Ameren gives advice to keep bills low

Frank and Susie Tebow typically spend their summer afternoons sitting in their dimly lit living room on North Springer Street. The couple said recent increases in electricity rates have forced them to change their living habits. "The price for electricity from AmerenCorp, the division serving Carbondale and other regions of Illinois, has increased by roughly 50 percent since a 30-year statewide rate freeze expired in January 2007. It has left customers like the Tebows to improvise.

In the past few months, the Tebows' electricity bills have risen by more than 70 percent, said Frank Tebow, 75. He said the increase is harder on those living on a fixed income, such as he and his wife.

Besides the lack of lighting, the couple said they have to cut down on luxuries such as watching the Southern Illinois Miners play baseball and attending university sporting events. "It diminishes the budget," Frank Tebow said. "You have to learn to adapt the best you can." The couple is trying to keep their bill low by only using air conditioning units in select rooms and using energy efficient light bulbs. They said they have been dealing with Ameren for years and would like to see more competition in the area.

Cindy Johnson, 52, said the recent rate increase has been a burden for her mother and business. Johnson babysits five children at her home on Carly Street where she lives with her mother, Jo Brunner, 82. Johnson said her bills have increased by more than one-third in the past year. She said it has become so bad that her mother is sitting in her dimly lit living room. "It's really hot, and there's no better way to cool off," Myers said."
SimmonsCooper Institute opens to serve region

University administrators and supporters cut the ribbon Thursday in Springfield for the $21.5 million SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute, which has been in the works for more than eight years.

SIU President Glenn Poshard said the facility would help the southern Illinois region by providing much-needed healthcare while also giving the university a boost in research and reputation.

“It’s a tremendous asset to our university,” Poshard said. “That’s a beautiful building and it’s going to have the most advanced, state-of-the-art equipment.”

Dr. Thomas Robbins, director of the institute, said the most important aspect of the building is the way it will allow the university to serve the people of central and southern Illinois.

“It’s clearly our goal to become the comprehensive cancer program for the downstate region,” Robbins said.

He added that the institute’s patient learning resource center as a particular asset for the people it serves. Robbins said the institute would also include an on-site social worker specially trained to help cancer patients navigate their treatment options.

However, the facility will not begin serving patients until late fall or early next year because of money cut from the state budget proposal for fiscal year 2009.

“Allison Patty can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or allison.patty@siu.edu.”

Michael Harris, Agent
E-mail: michael.harris@countryfinancial.com or call 618-457-5373 for a free quote.
Morris Library gets more than $1 million worth of new furniture

Jeff Engelhardt  Daily Egyptian

The Morris Library makeover will feature plenty of seating options for students looking for the perfect chair. David Carlson, dean of library affairs, said the department has spent more than $1 million on a variety of furniture to assure comfort and efficiency when the library gets back to full operation.

The furniture’s price tag fits into the renovation costs originally estimated at $48 million. The Daily Egyptian reported in May that the project was $16 million over budget.

The largest furniture purchases so far have been $798,839 on office furniture and a $600,000 order on traditional wooden chairs and tables that began shipping this weekend.

Carlson said it was important to offer a variety of furniture because students use the library for multiple services.

“Students come to just read, or to study, or use the computer and work in groups so we need to accommodate that,” Carlson said. “There will be a variety of furniture. It will be like the lounge from Heaven.”

Office furniture is the most used so far, Carlson said. The office furniture is used in both administrative offices on the second floor and group study rooms throughout the library. Carlson said the group study rooms were booked through most of last semester, especially as finals approached.

By the library’s scheduled completion date of Jan. 1, Carlson said he hopes to have office, traditional, computer station and recreational reading furniture available for the students.

While new furniture will stylize the inside of the library, a wind-driven sculpture will serve as the art for outside of the building. Under Illinois Art-in-Architecture program, SIUC is required to spend 0.5 percent of its budget for the library construction on works from Illinois artists. Carlson said they spent $137,358 on the project. Roughly $15,000 of that money went to fund the project proposals of more than 15 different artists.

Carlson said the university decided to purchase one large sculpture, which will be enclosed in the glass façade at the north entrance of the building. The hanging sculpture will rotate as the wind blows.

