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The Alestle

Alton - East St. Louis - Edwardsville



Greater Tuna
See A&E

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

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Vol. 61, No. 65

Still working on Illinois Works Bill

Allan Lewis
Alestle Sports Editor

The fate of the Illinois Works Bill connected with bringing a new science building to SIUE is still in limbo, as the State continues to work on a new budget.

House Bill 312 includes over \$168 million to assist with funding various projects at both schools in the Southern Illinois University system, and would provide \$78 million for the new science building.

The bill passed through both the state House of Representatives and Senate with overwhelming support, but according to SIU Executive Assistant for Government Affairs Dave Gross, was sent back to the house after a parliamentary procedure was filed citing revenue issues.

"There are three bills that make up the capital bill, the funding bill, appropriation bill and bonding bill," Gross

said. "They have to move in unison for the bill to become a reality."

The three bills are currently being held in the House with a motion to reconsider the vote.

"Governor (Pat Quinn) has suggested that he would like to solve both operational budget problems and capital problems at the same time, and this is the reason the parliamentary motion was filed," Gross said.

The economy is a major reason why the bill remains on the table.

"With the economy, revenues have been abysmal, and (Quinn) is suggesting the state address the revenue issue and the operational side of state government within the budget," Gross said. "They have to be tackled together."

In order for the capital bill to be addressed, Quinn is looking for support within the legislation to raise income taxes to help balance the budget.

Under normal circumstances, Gross said the bill would be on Quinn's desk, while Quinn remains hopeful in hammering out the state's budget crunch.

"The bill did pass both chambers, and under normal circumstances, they would have 30 days to get it to the governor who would have to veto or sign it in 60 days," Gross said.

The clock will not start again on the bill until the motion to reconsider placed on it is removed.

"At this point, we are still hopeful that the capital bill and the revenue sources will be signed by the governor," Gross said. "They are a part of the bigger picture in revenue shortfall, and the Governor wants to solve both of them, and until we get a solution, there might not be a capital plan."

WORKS BILL/pg.3



Derrick Hawkins/Alestle

Parts of University Drive are currently closed with alternate routes.

Road construction to be completed by Aug. 7

By Rosie Githinji
Alestle Reporter

Anyone driving through SIUE may be looking at wrong way signs on their trip through the construction-laden roads on campus.

According to Facilities Management Director Bob Washburn, the roads are 40 years old, with failing joints and it is not possible to keep patching up the roads.

"It's just worn out," Washburn said. "Each year it gets more expensive to maintain."

There are two separate road construction jobs that will be going on this summer, according to Washburn. One is the Illinois Department of Transportation project on University Park and IL-157, and the other is the north and south bound roads that lead to and from interstate 270.

All the construction is costing \$1.5 million and there will be three more lanes added to the various roads, according to Washburn.

Charles Mahoney graduated from SIUE in 1991 with a degree in civil engineering and is the co-owner of the Charles E. Mahoney Company, which is a subcontractor for the road construction being paid for by I-DOT.

"Most typically the big question is when it will all get done," Mahoney said.

The weather has slowed some of the work but that is factored in when planning the job according to Mahoney.

"As long as there is a dry spell, there will be plenty of opportunities to get everything done on time," Mahoney said.

Graduate student Keshi Elegbe of Benin, Nigeria, is taking summer classes and is on campus about three days a week. The road construction is not a bad thing, according to Elegbe, but it depends on where he is going on campus.

"I can always take the long way and spare myself the hassle of having to look at all the construction," Elegbe said. "I just don't know if with the economy it's the best thing to spend money on."

The construction is scheduled to be finished Aug. 7.

Rosie Githinji can be reached at rgithinji@alestlelive.com or 650-3527



Sean Roberts/Alestle

Researcher Suzanne Eder uses duct tape and a tarp, costing less than \$100, to protect a \$100,000 scanning electron microscope from water dripping through the ceiling.

A leak in the system

Science Building in need of construction, updates, renovations

By Caitlin Doszkewycz
Alestle Reporter

SIUE science students breathed a sigh of relief on May 22 when funds to repair the science building were approved at long last.

Built in 1965, the 44-year-old science building has been showing signs of its age for some time now, according to SIUE lab manager Mary Rast.

"At the time, it was state of the art," Rast said. "Now the building is technologically outdated, we have overcrowded labs and courses and, like other buildings around campus, we have a lot of problems with leaks because of the flat roofs."

The building has been a maintenance nightmare with problems in the exhaust, ventilation, electricity, plumbing and even the structure and foundations themselves.

"We realize now that we didn't make some of the wisest choices with the original design," Rast

said. "For example, the slate floor in the center hallway is hard to walk on and trying to move equipment over it is difficult. The ventilation is still not adequate, even with improvements."

Fortunately, with a lot of help from SIU President Glenn Poshard, the Illinois House and Senate, SIUE's Science Building will receive \$78.9 million for a much-needed makeover.

