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And this season was brought to you by...

Meet the faces behind Alestle Sports. See page 9



◆ THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1998

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT EDWARDSVILLE

Vol. 50, No. 67 ◆

# Cougar Village renovations cancelled

Good economy for construction means no new improvements or repairs for SIUE housing.

Healthy economy for construction equals no renovations for SIUE housing residents

**■ BY DANIELLE BELTON EDITOR IN CHIEF** 

And we all thought the healthy economy was a good thing.

Due to "unfavorable bidding conditions" and a healthy construction market, Cougar Village renovations have been cancelled for the summer session. It has been postponed untill summer of 1999.

A letter was sent to all University Housing students on Tuesday alerting them to the cancelled construction work. In the letter, students were assured that renovations would eventually occur and that students who applied for renovated apartments would not have to pay first class apartment rates for economy apartments.

'The decision was made in the best interest of the students," Michael Schultz, director of housing, said.

Schultz assured students that the renovations will eventually occur and for the apologized continued inconvenience.

"I'd like to apologize because the expectations were set and we had to go back on the expectations," Schultz said. Schultz further explained that the

Bob Fehringer/Alestle

No renovations this summer for Cougar Village. Students will have to wait untill the summer of 1999 to get their improved and repaired apartments.

healthy job market for contractors and construction is what led to some of the problems in trying to attract bids for Phase I of the housing renovations.

According to Schultz, the Phase I housing renovations project was broken up into 25 separate bid packages. Seven of them received no bids, another seven received only one bid, and 11 had multiple bids. Out of those 18 bid packages received, some contractors did not qualify. Also, out of all the bids

received all were \$2.3 million over the original estimate.

Housing also had problems with the bid specifications for the windows and bathrooms. The original Phase I plan also was intended to have shift work as well, but Schultz explained that housing had received some feedback saying that shift work might not be possible.

see VILLAGE, page 2

Some students mourn the loss of a new apartment, others not affected by renovation cancellation

> ■ BY DANIELLE BELTON **EDITOR IN CHIEF**

"Everything, from ants, to roaches to everything," SIUE sophomore, Tracey Thomas said, about what is living in her apartment besides her, on the 400 side of Cougar Village Apartments.

Thomas wasn't just a little disappointed by the recent cancellation of the Phase I renovations in Cougar Village. She, like many other students, wondered why the renovations were cancelled and when their apartment woes would ever be solved.

'Raggedy" appeared to be the word of choice for many students describing the apartments. Most are badly in need of some type of repair. Thomas is one of the many residents in Cougar Village who complain about the clogged garbage disposals and the broken cabinets. Cougar Village may have received a new name, but the contents of it didn't change with the moniker.

'We applied for these torn up apartments expecting something," freshman, Dwayne Bess said. "We expected the highest and we got the worst."

Bess said that he was surprised by the cancellation as he was looking forward to moving out of Woodland Hall to live in Cougar Village.

Director of Housing Michael Schultz held two open forums yesterday on the issue for students to express their views. None attended the first one at noon. The second at 7 p.m. was after the Alestle went to press.

see STUDENTS, page 2

# **End of semester as students** prepare for finals and summer

**MIDDENDORF NEWS STRINGER** 

As the academic school year comes to a close, SIUE students are studying for finals and preparing for the

Scheduling for final exams is based upon the time and day the classes begin. With this in mind, the final exams for weekend classes will begin on Saturday, May 2 and the final exams for weekday and evening classes will begin on Monday, May 4 and end

many of the finals will be over on Thursday, May 7, Friday is scheduled as a make-up day.

To help students prepare for final exams, SIUE offers study spaces and quiet hours. Study areas are available in the Cougar Commons Television Lounge and Conference Room, the Learning Resource Center and the Wing Study Lounges in Woodland Hall. Quiet hours begin in both Woodland Hall and Cougar Village on Friday, May 1 and continue throughout

BY ALICIA on Friday, May 8. While finals week. Any type of noise will not be tolerated. Any complaint of noise will result in disciplinary action.

Along with final exams, many students will be moving out of Woodland Hall and Cougar Village for the summer. In Woodland Hall, all students must properly check out and have all belongings out of the building by noon on Saturday, May 9. Those students who are moving to Cougar Village for the summer will be able to move into their apartment on Sunday, May 24. Any Cougar see SUMMER, page 4



Jill Stevens/Alestle

A jazz combo entertains students midday in the University Center's Goshen Lounge. Students got to enjoy the cool stylings of musicians Adaron Jackson on keyboards, Miles Vandiver on drums, Zeb Briskovich on bass and Mark Westenberger on guitar.

"Cougar Village renovation is a complicated renovation," Schultz said. He said that renovations will still take place, but not until summer of 1999.

Not all students were angered by the cancellations. Some looked at things on the bright side,

remarking that at least without having to pay the extra price for the renovated apartment, they could save their money for more important things. For freshman psychology major, Aba Mensah, a new car sounded a lot better than a renovated apartment.

"Why would you want to get a renovated apartment next August when they're all going to be renovated anyway?" Mensah said.

Mensah went on to explain that she and many other

students weren't angry at all about the cancellation.

"We're not upset," Mensah said. "Just fix the raggedy roads because it's messing up people's cars."

Many students agreed with this, hoping that the cancellation wouldn't keep current improvements with parking and the roads from become a reality, but Schultz assured that cancelled renovations will not affect the rest of Cougar Village's current repairs.

## VILLAGE-

#### from page 1

"We figured the best thing to do was to pull the plug right now and try again next

construction market as having a lot to do with the bidding problems. Schultz called it a "supply and demand" issue, with the local contractors feeling the boom of a

were looking forward to the new renovations.

"For me, it really doesn't affect me because I'll be an RA (resident assistant) but all the apartments need to be renovated because they're raggedy," Kelley Jones, a junior majoring in sociology employment relations, said. "They're supposed to be giving us incentives to live on campus."

Many other students shared Jones' sentiment. With the new phone system and the change in charging for calls outside of campus, many students are considering living off campus.