Phil Gatton, director of the Physical Plant, said the state works closely with the university to select an artist for major university projects like Morris Library. The artist is Evan Louia, who is known for his pieces in the movie “Twister.”

Gatton said he is excited about the completion of the project and thinks students will enjoy everything the library will have to offer.

“I think people are really going to be impressed, especially with the first floor,” Gatton said. “What was needed on campus was a place where students could meet and socialize so this is going to be a very important part of the university experience.”

The university did not receive enough state funding to accomplish everything on the library’s agenda, as Gatton said the sixth and seventh floors would not be completed by Jan. 1.

Gatton said the focus now is on the auditorium, basement and south entrance of the building. Carlson said he hopes the contractors would be done by Oct. 1.

Once the contractors finish, Carlson said the main concern would be transporting furniture and books. Carlson said it would take at least four to five weeks to move furniture and the university is still deciding on how to move the books from McLafferty Annex.

Carlson said moving the 1.5 million books to Morris Library in an organized fashion would be costly whether or not they built new shelves or tore down the current ones in McLafferty and rebuilt them in Morris.

Carlson said he does not expect that project to happen any time soon as it would cost between $1.2 and $1.5 million for trucks, labor and supplies.

While the major move is being delayed, Garrett Hoemmen, a student worker at the library, said shelves continue to be filled with books and DVDs. Hoemmen, a junior from Springfield studying economics, said he has been impressed with how the library is taking shape.

“The new study rooms are really well-furnished. I even fell asleep in there one time, off the clock,” Hoemmen said. “If the whole library looks like what’s already open we’re going to have a real nice library.”

Jeff Engelhardt can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 268 or jeng10@siu.edu.

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Daily Egyptian Tuesday, July 15, 2008
InBev snaps Anheuser-Busch and its marketing clout

Christopher Leonard and Emily Fredric
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS — The King of Beers, the folks who spent lavishly to bring you the Bud Bowl, the Tailgating Fringe, the Whisap Goos and the Clydesdale, is being swallowed by a Belgian brewer known for its frugality. InBev SA has an audacious plan behind its $52 billion acquisition of Anheuser-Busch, hoping to tap into the U.S. company’s massive marketing power and make the Budweiser and Bud Light brands a force in the vast and coveted emerging markets. But in court Monday, Kirsch, speaking barely above a stage an elaborate publicity stunt at one conic sites to p"...
Have you ever have one of those moments that are so surreal not even the wildest imagination could do justice? Maybe it is the times, maybe it is me, but I seem to have those moments with increasing frequency. While watching TV two days ago, I think I reached a breaking point.

Between episodes of "Futurama" on Comedy Central, I saw a commercial that, for the first 45 seconds I believed was a joke. When I realized it was real, my head exploded.

The commercial I saw was for a "September 11th Commemorative 9/11 Twenty Dollar Silver Leaf Coin-Certificate." The ad reads, "The National Collector's Mint makes history with the release of this Government Authorized Non-circulating Liberian legal tender September 11th commemorative. This $20 Silver Leaf Coin-Certificate is payable like a silver certificate in coin-of-the-realm. The "coin-certificate" shows on one side the Twin Towers "glowing in the sun much like on that fateful morning" and on the other an artist's rendering of the New York skyline with the unfinished "Freedom Tower." On the other Twin Towers side, they have the numbers 9 and 11 not only to "commemorate" the 7th anniversary of the attacks but also to celebrate the fact that these two numbers add up to 20, the "value" of the thing. Again, I am not making this up.

Of course good luck cashing these things in because while they may have some silver value, they certainly have no cash value (that is not entirely fair; 20 Liberian dollars equals 0.32 USD). Remember the whole "authorized by the U.S. Mint. They make commemorative coins" was a joke.

I attempted to find out how much money goes to the company who created the coins guilty of fraud, false advertising and deceptive practices, but given the new line of merchandise, I do not think they learned their lesson.