The money is part of a bill that would award \$168.1 million to SIUE and SIUC. Although the bill has been approved, Governor Pat Quinn will not actually sign the bill until the Illinois budget is approved, which should be completed by June 1.

Official word is limited about the exact plans for the building for now, but after the bill is signed it should take about nine months to finish construction bid documents and sign all the necessary forms with the state, according to

SCIENCE BUILDING/pg.2

Police Reports

5-23

Police responded to Cougar Village Apartment 524 after a resident reported his apartment had been burglarized. Items taken included a television, a laptop computer and two game consoles. There were signs of forced entry into the apartment.

5-25

Police issued Tim J. Cunningham a citation for speeding on North University Drive.

5-26

Kenyon J. Jones was arrested in connection with driving with a suspended license and expired registration on New Poag Road. Jones was processed, posted bond and was released.

5-27

Chadwick D. Gray was arrested in connection with aggravated domestic battery after police were contacted by a female resident of Cougar Village Apartment 405 who said she was having problems with her boyfriend and a knife was involved. Gray was processed and transported to Madison County Jail.

Police responded to an active fire alarm at Cougar Village

Apartment 410. The alarm was false.

Police took a report of a strike plate stolen from one of the exterior doors of the Art and Design Building being stolen.

Police took a report of damage to a soda cooler in the cafeteria in Building B of the East St. Louis campus.

Police met with a Lot B attendant who reported a gray car with Indiana plates left the lot without paying. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.

5-29

Police met with a worker in the Rendleman Building about a fraudulent \$100 bill.

Police issued Tammy L. Dugan a citation for operation of an uninsured motor vehicle on South University Drive.

5-31

Suheir A. Hamid was arrested in connection with driving with a suspended license after Hamid was in a head-on collision on South University Drive. Hamid was processed, posted bond and was released.

Police issued Alexander Y. Fischer a citation for speeding on North University Drive.

SCIENCE BUILDING

from pg. 1

Assistant Vice Chancellor of Administration Rich Walker.

"We are pleased that the funding was approved for the repairs to the old science building and the construction of a new one," Walker said. "Programs have expanded over the years and we believe the new science building will enhance science education and teaching opportunities for students and faculty. We estimate we can start construction about 14 months after that."

Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Kevin Johnson said the renovations will be made to the old building to Match the LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, standards set for the new science building.

"The building is designed to promote sustainability because of the LEED standards," Johnson said. "There will be more bike parking, an open balcony overlooking a garden located on the side of the new building, and stairs that are walled by glass, allowing sunlight and heat in, while simultaneously giving students a great view of the campus."

Johnson said one of the problems in the science building involved pipes bursting, leading some faculty to use 2x4s or tarp to protect their computers from water damage. In addition, there is very little control over the environmental conditions in the building, which is considerably humid and is a bad environment for experiments.

"Floors are buckling, especially in the basement," Johnson said. "... About two years ago, workers were repairing tiles and the whole floor gave way. Now the floor is wood and carpet."

Faculty have already met with architects but are waiting for the final signature before they can continue. The building of the new science building should take about 18 to 24 months to construct

with a projected completion date of June of 2001.

"The project includes four phases," Johnson said. "The first is programming, to see how much space is necessary. The second is design development. The third is designing what equipment needs to be in the building and where. The final stage is construction."

The sciences would be moving out of the old building and math and statistics would remain as renovations take place. Some areas will be shelled and will have new wires run and new HVAC installed as renovations take place in order to provide "swing space" as people move about.

"The new science building will house biology, chemistry, and the environmental sciences," Johnson said. "The remodeled science building will house math, statistics, and physics. It will be tricky because the move has to be very coordinated; it's a major task. We're renovating two auditoriums in one summer."

The new building would also have specialized labs. For instance, the microscopy lab would be located on the basement floor because it needs stability. Furthermore, the new building would house the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics, STEM, research, education, and outreach center, hopefully opening July 1.

"It's critical that this bill gets signed," Johnson said. "We are running out of lab space and we face increasing enrollment. The new facilities, both new and renovated, will increase capabilities and capacity."

Rosie Githinji can be reached at rgithinji@alestlelive.com or 650-3527

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'The times, they are a-changin'

MRF site hosted Bob Dylan, weeds, now picnic

By Caitlin Doszkewycz
Alestle Reporter

A site that began as a place for commencement ceremonies in 1963 and as a stage for Bob Dylan in 1969 has all but deteriorated today.

According to Director of Alumni Affairs Steve Jankowski, about 1.5 million people attended the 350 different performances that took place off of North University Drive, south of Poag Road. The giant, natural amphitheater and stage have worn down to the point of crumbling, marking the only remains of the Mississippi River Festival site.