Schultz still wants to assure students that

the renovations will occur. He also said that not all improvements will be postponed. The replacement of air conditioning units on the 400 side of Cougar Village will still continue. The Cougar Lake Drive and parking will be repaved and finished, and phone lines will be switched over.

According to Schultz, the biggest complaint he has received so far is with the issue of the data jacks that were to be placed in the renovated apartments. The jacks would allow for internet access for apartments with personal computers. For students who see this as a necessity, Schultz said that there are

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data jacks in Woodland Hall, and that students can apply for space there since there is still room for students.

When renovations finally occur in the summer of 1999, apartment improvements will be as follows:

- totally renovated kitchens and bathrooms, including new cabinets, fixtures and appliances
  - some new furniture
- replacement of windows and sliding glass doors
  - data jacks to connect personal computers to the campus network

- balcony replacement on the 400 side

- floor replacement on the 500 side
- new siding on building exteriors
- improved drainage systems on complex grounds.

An open forum to answer questions about the current housing situation and construction was held at noon Wednesday with a second one held at 7 p.m. No students attended the noon meeting, but Schultz urges students to ask any questions they may have about their housing situations. Students can e-mail questions about housing to lmckirg@siue.edu. or mschult@siue.edu.

year," Schultz said. Schultz also cited the favorable

growing economy.

But the letters and explanations didn't give much comfort to most students, as many

University Housing

April 28, 1998

Residents of SIUE University Housing,

As most of you are aware, a major renovation project was scheduled to begin this summer at the apartments of Cougar Village. This ambitious project will, upon its completion, bring the apartments up to the same high standards as our other housing facilities, Prairie and Woodland Residence Halls. However, due to unfavorable bidding conditions and considerable doubt that Phase I would not be completed by August 1998, the project must necessarily be delayed for one year.

Rather than risk inconveniencing residents with apartments that were not completed for Fall Semester, University officials reluctantly decided to delay the project until the Summer of 1999. SIUE is fully committed to upgrading the facilities at Cougar Village and will begin the project as scheduled next summer.

What does this mean to you? All apartments at Cougar Village will remain at the Economy rate next year - \$994 per semester for a shared bedroom, \$1477 per semester for a private bedroom, and \$1988 per semester for a deluxe private bedroom. Summer moves will be limited only to those whose Fall assignments are different than their current assignments. Residents will be notified when they can move into their Fall assignments. The University Housing Reservation Process will not be repeated, but current residents may go in to the Central Housing Office (0248 Rendleman Hall) before June 1 if they wish to move into another available space.

One scheduled renovation project will occur during the summer: replacement of the 400 side air conditioning units. This will assure residents of a comfortable and cool summer in Cougar Village.

The telephone prefix change (650) will also occur as scheduled over Memorial Day weekend; however, personal telephone lines and computer data jacks will not be available to Cougar Village residents until apartment renovations are completed. Residents who desire these services are encouraged to consider choosing Woodland Hall. With these communication services, the 24-hour computer lab, and the exciting new Focused Interest Communities (FICs), Woodland Hall can be a great alternative to apartment-style living. Residents wishing to change their reservation from Cougar Village to Woodland Hall should go to the Central Housing Office to complete the necessary paperwork.

Students who have questions about the changes in the renovation project are encouraged to attend one of two Open Forums with the Director of Housing. Both will be held in the Cougar Village Commons Building this Wednesday, April 29, at noon and 7pm. You can also ask questions by E-mail. E-mail your questions to lmckirg@siue.edu. Questions will be responded to on the Cougar Village and Woodland Hall listservs, so all residents may view the answers.

The entire University community is aware of the inconvenience this change will cause some of you, and for that we are truly sorry. It is our mission to provide our students with the best housing available at the most reasonable cost. The well-being of our students comes first, which is why the decision to delay the project had to be made.

We pledge that we will do everything possible to ensure that the renovation project at Cougar Village will occur beginning next summer and that those renovations will live up to your expectations.

Sincerely,

Michael Schultz Director of University Housing



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#### FEW. THE PROUD, ALESTLE

WE'RE RUNNING LOW ON WRITERS AND SECTION EDITORS FOR THE SUMMER SESSION. THE ALESTLE WANTS YOU CONSIDER EMBARKING ON THAT JOURNALISM FUTURE. FOR INFO ON THE JOBS AVAILABLE CONTACT DANIELLE AT EXT. 3528.



# It's almost over, and you can come out now



Danielle

My first semester as editor in chief is almost over and I didn't run screaming. I'll allow my ego to flourish for a moment and be a little proud of myself.

(moment)-

All right, it's passed, back to work.

As some of you know, I was reinstated as editor at the *Alestle*. If I survive the next school year, I'll be the first *Alestle* editor to hold the position for longer than one

year. After being here a year — first as news editor, then editor in chief — I can see how one could run from here screaming. There've been many days that I've dreaded walking up these steps to my office. There were days where I was scared to open my e-mail to see if I had a letter from another a white supremist instead of just the average letter to the editor. Sometimes the *Alestle* can be a strange, strange place, as well as physically and mentally taxing.

I'm also glad all the readers were able to make it through this semester. This wasn't exactly the greatest semester for campus coverage, here at the *Alestle*. Don't worry, no one who didn't turn in a story got paid. We've been screaming for help for awhile. And even though it took an entire semester and one angry editorial to get someone to realize that, "Hey, we need some help out here," I'm still glad someone noticed.

It's rough fighting an uphill battle against an army when you've only got two soldiers that you can depend on. The others all seem to disappear when there's work to be done. But either way, I'm glad this semester is over so now we all can get down to business.

My goal, as your editor, is to use this summer to improve this paper. We plan to rework and re-tool things at the *Alestle*, and we want to be the same newspaper you want us to be. No one likes to be second rate, but that's what you have to deal with when you have problems. I assure you, that we, at the *Alestle*, are planning on bringing out a product we all can be proud of and I won't settle for less, because we don't settle for less. Or at least not anymore.

This semester was a learning experience for me. I managed to survive the criticism and the craziness and I didn't quit. And I didn't want to quit. All the mail from white supremists, all the negativity, all the mediocracy of the paper, all those sleepless nights, and the name recognition — I survived it.