I attempted to find out how much money goes to the families of 9/11 victims. The ad and Web site conveniently do not mention it and the sales representatives and managers I called had no idea. They referred me to customer service, an automated messaging system. The company's Web site says they have given 1.9 million to victims' funds. But given the fact that I have seen this commercial at least four times in primetime this week...
A look at the past

With less than a month to go until the start of the 2008 Olympic Summer games, here is a look at the great moments of the past 112 years.

1896 - ATHENS
Participating nations: 13
Most medals: Greece (47)

An idea proposed in 1892 by Baron de Coubertin of France is realized, and the International Olympic Committee is born.

The first victory in the modern Olympics is awarded to American James B. Connolly in the hop, step and jump.

1900 - PARIS
Participating nations: 22
Most medals: France (102)

Because of poor organization, more athletes than spectators attend the first day event. In fact, some of the athletes don't even realize they've participated in the Olympics. Women make their first appearance in the modern games.

Archery makes its first appearance as an Olympic event, as do equestrian and croquet. Athlete marries in the Olympic ceremony — the other two events do not.

1904 - ST. LOUIS
Participating nations: 12
Most medals: United States (238)

The games are originally slated for Chicago, but St. Louis also wants them, to be held in conjunction with the Louisiana Purchase exposition. President Theodore Roosevelt sides with St. Louis, but the games are lost in the class of the World Fair.

American George Gipp, the first black athlete to compete in the games, handles to the bronze in the 440-meter event.

1906 - ATHENS
Participating nations: 20
Most medals: France (40)

The Intemate Games of 1906 reignite enthusiasm for the Olympics, but the IOC decrees them unofficial. Record crowds attend the events.

1908 - LONDON
Participating nations: 23
Most medals: Britain (145)

Originally awarded to Rome, the games are reassigned to Great Britain when the Italians back out for financial reasons.

American J.J. Hayes wins the mara-thon, which is extended from 25 miles to the current standard of 26.2 miles as the royal family has a view of the race.

1912 - STOCKHOLM
Participating nations: 28
Most medals: Sweden (65)

The games enter the modern age, using electronic timing devices and a pub-lic address system for the first time.

In a Creto-Russian wrestling, the middleweight semidouble match between Roman Martino, Italy, and Finland's Alfons Antkiassen lasts 11 hours.

1916 - BERLIN
World War I cancels the Olympics.

1920 - ANTwerp
Participating nations: 29
Most medals: United States (96)

The Olympic games are canceled.

Antwerp as compensation for the destruc- tion inflicted on Belgians during World War I. The Olympic flag, with its five rings, makes its debut.

American Charlie Packlock wins the 200 meters and 400-meter relay. He is the first runner to be called "world's fastest human."

1924 - PARIS
Participating nations: 44
Most medals: United States (99)

The Olympics are becoming better organized, and all sports are run by their international governing organizations. Germany does not participate.

Finn Paavo Nurmi wins the 3,000 meters and, two hours later, wins the 5,000 meters. He goes on to win five medals at the Paris Games.

1928 - AMSTERDAM
Participating nations: 46
Most medals: United States (56)

The Olympic flame is introduced. For the first time, women participate in track and field. Germany returns to the games for the first time since 1912.

American Johnny Weirr Jazzel wins two more golds to add to his three from 1924. He later stars at Tarzan in 12 movies.

1932 - LOS ANGELES
Participating nations: 37
Most medals: United States (104)

The L.A. Olympics introduce auto-matic timing, the photo-finish camera, the use of the victory platform at the award ceremonies and the playing of the winner's national anthem.

Two teams from the United States play an exhibition game of American football.

1936 - BERLIN
Participating nations: 49
Most medals: Germany (59)

The torch relay brings the flame to the site of the games for the first time — 3,000 people carry it through seven countries.

Black American Jesse Owens wins the long jump, 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100-meter relay. With Nazi Adolf Hitler watches, discarding his theory of Aryan supremacy.

1938 - BUDAPEST
Participating nations: 67
Most medals: Soviet Union (98)

The Summer Games run from Nov. 22 to Dec. 9 because the seasons are reversed in the Southern Hemisphere. For the first time, athletes march together under the Olympic flag, instead of by nation, as a sign of global unity.