Jankowski, who helped organize the MRF site clean up and the dedication picnic later in the summer, said the MRF was always a hot attraction.

"It was something many SIUE students looked forward to every summer. It was a place to see some of the finest performances for only \$2 to sit on the lawn."

According to SIUE's MRF archives, the performing arts festival began in 1969 as a joint venture between SIUE and the St. Louis Symphony Society. At the time, SIUE President Delyte Morris saw the venue as a means of garnering publicity for the campus while the St. Louis Symphony Society saw the festival as an opportunity to provide summer jobs to its members.

SIUC alumnus Dan Binkley remembers going to a number of MRF performances.

"At the time it was like a mini-Woodstock," Binkley said. "There were lots of good acts and it was cheap. Outdoor concerts were still unique then. It was fun and carefree, and very liberal minded... Live and let live."

The MRF drew crowds from both sides of the Mississippi and featured a plethora of notable acts such as Joni Mitchell, Arlo Guthrie, Janis Joplin, Joan Baez, The Band, REO Speedwagon, The Grateful Dead, The Who, James Taylor, Rod Stewart, The Beach Boys, The Eagles and even Ike and Tina Turner.

The MRF archives state the festival was plagued by financial woe and substance abuse issues from its beginnings, leading SIUE to lose its partnership with the St. Louis Symphony Society in 1974, and culminating with its final run in 1980.

Even with the negative publicity associated with the later concerts, area residents still remember the festival warmly and consider it one of the most well known event ever to take place at SIUE. Binkley said he remembers meeting strangers and getting along, hassle-free.

"The biggest thing was the camaraderie," Binkley said. "Later the mood changed. As the times changed, (in the later 1970's) there was more police interaction, harder drugs and different music."

Edwardsville Resident Teri Perry said she remembers seeing Yes and Waylon Jennings at SIUE.

"It was wild and cool," Perry said. "The fun started from the parking lot and went on from



Sean Roberts/Alestle

The Mississippi River Festival site, once host to famous bands and thousands of concert goers, now sits vacant. The only remaining landmark is a historical marker.

there. I went to a few (shows), but not as many as I wish I had. The festival was more open than today. The rules and regulations were less strict (and) people could bring alcohol or whatever they wanted."

Jankowski said more than music was played at the amphitheater, including comedians and other performers.

"It was a great experience for people to hang out and make memories," Jankowski said. "Everyone who went remembers those special nights. The MRF was something no school had ever tried and something no one else can claim."

Although the history and memories attached to the MRF remain in tact, the site and stage on which the festival took place has been neglected for years, that is until volunteers from the MRF Commemoration Committee and the Edwardsville community came to clean up the site.

Additionally, thanks to the SIUE Alumni Association and the SIUE Foundation's newly established MRF Commemoration Committee, the MRF site will be endowed with an official Illinois State Historical Society marker.

The MRF Commemorative Picnic and Plaque Dedication is scheduled for Saturday June 13 and will feature a cook-out, walking tours of the MRF site and the Illinois State Historical Society plaque unveiling and dedication. Tickets for the picnic are \$15 for Alumni Association members and \$20 for non-members.

"We have had a strong collaborative effort in the community, with the SIUE Alumni and with the SIUE Foundation," Jankowski said. "This picnic is a chance for people to join in a dedication to the memory of this site, which was a location for not only concerts but for graduation commencements."

While there are currently no plans to revive the festival despite the interest of younger and older generations alike, Jankowski said the picnic should be an experience that all area residents can appreciate.

Caitlin Doszkewycz can be reached at cdoszkewycz@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

WORKS BILL

from pg. 1

According to Gross, the beginning of the fiscal year in July will be vital to the bills progress. "This will be the first serious test with where we are going with these budget negotiations," Gross said. "We are optimistic because we have great need."

Allan Lewis can be reached at alewis@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.



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All hard copy letters should be typed and double-spaced. Letters should be no longer than 500 words.

Please include phone number, signature, class rank and major.

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

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

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One copy of the Alestle is no charge. Additional copies cost 25 cents. The Alestle is a member of the Illinois College Press Association, the Associated Collegiate Press and U-WIRE.

