

from the sidelines

# SALMAGUNDI II

If the NFL can use Roman numerals for their annual Big Party, I should be able to use them for my annual "Salmagundi" column. (Salmagundi means "a mixture or medley"; it also means, "clearing off the editor's desk.")

The First Annual Aquatrols Scholarship Essay Contest is open to children of turf management professionals who will be attending an accredited college or university during the 2004-05 academic year. Entrants will compete for a grand prize of \$2,000 and two runner-up prizes of \$1,000 each. Full instructions, rules, and eligibility requirements are posted on [www.aquatrols.com](http://www.aquatrols.com). Deadline for submissions is March 1. For more info, call 800-257-7797.

Bachtold Brothers Inc. has recalled their weed and brush cutters. The company says operators can come in contact with the rotating blade, even when disengaged, by pulling on the front of the mower deck while the engine is running. The recalled units have an orange or green body and include the W-24 models, sold under the Bachtold Whipper, DR Field & Brush Mower, and B-800 (with a 77-100 deck) brand names. The brand name is printed on the drive box between the engine and the left wheel. DR All-Terrain Field & Brush mowers manufactured by Country Home Products are not included in this recall.

Do not use the units and contact Bachtold if you have the Whipper or B-800 models or contact Country Home Products if you have the DR Field & Brush model to receive a free repair kit. Call Bachtold Brothers at 877-784-5161 or Country Home Products at 877-595-3668.

Last month's college football "national championship" game won by Louisiana State over Oklahoma was the first-ever Division I championship contested on a filled synthetic surface. SRI Sports installed the rubber/sand infill mixture last fall in New Orleans' Superdome. That gnashing of teeth you hear is from both Southern Cal fans, who think their team was the best in the country, and plenty of turf managers, who aren't thrilled about the inroads "next generation" artificial surfaces are making on America's playing fields.

I would like to see the college president\$ forget their allegiance to the money (and VIP trips for themselves) that the bowl system represents and put in a national playoff system. It's laughable that the hypocritical, all-money-all-the-time NCAA put the kibosh on a computer company's paying USC and LSU \$10 million each to play for a real title. The presidents' excuse of "student-athlete" is insulting, since most Div I football players don't graduate, and most universities are between semesters from mid-December to mid-January. I won't hold my breath waiting for a change.



ERIC SCHRODER, EDITOR

Comments always welcome.  
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In Boston, a clerk magistrate found probable cause to charge not only two Yankees with assault and battery for the playoff bullpen fight with a Bosox groundskeeper, but also ruled there was enough evidence to go forward with a cross-complaint against the part-time turf man and schoolteacher, Paul Williams.

The magistrate said the lack of defensive wounds on the groundskeeper's hands could suggest the possibility that Williams was the aggressor.

We'll keep you posted.

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