a pothole in baseball's road to perfection. Satisfying the umpires might take a few extra barricades and construction workers to repair this section of baseball interstate.



Corey Deist/Alestle

The Nike Softball Day Camp took place at SIUE's Cougar Field last week. On July 22 and 23, the Nike Hitting Day Camp will take place at Cougar Field. The camp runs from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for girls between the ages of 10 and 18. The fee for the camp is \$90.

Lawrie wins British Open

Van de Velde blows 3-shot lead

BY TONY AMMANN
SPORTS EDITOR

Strong winds, heavy rough, narrow fairways and blind approach shots left players scratching their heads for four straight days at the 128th British Open Championship at Carnoustie Golf Club last weekend.

But when French golfer Jean Van de Velde pulled out a driver on the 72nd hole with a 3-shot lead Sunday, he left even more people scratching their heads.

Van de Velde, who had to win a tournament the week before just to qualify for the British Open, was around the top of the leader board the whole weekend.

On Saturday, Van de Velde was given a controversial free drop in the rough after an errant tee shot, which turned out to be the wrong decision by the rules official of the golf course. If he were to win the tournament, that would be the turning point.

All Van de Velde had to muster was a double-bogey six on the 72nd and final hole of the Open to win the claret jug. A simple 5-iron, pitching wedge, and four-putt seemed to be not only an easy execution, but an easy decision.

Van de Velde and his caddie had different ideas. In the baseball world of golf, Van de Velde struck out on the 18th hole of the British Open.

The Frenchman decided to hit his driver, despite two creeks, which the British refer to as burns, in the fairway. Strike one. Van de Velde got lucky and barely cleared the first burn.

A pitch shot into the fairway would have been the most logical option for Van de Velde on his second shot, but he chose to go for the green with a 2-iron. Strike two.

Van de Velde's shot ricocheted off the grandstands, then bounced into and out of the green-side burn and into the heavy rough. You would have thought the gods were even telling him to lay up at this point.

Maybe they were. But the shocked gallery was so loud that Van de Velde would not have

heard them anyway. After two bonehead decisions, it seemed Van de Velde would surely cut out the Superman stuff and just lay up this time.

Instead, he went for the green again. Strike three. Van de Velde caught a little too much grass on his downswing and put his ball right in the burn. Here's where it really starts to get fun.

Van de Velde's ball lay halfway sunk in the water, yet he believes there is still some possible way he can hit the ball out of the burn. After a few minutes of scratching his head, Van de Velde takes his shoes and socks off.

The ball starts to sink a little more, and before long is totally underwater. Van de Velde finally comes to his senses and decides to take a penalty drop.

If Van de Velde could chip up to the green and sink his putt, he would still win the championship. But his fifth shot was heavy as well, and it landed short of the green in a pot bunker.

As miraculous as it may seem, Van de Velde was able to chip out of the bunker and find any remaining nerves in his body to make a 7 and force a three-way playoff with Justin Leonard and Paul Lawrie.

Lawrie, who shot a final round of 67, had been finished with his round for nearly two hours. Leonard won the British Open in 1997, and hoped to win for the second time by winning the four-hole playoff.

Lawrie went on to win the playoff and the championship. He overcame a 10-shot deficit, which set an all-time record for major championship golf tournaments.

Unfortunately, Lawrie's success and dramatic comeback may be forever overshadowed by Van de Velde's self-destruction at the 18th hole. Van de Velde's name had actually already been printed on the claret jug, but had to be erased.

There is a great lesson to be learned here for all golfers. You can work on the mechanics of your swing and spend countless hours in the weight room, but the most important strength in championship golf, however, is the muscle between your ears.

classifieds

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The Alestle

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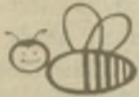
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