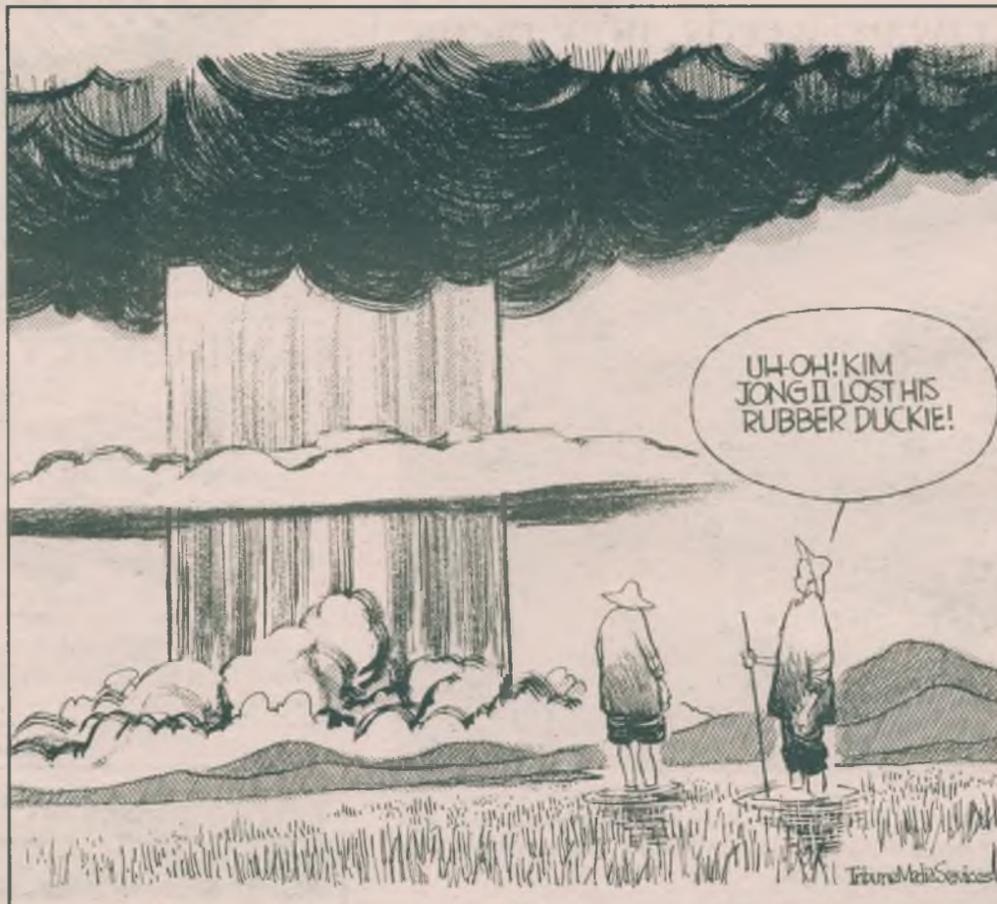
The name Alestle is an acronym derived from the names of the three campus locations of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville: Alton, East St. Louis and Edwardsville.

The Alestle is published on Tuesdays and Thursdays during fall and spring semesters and on Wednesdays during summer semesters. For more information, call 650-3528.

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Government is in, with Hummers out

The announcement of General Motors' bankruptcy this week didn't come as a surprise.

After GM received almost \$20 billion in federal bailouts, GM executives filed for bankruptcy protection. This kind of insurance will cost the U.S. another \$30 billion.

Investors will lose most of their investments, retirees and their families will see lowered benefits and thousands will lose their jobs.

Oh, hindsight.

The only positives that will come out of this bankruptcy include the elimination of Hummers and other gas-guzzling ogres from GM.

Every time I see a Hummer, H2 or any of the like, I have to wonder how much use a Hummer actually gets. If most of the upgraded soccer moms and over-compensating males actually went through the Hummer-worthy terrain to drop the kids off

or grab a morning latte' before heading up to the office, then I'd understand.

But oversized SUVs and the ugly crosses between trucks, station wagons and turtles that get less than ten miles per gallon didn't have much of a future.

The more shocking thing than the inefficiency of driving a Hummer is that there are interested buyers for the Hummer franchise. Some buyers include potential automakers in China. If anyone's into lemons, as far as vehicles that will drive your company into the ground, the Hummer brand is the fertilizer, seed and water for an entire orchard.

After totaling the buyouts of GM, the government will own 60 percent of GM. If the proposed clean-sweep of unnecessary plants and model designs do their part, GM might have a fighting chance at clearing their nearly \$18 billion remaining

deficit.

The only way they'll have a shot at clearing their debt is if the new face of GM takes a page from Toyota and Ford by making smaller, more efficient vehicles, even if it means every passenger doesn't have three cup holders or the ability to crush passing Geo Metros.

Let's face it, our oil is going to run out. The economy's struggling. People are going to lose jobs and GM needs a change. Hopefully the lesson has been learned, and the strange chimera cars and Hummer abominations will stop appearing in GM's lots.

For car buyers still craving the Hummer beast, the need to drive the monstrosity is almost always a case of having eyes too big for the stomach. Bite the bullet and get a smaller vehicle.

Kenneth Long is a junior mass communications major from Staunton. He can be reached at klong@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.



Kenneth Long

Microsoft's new gaming innovation goes too far

"It will change your DNA and suck your brain out!" That's what my mom told me when I told her about Microsoft's newest innovation in gaming, codenamed "Project Natal."