I remember when I was younger and much more invisible, I used to just wish someone would pay attention to me. Everyone laughs when I tell them my stories from high school of how I'd try to talk to someone, and they would look right through me and walk off in the middle of the conversation. That happened so many times in my life. People didn't see me. And now it shocks me how everything I say is so serious to some people, or it affects so many people, because just yesterday no one was paying attention. After people ignoring me and not taking me seriously for 19 years, everyone has done an about-face, and they're all serious as a heart attack.

Now that they all pay attention to me, and it's all eyes on me, it's scary, especially if you're not used to it. But I'm getting better. Just like the *Alestle* will, we'll all get better together.

So I encourage everyone to spend their summer improving themselves or at least catching up on sleep.

See you in the fall.

Danielle Belton

Editor In Chief

## Letters to the editor-

#### Mathematic doesn't add up

Though not as controversial as "Racists in the North," "Bill's inability to keep his pants up" or "The 'Evils' of Capitalism" the math department is due a critical review. In the fall semester I enrolled in Math 150 (Calculus I), which involved four days of lecture and one day in Mathematica lab. Though the class itself was challenging, it was the lab that truly perplexed me, in both its purpose and the department's handling complaints.

On the first day of lab, students were greeted by an Asian graduate assistant who tried to explain that a lab manual must be purchased at the bookstore. The dialogue went something like, "Your need bok . bokstoe." Those may have been the last words that I understood because the graduate assistant's English speaking and comprehension skills were terribly deficient. Please do not misunderstand, I'm certain that this individual is highly educated and intelligent; however, in a course already containing fairly complicated material, the ability to adequately communicate procedures relating to the Mathematica program should be a priority.

When I consulted the course instructor about the situation he said, "I, too, have difficulties in communicating with individual; however, I do not assign graduate assistants. You will have to speak to the department head, Dr. Rigdon." I later went to speak with Dr. Rigdon and with CAS Associate Dean David Steinberg, and showed them the policy requiring graduate assistants, who are assigned teaching responsibilities, to possess fluency in English. Dr. Rigdon's reply was that if I "... concentrated, within four or five sessions you will be able to understand them." Dr. Rigdon and Dean Steinberg also suggested that I should go ahead and switch sections.

These "solutions" do not fix the problem! Does anyone want to confront the situation, or just sweep it under the rug in hopes that it will go away? In a department with many other helpful and equally as qualified English-fluent graduate assistants, problems like these should not arise.

The purpose will Mathematica, however, remain a mystery to me and the majority of students that I have spoken with. No one I know has said that they now understand the concepts of calculus so much better because of Mathematica. Is this just a way to justify the department's budget? A better use of the thousands of dollars paid to rent this program might be to hire more graduate assistants, English fluency preferred. These students could help concentrate on applied calculus problems (word problems) such as, related rates, max./min., etc. Surely employers would value the student more who can apply their knowledge of calculus, and who has effective problem solving skills, than the student who simply knows data entry procedures for the Mathematica program.

John Schalk Soph., Mechanical Engineering

# News, Sports, Lifestyle, Editorials

# Just a few pieces of the big puzzle

If you didn't know, now you know. The Alestle has the staff and the ability to offer students who are investing in a career (or just dabbling) in the journalism field a chance to gain needed experience. The Alestle is currently looking for reporters. For more information contact the Office of Student Employment at ext. 2563.

## Letters to the editor policy:

The editors, staff and publishers of the Alestle believe in the free exchange of ideas, concerns and opinions and will publish as many letters to the editor as possible. All letters should be typed and double-spaced and be no longer than 500 words. Please include your phone number, signature and social security number.

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.

The Alestle is a member of the Illinois College Press Association.

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

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The Alestie

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# Police describe man accused of giving son HIV as a drifter

ST. CHARLES, Mo. (AP) -The man accused of giving his son HIV has been a drifter all of his life, police say.

Brian Stewart is charged with first-degree assault. He has pleaded innocent.

Prosecutors allege that he injected his infant son with HIV-tainted blood six years ago to avoid paying child support. Now the 7-year-old boy has fullblown AIDS.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Sunday quoted unidentified police sources as saying Stewart

was a drifter who would move to town, build a new life and then in childhood. He was born in move on when he had worn out his welcome.

"He's moved several times whenever the girlfriends got tired of him," one police source said.

Police have said Stewart has used other names, including Brian Eugene Simonin, and that he has listed various addresses in recent years in St. Louis, St. Charles, Troy and Moscow Mills.

Stewart, 31, was living in Columbia, Ill., when he was arrested last Tuesday.

His nomadic lifestyle began Alton, Ill., but the family moved often as his father was in the Army. Stewart returned to Alton to attend high school.

He took courses at St. Louis Community College phlebotomy, the taking of blood for testing, and received a certificate of proficiency.

He was a member of the Naval Reserves and served some of his active duty at Great Lakes Naval Base Hospital in North Chicago in late 1992, police said.

In January 1990, Stewart met Jennifer, and their son was born in February 1991. Jennifer's last name is not being used to protect her and her son's privacy.

Authorities believe the boy was infected with the disease in February 1992. Then 11 months old, he was being treated for respiratory problems at St. Joseph Hospital-West in St. Charles County.

At the time, Stewart was a lab aide at Barnes Hospital, now Barnes-Jewish Hospital, in St. Louis.

Stewart had denied that the child was his until testing and a paternity lawsuit determined that he is the boy's father. In July 1997 he was ordered to pay monthly child support of \$267, plus \$25 a month in back pay, to Jennifer.

Investigators and some who know Stewart say he has a history of moving from woman to woman. Stewart also has a record of abuse, assault and theft from at least two cases in St. Louis County court.

## Japanese babies compete in 'crying' sumo

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's traditional sport of sumo is usually a battle of brawny titans. But on Saturday, the winner was the biggest cry-

Dozens of 1-year-olds clashed in the annual "crying sumo" at the Senso-ji Temple in downtown Tokyo, cheered on by parents who say an impressive wail is a sign of good health.

In crying sumo, the aim for each contestant is not to push the opponent out of the ring, but to cry first — the harder, the better.