American Bob Richards repays his Helsinki success and becomes the only person to win two golds in the pole vault.

1940 - ROME
Participating nations: 83
Most medals: Soviet Union (103)

The pope watches some of the compe-tition from a window of his summer residence.

American Wilma Rudolph wins triple gold track despite childhood bouts with polio, double pneumonia and scarlet fever that forced her leg nearly useless.

1944 - TOKYO
Participating nations: 93
Most medals: United States (90)

The Tokyo Games are the first to be held in Asia.

American Donn Fraser becomes the first female swimmer to win a total of eight medals in three Olympics.

1948 - LONDON
Participating nations: 81
Most medals: Soviet Union (195)

The Summer Games are lost in the chaos of the World War II. The Olympic flag, with its five rings, makes its debut.

The Soviet Union joins the Olympics for the first time. Sixty countries participate, setting a record at the time.

Hungarian shooter Kardy Takacs wins the gold medal and sets a world record while shooting with his left hand. His right hand — his pistol hand — had been shattered by a detective grenade.

1952 - HELSINKI
Participating nations: 69
Most medals: Soviet Union (76)

The Soviet Union joins the Olympics for the first time. Sixty countries participate, setting a record at the time.

Hungarian shooter Kardy Takacs wins the gold medal and sets a world record while shooting with his left hand. His right hand — his pistol hand — had been shattered by a detective grenade.

1956 - MELBOURNE
Participating nations: 67
Most medals: Soviet Union (98)

The Summer Games run from Nov. 22 to Dec. 9 because the seasons are reversed in the Southern Hemisphere. For the first time, athletes march together under the Olympic flag, instead of by nation, as a sign of global unity.

American Bob Richards repays his Helsinki success and becomes the only person to win two golds in the pole vault.

1960 - ROME
Participating nations: 83
Most medals: Soviet Union (103)

The pope watches some of the compe-tition from a window of his summer residence.

American Wilma Rudolph wins triple gold track despite childhood bouts with polio, double pneumonia and scarlet fever that forced her leg nearly useless.

1964 - TOKYO
Participating nations: 93
Most medals: United States (90)

The Tokyo Games are the first to be held in Asia.

American Donn Fraser becomes the first female swimmer to win a total of eight medals in three Olympics.

1968 - MEXICO CITY
Participating nations: 112
Most medals: United States (107)

The IOC is enraged when two black Americans display the black power salute during an awards ceremony. The pair are escorted off: Tommie Smith and John Carlos to leave the coun-try.

Dick Fosbury, an American high jumper, revolutionizes the event with his unique “Fos” style.

1972 - MUNICH
Participating nations: 122
Most medals: Soviet Union (99)

Nordic events: the games. The black "Black September" terrorists kill 11 Israeli team members.

American swimmer Mark Spitz sets a record for the most medals by an individual at a single Olympics: seven gold.

1976 - MONTREAL
Participating nations: 92
Most medals: Soviet Union (125)

Poor planning and corruption result in the games going drastically over budget. It takes decades for Canada to pay the debt.

Romanian Nadia Comaneci makes an Olympic history by winning a perfect score of 10 seven times.

1980 - MOSCOW
Participating nations: 81
Most medals: Soviet Union (195)

The Soviet Union leads a 62-nation boycott in protest of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan.

Cuban heavyweight Teofilo Stevenson becomes the first boxer to win three consecutive gold medals in the same division.

1984 - LOS ANGELES
Participating nations: 141
Most medals: United States (174)

The Soviet lead a strongest boycott, but more countries attend the games than ever before — 141 nations with 7,000 athletes.

American gymnast Mary Lou Retton wins gold, silver and bronze medals.

1988 - SEOUL
Participating nations: 159
Most medals: Soviet Union (132)

Canadian runner Ben Johnson is caught using steroids, and subsequent investigations reveal that substance abuse is widespread. North Korea and Cuba boycott the Olympics.

German cyclist and speed-skater Grit brewe becomes one of few athletes to win medals in both the summer and winter Olympics.

1992 - BARCELONA
Participating nations: 172
Most medals: Unified Team (112)

The collapsing Soviet Union partici-pates as the Unified Team. Individual winners are honored with the flag of their home republic.