I was watching this year's Electronic Entertainment Expo, or E3 for short. It is the conference each year where all the press is invited to witness advances in gaming as well as new announcements for upcoming games. And at yesterday's spotlight for Microsoft's Xbox 360, the announcement for 'Natal' was a doozy.

If you type in Natal on Google or Youtube, you'll find a couple videos from their spotlight showing how it is a camera capable of many things. It recognizes your face as you pass by to turn you in. When you wave your hand over the TV screen, the

games react. When you say, "Find a movie" it takes you to your movies. There are so many more features that I don't have room for.

Though Microsoft is known for throwing underhanded slaps at the competition, this was as overt as I've seen it. First, it's a slap to Sony who had similar technology with their Eye Toy, but it never really flew off the ground because it was a little too kidsy. Next, it was a slap to the Nintendo Wii with one spokesman's saying, "You don't have to just wiggle waggle from the safety of the couch." Also, with Apple's trouncing of Microsoft with their iPod Touch - which is quickly becoming a gaming platform itself - this was a one-up by presenting the "no screen gaming."

But what was perhaps the highlight of the unveiling was Peter Molinieux's presentation of Milo. This was the same guy who developed

the Fable series and has always advocated the immersion of the player into the game: Milo is as immersive as you get. He converses with you, plays games with you, and recognizes motions, pictures, and more.

Yes, this was a great advancement in technology, but it's starting to get creepy. Usually in gaming, there is that barrier between you and the game called a controller, but now...It's broken. The whole premise of how the game changes with the removal of the controller. It is creepy... but it may be exactly what we need to change the stigma that is held to "gamers." Now, everyone can truly be a gamer.

Harry Zollars is a sophomore pre-pharmacy major from Bethalto. He can be reached at hzollar@sue.edu or 650-3527.



Harry Zollars

Want to contribute to the Alestle as a guest columnist?
Contact us at opinion@alestlelive.com

Cast of two take on the face of a town

The comedy "Greater Tuna" takes on racism in a small Texas town



Derrick Hawkins/Alestle

Greg Fenner (left) and Ramsey Galvan (right) will be making many changes in character in the play "Greater Tuna." The play features several eccentric characters, including a KKK member, a banjo player and a crazy old woman named Pearl.

by **Rosie Githinji**
Alestle Reporter

Senior theater performance major Ramsey Galvan of Los Angeles, Ca., and senior performance major Greg Fenner of St. Louis, Mo., will have roughly nine seconds

to change clothes and characters in next week's play, "Greater Tuna."

Both Galvan and Fenner each play ten characters in the imaginary town of Tuna, Texas. The two get to play young boys, middle aged men and old women, according to Chuck Harper who is the director of the play.

"It's all the same kind of character exploration," Galvan said. "I've already tapped into my feminine side, so I do it pretty well."

The play is a comedy about the small town of Tuna, Texas, and is a commentary about racism, according to Fenner.

Harper said the play was created by three men, Joe Sears, Jaston Williams and Ed Howard. These three men played the two characters that portray the whole town and directed the play.

"It's a day in the life of a tiny town and the eccentric people who live in it," Harper said. "It's a flat out comedy."

The most important parts of the play are the costumes and the actors. Each time Galvan or Fenner go off stage, they come back out with a different costume, some happening in around nine seconds, according to Harper.

Galvan said he enjoys playing ten different characters and has been working on the play since the week after school let out for the summer. Galvan plays a plethora of different characters. A few of the people portrayed are a KKK member, a banjo player, a crazy old woman named Pearl and a radio station manager, according to Galvan.

"Greater Tuna" will run at 7:30 p.m. June 11 to 13 at 2 p.m. June 14, also at 7:30 p.m. June 19 to 20 at 7:30 p.m. and at 2 p.m. June 21 in the Metcalf Theater. Tickets



are free to students taking summer classes with a Cougar Card. Adult tickets are \$15 and other students, seniors, faculty and staff tickets are \$12.

For more information call the Fine Arts Box Office at 650-2774.

Rosie Githinji can be reached at rgithinji@alestlelive.com or 650-3531.

Now Rating: The Hangover

by **Jeff Mason**
A&E Editor

There's a special place in my heart for movies that don't feature an all-star cast or headline dominating celebrity in the lead role. It comes from my exposure to television, where stars like Jennifer Garner and Hugh Laurie are born out of near nothingness. "The Hangover" applies this same principle, plucking a handful of upcoming stars to pull the veil over the mystery behind a blackout of a night in Las Vegas.

For their friend's bachelor party, Alan, Stu and Phil take the soon to be betrothed out for one last trip of unadulterated manhood. Unfortunately, the three men lose the groom and are forced to retrace their steps to find out where he is, as well as figure out why they woke up with a tiger, a baby and a relatively minor hangover.