"I'm hoping he'll grow healthy and strong," said mother Chinatsu Takase, who brought her 1 year-old son, Sota. "I brought his older sister here a few years ago."

The match — there were 64 competitors this year begins with a blessing by a Buddhist monk, who places a little ceremonial stamp on the forehead of each baby.

Then two amateur sumo wrestlers holding a baby apiece face each other inside a ring, each trying to get his infant to his whole body." burst into tears first.

In one match, toddler

Kohei Inami largely ignored his wrestler's herculean efforts: making funny faces and tossing him up and down to scare him into tears.

That's when they pulled out the big guns — a judge appeared with a Japanese demon mask over his face, with the predictable, tearful results.

"When he cries, he cries hard," said proud father Yoshinari Inami, smiling at his 1-year-old son after his successful cry. "He cries using

## SUMMER

from page 1

Village residents who are leaving for the summer will have to properly check out and remove all belongings from their apartment by noon on Sunday, May 10. The residents who are staying for the summer term will remain in their current assignments.

Lastly, all spring term textbooks must be returned to the Textbook Rental Office in the basement of Lovejoy Library by 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 9. Beginning on May 18, the textbooks for the summer term 1998 can be picked up. Texts needing to be purchased can be obtained from the SIU Bookstore on May 11. As well, the installment payments for summer classes are due on May 1, June 5 and July 2 and must be received and posted by the due date to avoid service charges.

## THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE ALESTLE STAFF.

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# Sporting Brits won't be hunting humans in Washington

SEATTLE (AP) — Bounty Tacoma, said he had decided to hunters who wanted to take paying British tourists with them as they hunted down criminals in Washington state have raised a white flag.

The British agent for two Tacoma-based professional manhunters said they are shelving their scheme after a flood of publicity, most of it bad.

In a telephone interview from London with the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Clive Corner said Friday the condemnation of the venture could expose his two clients and their potential customers to danger.

"I'm very concerned about everyone's safety at the moment," Corner said. "(Bounty hunting) is not exactly the most popular profession among the criminal fraternity.

"It may happen next year when publicity has died down. But I wouldn't guarantee it."

Meanwhile, one of the manhunters, Ron Mahalko of

sever the business arrangement anyway after recently learning of the criminal record of his partner, British-born ex-convict Ted Oliver.

British newspapers have reported that Oliver, 47, was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm and spent two years in prison for stabbing his estranged wife 13 times with a hunting knife in 1994. It happened at her home in Luton, northwest of London. Oliver has homes in Luton and the Tacoma area.

Corner said his client got out of prison in about May, 1996. Oliver, in a recent interview, wouldn't talk about his conviction, the P-I reported.

Corner said he knew nothing about how Oliver could legally possess the array of firearms that he reportedly has boasted of using on Tacoma manhunts. Federal and state laws bar a felon from possessing a firearm.

Mahalko said Friday that

semiautomatic pistol when the two worked together on manhunts last fall, but he never saw his partner use other firearms. According to British news accounts, Oliver uses a .45-caliber pistol, a shotgun, an Uzi, an AK-47 assault rifle and a 150,000-volt stun gun.

Mahalko said Oliver had a state-issued concealed pistol permit and an alien firearms license. He said he didn't know how Oliver got them.

Bounty hunting isn't allowed in Britain. But Oliver, who impounds cars part time in England and claims dual U.S. and British citizenship, has hunted fugitives with Mahalko in the Tacoma area since 1996. He has said he now makes his home in the Tacoma suburb of Bonney Lake. There is no telephone listing in Bonney Lake for a Ted Oliver.

Bounty hunters are paid fees by bail-bond agents to apprehend criminal defendants who fail to appear in court after

Oliver carried a 9mm posting bonds to be released from jail. In Washington, they operate virtually free of state regulation and most civilliberties constraints imposed on police officers.

> Some state lawmakers have called for legislation to require bounty hunters to be trained, bonded and licensed, especially in light of the tourism scheme.

The visitors were to be issued firearms, pepper spray and bulletproof vests - and waivers absolving promoters of liability.

The ride-along plan was condemned by members of British Parliament, as well as other bounty hunters, who feared it would sully their profession's not entirely sterling reputation.

"I have serious reservations on a number of levels about how it would work," Corner admitted. "If you're asking people to pay money, you have to put on a decent show. ... This means you're compromising the basic work they have to do,

actually, because this means getting out and chasing the fugitives."

Mahalko said he didn't know until told by a P-I reporter Friday that Oliver and Corner were abandoning the tourism program. But he he intended to split from Oliver anyway.

"In light of the discovery of Ted's background, since I do not promote criminal behavior, I can no longer proceed in the partnership," Mahalko said.

Oliver's criminal record seemingly would have banned him from the vacation manhunts he was promoting. A promotional flyer for the ridealong program said applicants with felony or misdemeanor convictions would be rejected.

Mahalko said he might try to operate the ride-along program by himself.

But he added: "I'm not sure where to proceed from here. I'm sort of left with egg on my face."

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# Firefighter's tattoo becomes part of M&M's hype for the new m

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) - By all accounts, John Capers is a fine firefighter. But it isn't his prowess at putting out fires that has earned him the title Firefighter of the New Millennium. It's his love for some say addiction to — a certain chocolate confection that melts in your mouth, not in your hand.

After responding to a minor blaze on a recent morning, Capers became a celebrity of sorts when a crew from M&M/Mars descended on Daytona Beach Firehouse No. 1 to make the 37-year-old firefighter a star.

Well, maybe not a star, exactly. But he and his rather unusual tattoo were captured on video tape that will be used in connection with the candy tongue-in-cheek company's Millennium Hype advertising campaign.

Not only is Capers the official Firefighter of the New

has also been proclaimed tattoo of the New Millennium by M&M's Center for Millennium Hype. The fact that it features a dashing green M&M firefighter holding a fire ax and standing next to a yellow fire hydrant may have had something to do with the selection.

Capers, who admits to a "pack-a-day" habit — and more when he can get them — has been hooked on the plain chocolate candies (he only eats the peanut ones in a pinch) "ever since I was a kid." The extra calories haven't been a problem, he said, since he regularly works out.