The U.S. basketball "Dream Team," made up mostly of top NBA players, defeats Croatia 117-85 to capture the gold.

1996 - ATLANTA
Participating nations: 197
Most medals: United States (101)

One woman is killed and 111 peo-ple are injured after a bomb explodes in Atlanta Centennial Olympic Park.

American gymnast Kerri Strug competes with a sprained ankle and helps her team win the gold.

2000 - SYDNEY
Participating nations: 200
Most medals: United States (97)

Team sports -- track and field, mind-blowing scores, moving cities and brands — made it own world record in the 400-meter freestyle.

2004 - ATHENS
Participating nations: 201
Most medals: United States (102)

The Games returned to Athens, host of both the ancient Olympics and the first modern Olympics.

German canoeist Birgit Fischer becomes the first woman in any sport to win gold medals in six different Olympic Games.

United States gymnast Kerri Strug is carried from the medal stand by coach Bela Karolyi after the United States' women's team was awarded the team gold medal at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. Strug, who assisted the American win on her vault routine only to hurt her ankle while landing, was sent to a hospital after the medals ceremony.

DAVID C. TURNER - McClatchy-Tribune
By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday 07-13-08

If you have to postpone travel plans until late in this year, you'll work many extra hours, trying to keep up with the demand. House hunting should be good, though, and selling will be easy. It's not easy to hold your temper when things don't go as expected. If you can remember that mistakes are all a part of the learning process, it might be a little easier.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — A person you find fascinating thinks you're absolutely wonderful. Good for you, as far as I'm concerned. If you were busy this time last year, you'll be glad to hear you exactly what you need to know, whether you want to hear it or not. This is tough, but good.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — A difficult situation turns out well for your family. Put their needs ahead of your own for a while. That will be the best.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — A difficult situation turns out well for you. If you set your mind to something, you can probably make it happen that can't be explained by conventional thinking.

Today's Birthday 07-13-08

If you have to postpone travel plans until late in this year, you'll work many extra hours, trying to keep up with the demand. House hunting should be good, though, and selling will be easy. It's not easy to hold your temper when things don't go as expected. If you can remember that mistakes are all a part of the learning process, it might be a little easier.

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Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — A difficult situation turns out well for your family. Put their needs ahead of your own for a while. That will be the best.
Demons are frightening things, harbingers of Hell and the ugliness of the underworld. But this summer, Hellboy is back, and while he might be a bit ugly, he is looking out for the greater good. “Hellboy II: The Golden Army” begins with a flashback to a pre-pubescent (do demons go through puberty? He does have a goatee now) Hellboy on Christmas Eve, as his father reads him an ancient legend of a war fought between Hell and the ugliness of the underworld.

“Hellboy II: The Golden Army” begins with a flashback to a pre-pubescent (do demons go through puberty? He does have a goatee now) Hellboy on Christmas Eve, as his father reads him an ancient legend of a war fought between Hell and the ugliness of the underworld.

Hellboy (Ron Perlman) takes on the enemy with his gang of outcasts: fishman Abe Sapien (Doug Jones), fire-producing Hellboy love interest Liz Sherman (Selma Blair) and ectoplasmic spirit Johann Kraus (voice of Seth MacFarlane). The troop takes up for the human race in this battle as they are working for the Bureau of Paranormal Research and Development.

The film’s plot does not pull any tricks or perform major twists; it is really only in place to give director Guillermo del Toro a backdrop to create some eye-popping, magnificent creatures. In one exquisite scene, Hellboy and his gang stalk through a hidden troll market, located under the Brooklyn Bridge. The market and its inhabitants could be a film unto themselves as there is so much detail planted into each nook and cranny of the space. All of the creatures are surprisingly lifelike and the stuff of childhood nightmares. The performances in the film are top-notch and are anchored by Perlman’s portrayal of Hellboy. He is a big brute but has a heart of gold and provides a whole mess of laughs, especially a drunken Barry Mauiolow singing along between him and Abe. The film contains many laughouts, great visuals and some intense action sequences but it is all really just an excuse for Del Toro to put some of the haunting creatures floating around in his brain onto the big screen.