If you don't know who Zach Galifianakis is, it is time you found out about the star of the Internet talk show "Between Two Ferns." Set up as the strange and not-quite-there brother of the groom, Galifianakis is as awkward as they come. His impassioned speech on the roof of their Vegas hotel is instantly quotable and should be used as a toast by any and everybody whenever possible.

Galifianakis is also charged as the "caretaker" of the lost baby, who is carried around in a front pouch along with a pair of oversized sunglasses. The toddler is also subjected to a number of inappropriate

jokes that his mother, the always-gorgeous Heather Graham, probably wouldn't want him to know until he reached his late teens.

Bradley Cooper ("Alias") and Ed Helms ("The Office") round out the cast of blackout bachelor parties, and both do an excellent job. Helms' character is subjected to the cliché, controlling girlfriend who he is mysteriously attracted to, but does as well as he can with the limited character he is given. Cooper, on the other hand, works well as the de facto leader and comes off as more impressed by the group's shenanigans than appalled. Throw in supporting roles for Mike Tyson and an over-the-top gay Asian crime boss to finish off the bill and you have a wonderfully cast movie.

All of this mayhem is placed in the hands of Todd Phillips, who brings an aged taste to the normal frat house humor. The director of "Old School" and "Road Trip" is in familiar territory and delivers

again in "The Hangover." There's a distinct feeling that what was caught on film was the most calm and professional part of shooting thanks to a series of photos at the end of the movie highlighting the group's raucous night. Somehow, Phillips gives a film that may have otherwise spun out of control a light and quick feel that progresses naturally and without feeling heavy handed.

"The Hangover" continues the streak of great summer movies and is easily one of the funniest movies in the modern age

of frat house humor. It might not necessarily be the heir to "Wedding Crashers" because it hardly mixes the romantic and comedic genres, but it is a good time and worthy of being shot in Las Vegas.

★★★★☆

Jeff Mason can be reached at jmason@alestlelive.com or 650-3531.



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures.



Sean Roberts/Alestle

Andy Meyer from Flooring Systems Inc. creates a grid on the Vadalabene Center floor in order to measure its moisture content. Water poured into the gym May 25 when plastic put in place by a roofing contractor failed to hold the heavy rains.

VC floor damaged in storm

by Allan Lewis
Alestle Sports Editor

An opening in the ceiling that was sealed off by a roof contractor on the Vadalabene Center gave way during a heavy Memorial Day rainfall, potentially damaging the newly installed \$250,000 playing floor.

A consultant is coming in Wednesday to assess the damages.

The Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees approved the campus-wide roofing project conducted by Lorenz and Associates of St. Louis two months ago.

"The workers had been stripping off the roof and broke for the weekend Friday, putting down tarp and plastic and weighted it down," Director of Public Affairs Greg Conroy said. "No one was ready for nine inches of rain in 24 hours."

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administration Rich Walker said the extent of the damage is unknown at this time, and more information will be available after a moisture test is conducted both inside and below the playing surface.

"Unfortunately, right now we don't know the extent of the damage," Walker said. "A lot of rain came inside and hit the wood floor. Visually, you can see how the wood is warped already."

The floor inside the Vadalabene Center is characterized as a "sprung floor," meaning it is raised rather than flat, and sits atop a bed of springs.

"The wood was meant to move and breath for people running," Conroy said. "There is space

between the flats by design, so when water hits it it goes down below the surface."

Walker said the contractor is likely to be held liable for the damages.

"It's not our plan that the university would pay for any of it," Walker said. "I think that everyone agrees this results from a failure from the project contractor, and they are being cooperative."

The goal, Walker said, is to have the floor repaired before August commencement.

"Even if we have to work around repairs during commencement, we will have the building open and finish repairs afterwards," Walker said. "As long as we can have it done by September when volleyball starts, it will be fine."

While the Vadalabene Center does not get heavy traffic during the summer months, Walker said a number of camps are going to be affected.

"It is an inconvenience, because there are sports camps that are scheduled there over the summer," Walker said. "Outdoor camps would also use it during a rainout, so we will have to cooperate with the fitness center to use their facilities."

Walker characterized the event as an accident.

"It is definitely an unfortunate accident, and it is important to look at it that way," Walker said. "There are electrical pockets in the floor, and we are thankful no one got hurt. You don't want this to happen anytime, but since summer isn't a heavy time, it's good that it happened when it did if it was going to happen at all."

Allan Lewis can be reached at alewis@alestlelive.com or 650-3524

Track signs eight for 2010 season

Alestle Staff Report

Track coach David Astraukas will have a few more weapons at his disposal next season, signing six athletes to the men's team and two to the women's squad.

The men's group includes local standouts Aaron Werths of Granite City and Forrest Night of Belleville, along with Ethan Grounds of Marion, William Lindsey of Lansing, Kaleb

Henry of Loup City, Neb. and Curtis Mason of Inkster, Mich.