I'm just glad it finally paid off," said his wife, Christine, who came to the firehouse to join in the hype along with Capers' two teen-age sons — who are also heavily into M&Ms.

Capers has been collecting M&M memorabilia

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extremely muscular left forearm collectibles — almost as long as he's been eating the candy. And it was his fondness for his favorite snack that prompted him to get his M&M tattoo almost two years ago -- while munching on the multicolored sweets to ease the pain, of course.

> So he figured that, considering his obvious devotion, he might have a chance to win something in M&M's "Official Things of the New Millennium" contest. Firefighter and tattoo were among the 200 categories, along with everything from belly button and barbecue king to couch potato and bank machine. To increase his chances, Capers entered in six categories, including welcome mat, which he also won.

> But it wasn't dreams of fame or glory or big prizes that prompted him to fill out all those entry blanks, write 50-word essays

himself and his tattoo.

"I just wanted to win something," he said. Which is a good thing, since all he gets are some official certificates, Tshirts, lots of free M&Ms, and the chance to win a trip to an MTV awards show.

Karen Freid, who's handling public relations for the M&M's Millennium campaign, said she didn't know how many firefighters or tattoos Capers had to compete against to get his titles. Overall, the company received more than 13,000 submissions. She did say, however, that he is one of only eight who were chosen to appear in promotional videos that will be shown as part of a national advertising campaign. Whether Capers will end up in actual TV commercials, she couldn't predict.

Fellow firefighters, meanwhile, are well aware of Capers' cravings.

"He can't go without them

friend, Jeff Smith. And he regularly empties the M&M snack machine at his firehouse when he's one duty.

"John hits it once or twice a Capers' noted Lt. supervisor, Douglas McGarver. "Everybody knows about his affliction."

"I think he needs to get a bigger shirt," quipped Fire Chief Paul Skinner, as he stopped to chat with the Firefighter of the Millennium. "I've admired his tattoo for quite some time."

There's no need to worry, however, that Capers will let the acclaim go to his head. The Firefighter of the Millennium just plans to go on doing his job and indulging in his favorite snack, which — by the way he likes in every color.

"I eat them all equally," he

"And everyone else's, too," added firefighter Rob Klem.



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# ifestyle People, Entertainment & Comics

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(All figures in millions)

"Les Miserables" and "He Got Game" open tomorrow

♦ THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1998

Alestle

PAGE 7 ◆

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# RANTS &



### ■ BY COREY STULCE LIFESTYLE EDITOR

cstulce@siue.edu

There comes a time when everything must be let go, even if letting it go is gutwrenchingly painful.

I'm talking about the end of "Seinfeld," the greatest television show to ever grace the airwaves. I'm already planning my withdrawal.

Like Ewan McGreggor in "Trainspotting," I'm going to lock myself in a room with about 25 cans of beans, a TV, VCR and my memories. It'll be hell.

Lately, though, I haven't appreciated "Seinfeld" like I used to. Back in high school, a whole group of us would get together on Thursday nights to revel in the greatness. We would spout off lines like, "Are those the panties your mother laid out for you?" And I would sympathize with the crabby, greedy, stout, bald man. I knew George Costanza. I was George Costanza. This was 1993, and the world was still full of wonder and promise.

But, for the last couple of seasons, I have been a little busier. I still try not to miss an episode, but I usually watch them on videotape late at night.

I blame myself for Jerry inting to call it quits. You all can blame me as well. But, I will defend the show to my death. I say, "poo poo" to all those who claim the show isn't as funny as it used to be. I hope you're all happy. What are we left with now? "Drew Carrey"? The "Friends"? "Frasier"? Amateurs. They don't even come close.

So, come May 14, when the last "Yada yada," "Get out!" and "Not that there's anything wrong with that" are uttered; when the bulk of America is saying, "That was no M\*A\*S\*H\*"; when Jerry Seinfeld is lying drunk on a big pile of money; I will be alone in the dark, weeping silently, and shouting, "Serenity now! Serenity now!" Sleep well.

# RAVES Inane Questions



For the last two years, Danny Woodburn has been tussling and grappling with Michael Richards' Kramer on "Seinfeld." When the show ends in two weeks, Woodburn may or may not make a cameo appearance as Mickey,

In an interview, Woodburn was very candid about how he got into show business and the treatment of little people on and

the high strung actor.

off-screen today.

Is there still a

There is. Most of the roles are predominantly stereotypical. I think the kind of "Amos and Andy" things that went on from the '30s through the '60s are still going on with little people, and only in the past two years of my career are things changing.

And in the past, I think there's been only one other actor who has shown something different, and that was Michael Dunn. He was in the "Wild, Wild West" series and he had done a film, "Ship of Fools," and various other things. Real parts with a realistic view. Not always the elf or the leprechaun or the dirty ... A lot of times men are portrayed as dirty, the sexual deviant sort of role.



stereotype involved Left: Danny Woodburn from the "Conan" television series. Above: in casting little Woodburn with Michael Richards and Jerry Seinfeld in "Seinfeld."

I've never understood that. Why do you think that stereotype is there? That little people are horny all of the time.

I think that probably comes from ... I think it's very puritanical, in the sense of the Salem witch hunts of the 1600s. Little people were often being accused, just because of their abnormal appearance. I think that Sader reference that little people are deviant.

Now that you're becoming widely known, do you have ideas for your own projects?

I think the best way to change the stereotype about little people or any people, is to portray that individual in a human way.

Like on "Seinfeld" pretty

NOTHING BUT NET

much all the characters on the show are pretty unlikable. They're a sort of backstabbing group of unusual friends. And my character has a big temper, and is highly volatile and is always ready to throw down with somebody. And I think that sort of portrayal is very positive for little people.

What sort of input did you have with that character?