This second installment of Hellboy is one of the best this summer has had to offer over the past couple months (it seems each week-end has at least one awful film) and is a great prequel to what Del Toro will be bringing to the table with his coming adaptation of “The Hobbit.”

Luke McCormick can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or lmc Cormick@siu.edu.

Summer’s new sci-fi film is one ‘Journey’ not to miss

“Journey to the Center of the Earth”

Directed: Eric Bravmg
Starring: Brendan Fraser, Josh Hutcherson, Anita Briem
Rated: PG
Runtime: 92 minutes

“Journey to the Center of the Earth” is not only a satisfying outing for youth of all ages but also thrills thirsty to see their childhood fantasies realized. With a rather stiff plot (the idea to make a fiction book reality is fun, but does not prove fascinating), this inter- earthly escapade is as eye enchanting as a journey through a favorite video game.

You will be pleased to find out that the center of the earth is reminiscent of the 1991 Saturday morning TV show “Land of the Lost.” The film, although it follows a cheery and mor- al story line, is visually refreshing and surprisingly fun.

The premise of the lonely, bored life of unappreciated and failing scien- tist Trevor Anderson (Brendan Fraser) is brief and brutally plowed with this new adventure. Anderson is consumed by the lifelong research of his late, tal- ented scientist-brother Zak who mysteriously vanished 10 years ago.

A visit from his lost brother’s 13-year-old son Sean goes from mundane to marvelous when they discover clues revealing the same seismic condi- tions of Zak’s disappearance, making a recently-found copy of Zak’s favorite fiction novel, “Journey to the Center of the Earth,” their new reality. After Anderson tries to cut his detached nephew’s visit short to investigate further into the eerie ge- ological consistencies, Sean (played by Josh Hutcherson from 2007’s “Bridge to Terabithia”) decides that although he would love to get away from his overly nice uncle, he cannot pass up the chance to learn about his dead father.

The two take a trip to gather data for a newly active geothermal site with the help from a striking and saucy Icelandic native played by Hollywood newcomer Anita Briem.

Predictably, danger dawns on the trio and the adventure at the Neverland-like Earth’s center begins. Conditions get riskier and their return to the surface becomes more uncertain, trusting the audience with stunts and scares until the film’s end. There are fantastical creatures, palaeontological perils, and a pretty good presenta- tion of special effects that one can only imagine would be sensational in 3-D. The 2-D version, avail- able locally, is sufficient enough for a diverting experience, but is probably unparalleled to crazy- sharp teeth flying at your face at IMAX. The connections to the novel keep it interesting in a Disney’s “National Treasure” kind of way, but the images may even capti- vate children like “The Land Before Time” did when it first premiered decades ago.

Amber Fijolek can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or kellyjif@siu.edu.

PULSE Chatterbox

US Weekly is reporting that Jimmy Kimmel and Sarah Silverman have called it quits after dating for 5 years. What celebrity couple break-up would put you in the shambles?

Luke McCormick

If Kristin Bell were to dump Dax Shepard I’d be the opposite of happy. What’s that guy done? Parked it used to write campus stories for the Daily Egyptian!

Christian Holt

After I spent weeks crying when Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt ended their marriage, I gave up hope for all celebrity couples — refuse to feel that way ever again.

Jana Hughes

After the age of 35, if you date a guy for three years and you still do not have a ring, you can pretty much chalk it up as a loss. Linda Hogan and Charlie Hill watch out. Learn from Hulk Hogan, sometimes it is not cheaper to keep her.

Gloria Bode says read up tomorrow for tips on some new tuneage.
The American and National League All-Stars will square off tonight at Yankee Stadium — the last Midsummer Classic to be held there. The NL has failed to post a victory in the last 11 contests, including one in 2002. The winning league secures home field advantage in the World Series, so which team needs the win more? Who will win?

The NL All-Stars need the win more, but they won't get it. The top contenders in the NL are all lights out at home, but mediocre on the road. With home field advantage, it is tough to imagine NL team beating a team like the Red Sox or the Angels in the series. The NL roster is absolutely stacked again this year. They just have too much power for the NL.