Brandi Jones of Granite City and Elisha Crawley signed National Letters of Intent to compete for the women.

The group brings an impressive high school resume. In his senior season at Thornridge High School, Lindsey posted the ninth fastest 110-meter hurdle time in the country, Henry is a state champion in discus, and Grounds

helped his high school team to consecutive state championships in the pole vault.

Jones was an All-Southwestern Conference athlete at Granite City High School, and Crawley finished 7th in the 800-meter at the 2009 Illinois Class AA state championships.

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View from the sidelines

Wins will come for Cougar baseball

by Allan Lewis
Alestle Sports Editor



Baseball Head Coach Gary Collins had 944 career wins in 30 seasons as a Division II coach at SIUE. 2009 turned out to be an entirely different ballgame.

The Cougars are now in Division I and members of the Ohio Valley Conference. Winning at least 30 games a season was typical of Collins teams in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, and although the team is comprised of players recruited to play D-II ball, there is reason to be optimistic.

"Nothing is bright," Collins said after his team let 18 runners score in their season finale at Roy E. Lee Field May 23 to end the year at 15-39, the Cougars worst record since 1979.

Collins said his team was hit hard by injuries in 2009. Senior outfielder Adam Eggemeyer, a career .344 hitter, only appeared in 16 games, while sophomore outfielder Thad Hawkins was battling cancer, which he has recovered from.

Junior pitcher Luke Vine popped an oblique muscle against the University of Evansville, and although he did return, Collins said he never returned to form.

"If I knew going into the season we wouldn't have those guys, I wouldn't have been as optimistic," Collins said.

The Cougars know what it is like to compete in D-I now. This is why there is a transitional period for new teams. It gives them an opportunity to get their feet wet, with no real expectations to perform to besides their own. Everyone would have liked the baseball team to match the impressive and surreal year the softball team had this year. That is not possible for everyone.

D-I is new territory for every team at SIUE, and there is a learning curve associated with it.

This, along with all the injuries, the sub par pitching and a team recruited to play D-II ball contributed to the end result.

"They don't tell you three years ahead of time that you are going D-I, so it is not something you can prepare for, recruiting wise," Collins said.

Cougar pitching combined for a 7.01 ERA, 234 walks and hitters posted a .323 batting mark against them. Teams put up at least 10 runs in a contest on 11 different occasions.

There is some light for the Cougars on the offensive side of the field. The team had its weapons, averaging nearly seven runs a game. Eggemeyer, in his limited action, along with fellow senior's Josh Street and Mike Hurt hit above the .300 plateau, as did juniors Michael Hopkins and Brent Rynearson.

Street crushed 15 home runs to tie the school single season record, and Collins said recruiting for 2010 is going smoothly.

Nothing comes easy in upper tier college sports. When you play teams like Purdue, Missouri, Ohio State, Saint Josephs, Pittsburgh and Memphis, as the Cougars did, you might get beat around a bit.

Getting up when you are down, on the other hand is an opportunity Collins and the Cougars will be looking to accomplish as the team gets closer to competing in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Allan Lewis can be reached at alewis@alestlelive.com or 650-3524



Sean Roberts/Alestle

The SIUE baseball team went 15-39 in 2009.