There were a couple of things that I didn't think were done on a very equal level. The first episode where I was fighting with Kramer, they had me jump on his back. And I [went] to Larry David, the guy was very open to everything; he was the man on the show.

see Woodburn, page 8



### **■ BY JASON TRIPLETT** LIFESTYLE REPORTER

Spike Lee's latest work from Touchstone Pictures, "He Got Game," tells the story of a high school basketball prodigy from Coney Island. Ray Allen, of the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks, plays Jesus Shuttlesworth, a kid who has the weight of the world on his shoulders, due to the life decisions he has to make about college, basketball and his family.

Denzel Washington plays Jesus' father, a convicted murderer who, at the beginning of the story, is serving a sentence for the murder of his wife. Washington's character is granted

leave and a possible early

to play for the state university's team. This film not only captures the business of basketball, but also lets the viewer walk in the shoes of a basketball star and see the tough decisions that need to be made by an athlete at such a young age. Jesus needs guidance from his father, but won't let himself open up to the man who taught him the game and also

release from his sentence if he can get his son

Cameos, from such NBA talent as the Pacer's Travis Best and the Knick's John Wallace add to the basketball feel. Plus, appearances from every other basketball

killed his mother.

Denzel Washington and mind in the game supports the point of the Ray Allen star in the new movie. You have to take into account that Spike Lee basketball some of them are not actors, they're basketball players or analysts and really need work in the drama department. But Lee illustrates the transition from the game of basketball to the business of basketball exceptionally well.

This movie could easily have blown up into another "Above the Rim" or "Blue Chips," but Lee takes the player out of basketball and put him into the game of life with basketball as his tedious meal ticket. The only way for Jesus to make it through this trial is to become a business man marketing himself, or let people he doesn't trust decide what he is going to do.

This movie leaves you with new knowledge about a subject some people know little about; life outside the spotlight for athletes. The film informs you to the point of saying "OK, maybe basketball can be a job"; but, it keeps the glory for the end and still makes me want to pick up a ball and play.

## WOODBURN \_\_\_

from page 8

I said I think it would be much more realistic and more funny if we were to go at it on an equal level. Face off, head to head, rather than me jumping on his back.

And I have to admit that we did rehearse that back leap with Michael. He is a wild man. He slammed me against the wall, and I'm like, "You know Mike, you're padded up, I'm not." We're like bashing down the set walls and stuff. And it's just rehearsal. And he always goes, "Now we're just gonna go at half speed." And then we would just tear everything apart. And I'd be like, "Oh my god, show night's gonna be full speed. I have no idea what's that's gonna be like."

I think you two make a great team on the show. Have you talked about doing any other projects together?

Michael and I keep in touch fairly regularly, every couple of months we chat, or we'll bump into each other, or I'll do the show and we'll hang out a bit.

He's a very sweet man. He's probably as eccentric as Kramer, but in a different way. I really enjoy his company and I would love to work on a project with him, and if he's open to that, then I'm open as well.

Do you have any similarities, as far as attitude goes, to your character Mickey?

Yeah, I think I would love to be that volatile. I would love to always be ready to go off like that and not get injured. I would love to be able to kick anybody's ass.

Why did you pursue a career in acting?

My reasons for pursuing a career in acting aren't quite as noble as trying to change the stereotypes, but while I'm here that's exactly what I want to do.

How are you treated when you first come onto a set?

I think it depends on the capacity in which I'm coming to the set. I had done a lot of stand-up work. I would say I'm treated pretty equally for the most part, except every now or then there's a director who thinks he has an original idea, and it's usually some stereotypical idea.

[He would say] like, "Why don't you go up and you bite him on the ass." And that's really dehumanizing. That's not something I want to do. And they just don't know. I immediately make the clarification that that's not something that I would really ever consider doing in my life.

When were you first diagnosed?

I was eight years old, but I think I knew I was a dwarf before I was eight. My particular type was diagnosed when I was eight.

A lot of dwarves have health problems. Have you had many?

Yeah, largely skeletal. My hips, knees, ankles. I have scoliosis as well. I had a detached retina in my left eye because of my syndrome. There's hearing loss. Eyesight problems. Dental problems. All kinds of different physical problems.

How do these ailments hinder your career?

It makes it difficult to do stuff.

It's difficult for me to be on my feet for a long period of time. And this year I was a series regular on the "Conan" series, and I did a lot of my own stunts. And it was a highly physically challenging job. I made it through best I could, but, myself, I had about fifteen operations and corrective surgeries, mostly on my legs

You said before that you do stand-up. Does a lot of your comedy deal with your being a little person?

I'd say about half of it does. A lot of people might think they're height jokes, but they're not. They're perceptions of average sized people, regular everyday folk, about little people. It sort of focuses on the incorrect perceptions of little people.

I say, "A lot of people don't know this but the word midget is a derogatory term. We don't like to be referred to as midgets. We'd much rather be known as coloreds, wetbacks or gooks."

You joke about the word "midget," but ever since political correctness became the norm...

You know I consider political correctness to be a backlash on that word, because ever since I was a kid I've found it insulting and hurtful and painful. It's a label that has no human connotation to it, whatever. It's like saying nigger.

Ever since I was a kid, long before PC got popular, it has never been OK in any little person's book. So it's more of a backlash that little people are getting. The moment you tell everybody that you can't say these things, everyone wants to say them. I say it in a way that, I think, teaches people that it has the same meaning as being called a wetback or a gook or colored.

I think the strange thing about it is, the word has never been treated like as a derogatory term in the public.

I think it's only because the general public does not look at little people on an equal level. They say midget and think it's okay. They say, that's what you are. The truth of the matter is, we're humans, not midgets.

How often do you hear it and is it hard to be polite about it?

I still hear it. I was just on a commercial job last week and one of the producers said she wanted to take my pictures so she could match them for the stunt midget. And I said, "That's not right." I said that it would be a little person that would be coming in, a stunt man.

Yeah, I almost always hold back, unless someone wants to get into an argument. I don't hold back in the sense of not saying anything, but I politely correct, instead of saying, "You know what, don't fu\*\*ing say that." I mean, that's what goes through my head. How could you be so stupid to say that sort of thing, when it's obviously a non-human thing to say. If I were to refer to every Jewish person everyday of my life as, "Oh, there's Bob, the Jew," I would think people would get tired of hearing me refer to them as Jews all the time. Are you Jewish?