Regardless of the final score, the real winner will be George Steinbrenner and the over-hyped spectacle that is Yankee Stadium and the under-performing team that inhabits it. Never since EstenZue began advertising on late night television has a man said so much for such a small result. The Yankees are miscasting this year, but The Boss will continue raking in the dough as fans worldwide attempt to crack off pieces of concrete as a memento of the national landmark. They'd have better luck at Wrigley.

Hitting:

C, Ryan Doumit, Pirates

Geovanny Soto does not count! That would have been the easy way out of this, but if your looking for a catcher who could be a solid second option, look no further than Doumit (fun to say too). I do not know if the .320 averages are going to be consistent, but the power numbers should be there.

2B, Kelly Johnson, Braves

It is hard to find a good young second baseman. There are some potential good ones but they have a ton of risk with them. Johnson is a sure bet to produce for Bobby Cox’s Braves. He will not put up MVP numbers but will be a solid contributor in deeper leagues.

Starting Pitchers

John Danks, White Sox

Think he is good now? Just wait until he has another year under his belt.

Zack Greinke, Kansas City

He has been called the next Maddux; his whole professional career, in 2009 we will see.

Andrew Miller, Florida

Has shown flashes of brilliance in his first full year. Has a Justin Verlander type fastball.

Clayton Kershaw, LA Dodgers

The best thing LA did was call this kid up as early as they did this season and let him take his lumps now. He is only 22 but has some really nasty stuff.

Ian Preston can be reached at 628-536-3311 ext. 282 or idpreston@comcast.net.

DUNBAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

“I told him when he went over to make sure he enjoys the trip,” Burnett said. “It’s so rare to get an opportunity like what he had with coaches at the world championships that had former athletes qualifying for the Olympics this year, and he said their advice and encouragement made him look forward to the next few seasons.

Sparks and Burnett both said Dunbar has the potential to be a special athlete in the future. Burnett said Dunbar is one of the best athlete’s he has coached but he had a few injuries in high school that kept him from training consistently. As a result, Dunbar did not win a lot of races in high school, but the potential was always there. Burnett said Dunbar is healthy now, and Sparks said the more Dunbar trains the better he gets.

He recorded low times throughout the spring season and into the summer with less training than other athletes, so Sparks said he expects good things in the seasons to come.

“Now that he’s getting consistent training, boom, he has blossomed,” Burnett said.

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Track & Field

Dunbar places 19th at world championships

Brandon Augsburg  

Sophomore distance runner Dan Dunbar did not reach his goal of finishing the 10,000-meter race to under 30 minutes at the IAAF Junior World Championships. But that does not mean the entire trip was for naught. Dunbar finished 19th with a time of 30:51.67 in Bydgoszcz, Poland, on July 9. Dunbar joined Donald Cabral, of Gloucester, Conn., and 2009 M&M’s grant recipient, in the race. Cabral finished 17th with a time of 30:47.55.

Before the race, Dunbar said his goal for the world championships was to break a good 30 minutes for the first time. Even though he did not hit that mark, he said he still ran a good race.

“I did break 31, still, which is that pretty good still, I think for me,” he said. “You know, I really was shooting to break 30.”

His pace was only 26 seconds off his personal record, set at the MVC Outdoor Championship in May. Distance coach Matt Sparka said he was pleased with Dunbar’s result. He said he was impressed with the way Dunbar handled the situation and was glad the young runner learned something from the experience.

“The experience of going and gaining a better understanding of what the elite world class runners do was what he can take most from the entire experience and carry that over to the next three years of his college running,” Sparka said.

He said Dunbar’s willingness to learn from his mistakes is probably the main reason he has risen from a walk-on to the track team to become a top runner in the conference. Sparka said Dunbar told him after the race that he got anxious and jumped towards the front of the pack too early, but knowing he knew he has to control his pace better in the future.

“I kind of wanted 30 so bad, I was kind of stringing up towards the front of the pack,” Dunbar said. “When is it that long of a race I really should have just been wherever I needed to be. I was kind of edgy, just because it was such a big race.”