Crossword Puzzle Los Angeles Times

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

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67							68			69		



Across

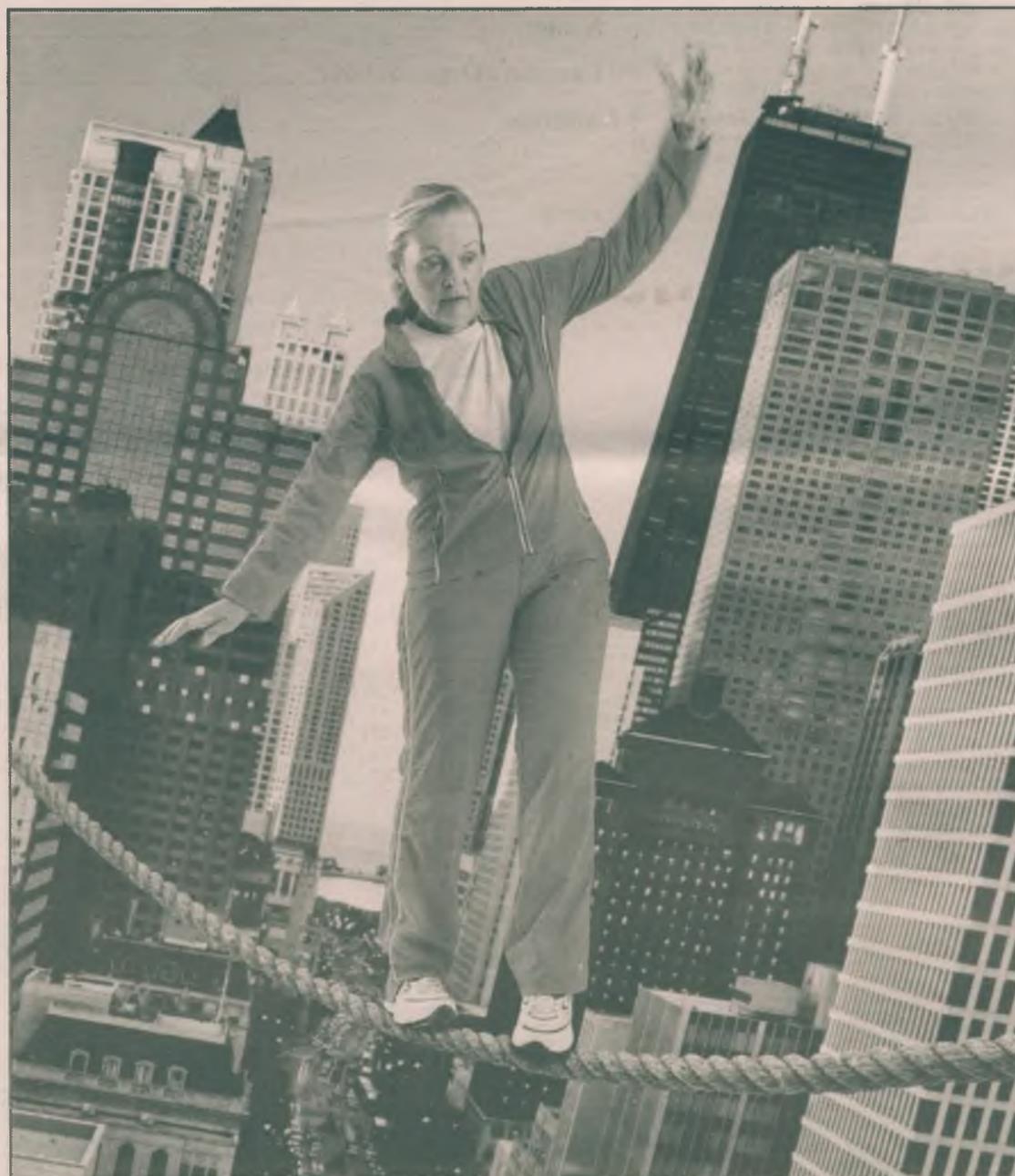
- 1 Sandwich side dish
- 5 Quick __ flash
- 8 Open, as a gate
- 14 Itchy condition
- 15 Dickens pen name
- 16 Connect, as a stereo
- 17 Kind of party torch
- 18 Not in working order, informally
- 20 Frequently
- 21 On the ocean
- 22 Deli breads
- 23 Crook who doesn't need the combination
- 27 Roll of bills
- 28 Las Vegas's desert
- 33 Shooter's aiming aid
- 36 Union benefit during a walkout
- 39 Vicinity
- 40 Valuable thing
- 41 Shredded
- 42 Everything, informally
- 44 Annual athletic awards
- 45 Vote out
- 46 Hip-hop Dr.
- 47 Promising picnic forecast
- 54 Thick carpet
- 58 Point on a wire fence
- 59 Tall story
- 60 Tendency to anger easily
- 63 Mrs. Peel of "The Avengers"
- 64 Regional dialect
- 65 Grammar best-seller "Woe __"
- 66 Regretted
- 67 Start to nod off
- 68 Souse's woe
- 69 Full of pep

Down

- 1 Madrid misses: Abbr.
- 2 Boxer Ali

- 3 Request from
- 4 Moby Dick, notably
- 5 On the plane
- 6 Composer of marches
- 7 Early Mexican
- 8 TV dial letters
- 9 Right away
- 10 Quantum physicist Niels
- 11 "Works for me"
- 12 Time co-founder Henry
- 13 Toll rds.
- 19 Acorn source
- 24 Maine coon, for one
- 25 Give forth
- 26 Soldier of Seoul
- 29 Fashionable fliers
- 30 Per unit
- 31 Fluctuate
- 32 Peepers
- 33 Child star of "The Thief of Bagdad" (1940)
- 34 Persia, nowadays
- 35 Hair goops
- 36 Opposite of NNE
- 37 Hijack-prevention gp.
- 38 "Oedipus __"
- 40 Old Spice alternative
- 43 Blockhead
- 44 Noteworthy period
- 46 Explosion remains
- 48 "Big Blue"
- 49 Fast
- 50 Obtain using force
- 51 Overplay
- 52 Wascally Wabbit hunter
- 53 "__ aim, fire!"
- 54 Bay Area enforcers, initially
- 55 Icy coating
- 56 Car
- 57 Vibrant look
- 61 "__ the season ..."
- 62 Suffix with Siam

See answers on next week's 6.10.09 Alestle issue



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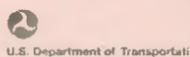
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