No.

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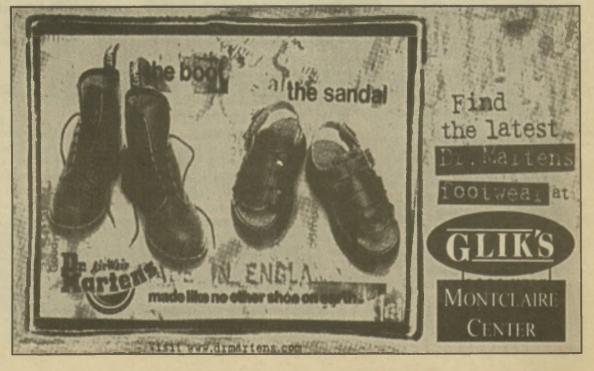
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## Red-hot Cougar baseball loses after nine-game victory streak

■ BY TONY AMMANN SPORTS REPORTER

Mother Nature may have decided to make it rain all week, but it still couldn't cool off the red-hot Cougars.

While the weather has often been gray, wet, cold and dreary this spring, SIUE baseball has been nothing close to that. In fact, it's about the only thing El Nino has yet to destroy.

In their past ten games, only one team has been able to rain on the Cougar parade. On Sunday, the University of Southern Indiana gave the Cougars a dose of their own medicine as SIUE

was blanked 6-0 at USI.

The Cougars are best known for their uncanny ability to flashflood opponents with runs. However, Sunday's game marked the first time all season that SIUE has been shut out.

"It's hard to win every game," Cougar coach Gary Collins said. "Their pitcher had a really good game. We just didn't respond."

The loss on Sunday came one day after the Cougars won a dramatic game at home against the same USI squad. Senior outfielder Mark Briggs hit a home run in the tenth inning to close out the SIUE home schedule for 1998

"It's easy to get down when one he has walked you win a game like the one on Saturday," Collins said. "It was really special because it was the last home game of his [Briggs'] career."

However, Briggs is not the only Cougar threat at the plate. 1997 NCAA Division II All-Americans on the SIUE roster shortstop Robertson and pitcher Ryan Cox.

Robertson leads the team with eleven home runs and 56 RBIs. He is also in the race for the best batting average on the team with an impressive .406 clip. Cox has compiled a 6-1 record and has struck out three batters for every

A large number of Cougars made a bid for All-American honors for 1998 as well. To name a few: Jason Sievert and Jesse Bugger, who have batting averages above .400. Briggs and Senior Rob LaMarsh have each hit ten home runs. LaMarsh has also driven in 46 runs and has a perfect record on the mound

The Cougars seem to be playing their best ball of the season. Their recent nine-game winning streak was their longest

"We have improved a little

bit," Collins said. "We have a set lineup every game."

Team chemistry can play an important role heading into the last few weeks of the season in any sport. The Cougar players have that working for them along with their big bats.

"Our chemistry has been pretty good," Collins said. "We've gotten used to each other. Everyone seems to get along. Sometimes chemistry can be overrated."

Of course, when your team has eleven players hitting better than .300 and your record is 31-10, you would have to be insane to not get along.

## Cougar softball waiting for word on possible post season regionals bid

SPORTS REPORTER

Is a record of 36-21 good enough for a post season bid? We'll find out Sunday.

It's been a season of unexpected success for the SIUE softball team. After losing seven players from last year's starting lineup, the Cougars were supposed to have a rebuilding year. With a chance to advance to regionals, this team is anything but rebuilding.

Sunday will be judgment day for SIUE as the selection committee will either award or deny the Cougars a spot in the regional tournament.

Yesterday's rain-out of a doubleheader with Southern Illinois University-Carbondale left the Cougars with two less games to prove they have what it takes to play in the post season.

SIUE is coming off a road trip to Joliet last weekend where they lost three of five, but were able to upset the no. 4 team in the nation, Ashland University.

BASKETBALL

BASEBALL

Brian Anderson

Sports Reporter

Mr. Wrestling

**TENNIS** 

Hitting has been the Cougars' strong suit all season long. Head coach Sandy Montgomery always reiterates the fact that if her team hits well, they will win ball games.

Freshman Sarah Sollberger has led SIUE in hitting all season long. Her 12 home runs set a new single season home run mark at SIUE. Sollberger has not only added power into the Cougar lineup, but also consistency. She leads the team with 56 RBIs and a .410 batting average. Sollberger was also named MVP of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament two weeks ago.

Gwen Jackson has been on a base stealing terror in her senior season. Jackson has swiped 35 of 38 this season and has the second best batting average on the squad at .375.

Dupo native Mandy Uhrhan has come on strong in her first collegiate season. She has collected an RBI total of 38 and is batting .341 after starting every game for SIUE.

Junior Niki Mitts' seven homers places her second on the team in that category. Her latest came in last weekend's game against Grand Valley State University

when she also added three RBIs to her total of 22 on the

The hero of last weekend's upset of Ashland, Kim Messinger, has picked up her game as of late, raising her batting average to .365. Her two-run home run to beat Ashland glorifies the fact that she is one of the best clutch hitters on the team.

A good hitting team won't get far without a staff of quality hurlers. SIUE's stellar pitching duo of Jessica Silbe and Deanna Smith has found a way to tame some of Division II's most potent offensive teams.

Silbe has a record of 15-10 with a team-best 1.95 ERA. A 7-0 win over Northwood University last Saturday was her fourth shutout of the season. Her 61 strikeouts also

Deanna Smith has a 2.20 ERA in her senior season. She has only given up one home run this season in over 130 innings pitched. Smith recorded her 12th victory of the year in the win over Ashland and is second among SIUE pitchers in strikeouts with 51.

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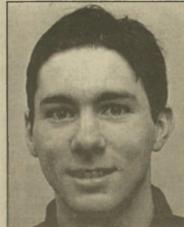


Sarah Finley Sports Editor

"Shoulda played football!" "Where are my reporters?" The baby of the bunch

SOFTBALL

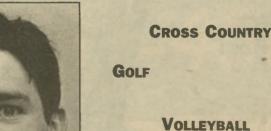
WRESTLING



Brett Licata Sports Reporter "Who did we play this

weekend?" "I'm waiting for the coach to call."