He said the race was very different from other distance races he has been in. Normally, runners start off slow and build throughout the race, but in Poland Dunbar said a few of the runners jetted out of the blocks and set a blazing pace of just over four minutes per mile. He hung with the lead pack of about 10 runners throughout the first mile, though, by the middle of the race he fell a bit behind, but faltered after the first 5,000 meters.

“I came through the 5K at a good time, but I was hurting when I came through,” he said. “Basically the last 5K I don’t really remember much. I was hurting and I just wanted it to be over with as soon as I could.”

Even though the results were not exactly what he was hoping for, Dunbar said the international experience was priceless. It was his first international race and he said it was good to figure out how his body responds to jet lag and different types of food than he is used to eating before a race. He also enjoyed mingling with athletes from other nations and seeing what the world’s best young athletes are all about.

Dunbar’s high school coach at O’Fallon Township High School, Jon Burnett, said he told Dunbar, before he left, to make sure he soaked up the experience.

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Baseball

Two Salukis digging second chance at baseball

Former SIUC baseball player Kevin Koshie steps up to the plate for the Southern Illinois Miners at Rent One Park during a make-up game against Rockford last month. Koshie was joined over the weekend by fellow former Saluki Tyler Larson, who signed on to play infirmary for the Miners.

Former SIUC baseball player Kevin Koshie steps up to the plate for the Southern Illinois Miners at Rent One Park during a make-up game against Rockford last month. Koshie was joined over the weekend by fellow former Saluki Tyler Larson, who signed on to play infirmary for the Miners.

“This time last week, Tyler Larson was back in his hometown, in Richland, Mo., coaching little league baseball. This week, the former SIUC infielder is back on the field for a first place professional baseball team.

Lairson had been out of baseball since the season ended in May when he was contacted late last week about coming and playing with the Southern Illinois Miners of the Frontier League.

“They had a couple of guys get hurt, so I got a phone call around 11 p.m. Thursday night asking if I could be there Friday to play,” Lairson said. “So I drove and got in around 5 a.m. and played that night.”

Lairson started Friday for the Miners, even with many on the team still not knowing who he was. His bat would break the ice for him, though, as he went 2-5 with a two-run home run in his second at bat. The Miners won 6-2 over Traverse City that night, which put Southern Illinois in first place in the Western Division.

“Words can’t explain how nervous I was and how much adrenaline I had going before the game,” Lairson said. “I once got out on the field and turned a double play though, I was fine.”

Lairson represented the Salukis well in his first weekend at Rent One Ballpark in Marion, but he is not the first to trade in Saluki Maroon for Miner gold and black. Lairson’s former teammates and good friend Kevin Koshie is also good at this game and is in his second season with Southern Illinois.

Koshie who graduated in May, was selected for the Salukis from 2004 to 2007, and was named to the All-MVC team his sophomore year. Koshie now resides in centerfield for the Miners. He is currently batting .267 with one homerun and 10 RBIs in 28 games this season.

“I had a couple of phone calls from some other independent league teams,” Koshie said. “I was familiar with the area so I, of course, chose to play down here with the Miners.”

So far, both players have adapted well to playing in the Frontier League. Both are accustomed to playing with wooden bats, since SIU plays fall games with wood. Both also say the talent is not too far off from that of decent college players. The biggest thing both said they had to get used to is the number of people that now watch them play.

The Miners set the Frontier League attendance record last season, averaging more than 4,000 people per game.

“Definitely gets you up for the game,” Koshie said. “It’s a long season and you do get tired, but when you go out on the field you get excited for the three hours your out there.”

Lairson said he also noticed a big difference between college and professional baseball.

“They play in some nice parks with some good size crowds in college, but it was nothing like Friday night,” Lairson said. “The crowd cheers for everything, and being local, some people knew me. It was a great atmosphere.”

The Frontier League is on its All-Star break this weekend — the game is in Traverse City, Mich. The Miners will resume play Friday when they head to Chicago to take on the Windy City Thunderbolts. Both Koshie and Lairson are set to be in the lineup.

Miners coach Mike Pinto did not return a phone message seeking comment.