Phantom Reporter



Tony Ammann Sports Reporter

Mr. Baseball



Jason Triplett Sports Reporter

"What did you want me to do, again?" "I'm waiting on the stats." Old Reliable

SOCCER

TRACK AND FIELD

## Sports Column: Cougar sports drawing to close, so is sports section

## ■ BY SARAH FINLEY **SPORTS REPORTER**

As the Cougars' season draws to a close, so does my job.

Over the summer, the Cougars lie dormant and come back in the fall full-force, and so do I.

I have had the time of my life working for this paper. I never expected the results I have gotten.

I have been able to watch the of this school. teams of the school I attend prove to everyone what real sports are.

From baseball volleyball, this is the best season I have witnessed.

I give it to the athletes, because without them my job would be nonexistent. The coaches also deserve praise for the effort they have had to put forth to mold the young athletes

I would also like to thank Sports Information Director Eric Hess for helping me out when I have been a little short.

I would like to thank my reporters, because with out them there wouldn't have been such extensive coverage of the sports on this campus.

I would like to thank the athletes and coaches that took

time out of their busy schedules to talk to us about their accomplishments.

I can't forget photographers that captured the great feats of the athletes for the paper.

And most of all, I would like to thank the people who make this job possible. Without the students this paper would be just another publication that goes by the wayside.

This semester was awesome,

and I can't wait until fall.

Next semester, I am going to take advantage of every opportunity that I have to watch the Cougars in action.

Once again, thank you to everybody who helped me with this section. Without that help, this section probably would have been lost, right along side my mind.

Thank you, have a great summer and see you in the fall.

Go Cougars!



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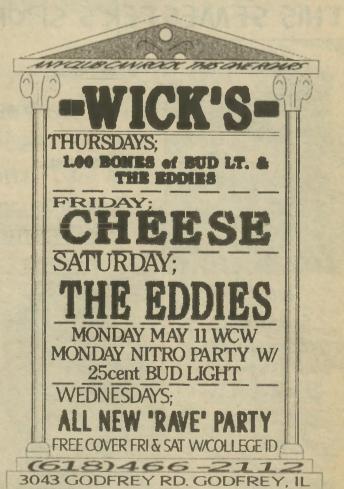


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### **HELP WANTED**

COUPLE SEEKING baby sitter for one newborn child. Four days a week Tues.-Fri., 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Very flexible, if you are interested in 1 or 2 days still call. References required. Edw/Holiday Shores. Call 659-1890 4/30/98

GYMNASTICS INSTRUCTOR needed in East Alton. Tuesdays (additional hours possible). Excellent pay! 20 minutes from SIUE. Call 259-5000. 5/27/98

CANDLE LOVERS: Consultants needed PT/FT. Have fun while you work. No starting fee. No inventory. Set own schedule. Ideal for college student or summer job. Call Karen for more information. (618) 236-0192. 6/3/98

VIDEOGRAPHER. MINNESOTA camp. Energetic, creative individual to capture the memories of a beautiful Northwoods summer on camera Salary, room and board. Thunderbird (314) 567-3167. 6/3/98

### **FOR SALE**

USED BOOKS at bargain prices. Good Buy Bookshop, Lovejoy Library, Room 0012, Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by Friends of Lovejoy Library. 4/30/98

MAYTAG DRYER and speed queen washer. Excellent working condition. \$60° a piece. Call (618) 288-9945 ask for Stacy or Jen. 4/30/98

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## **PERSONALS**

ΣΠ GREER. Let's dance! I hear you like to dance

**ATTENTION AFRICAN** and African American Graduates: BSA is sponsoring the 4th Annual Carter G. Woodson Commemorative Celebration on May 8, 1998. For more information contact Kimmel Leadership.

ΣΠ JEREMY. When are you going to clean my apartment? I've got some holes in the walls that need to be fixed

**THE MEN** of AKA invite you to Jamaican Bash 98 on Friday, May 1 at the VFW Hall. What would you wear in Jamaica?

## MISCELLANEOUS

MARRIED, MIDDLE-AGED, professional couple need small living quarters in Edwardsville from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Please call 309-692-6005 anytime or evenings 618-692-6861

**AMERICAN HEART** Association CPR and National Safety Council First Aid classes are available for this summer. Classes are forming now. For more information call 659-4571. 4/30/98

FREE! DO YOU LOVE CANDLES? Have a candle party and get your candles for free! Call Karen and mention this ad to get an extra gift after your show. (618) 236-0192. 6/3/98

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All classifieds and personals must
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Brun: \$1.00/line 5 runs: \$.90/line (2 line minimum) 3 runs: \$.95/line

Deadlines

Tuesday Publication: Noon Friday Thursday Publication: Noon Tuesday

Adjustments
Please read your ad on the first day it appears. If you cannot find your ad or discover an error in your ad, call 692-3528 or come into the office. Positively no allowance made for errors after the first insertion of advertisement. No allowance of correction will be made without a receipt.

Placing Ads
To place a classified ad, come to the Office of Student Publications, located in the UC, Rm. 2022, and fill out a classifieds form.

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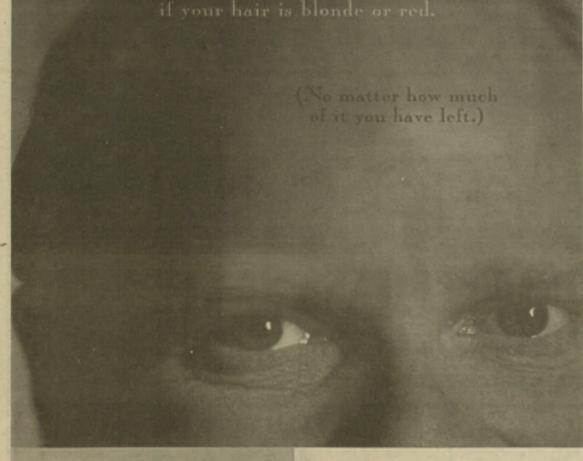
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Action



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