

The SHIELD

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University of Southern Indiana student newspaper

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Construction crews work on the new library foundation Tuesday. The foundation walls are more than half-way finished. The library is set to open summer of 2006 (photo by Randy Hawkins).

New library begins to take shape

By Shyloh Karshner
Campus news editor

Construction of the new \$27.5 million library is on schedule.

"Foundation wall construction is approximately 70 percent complete," Fred Kalvelage, staff architect and construction manager said.

"At this point you can start to see the shape of the building with the rotunda facing the LA and the curved rear wall along University Boulevard.

"The tunnel for the heating and cooling system connection to the Physical Plant can be seen on the corner of the building closest to the Technology Center."

"Steel erection will be started early in October which will define the height of the building," Kalvelage said.

The new library will be the tallest building on campus and two times the size of the current library.

The library will have four floors and a lower level. The lower level will have classrooms of varying sizes and an auditorium.

The main level will have a Starbucks run by Sodexo, the company that operates all food services on campus.

Students will be able to work, hold meetings and have access to wireless Internet in the coffee commons.

There will be approximately 30 group



Crews continue work on a tunnel that will connect to existing maintenance tunnels. Library construction is on schedule (photo by Randy Hawkins).

study rooms because "we can't fit in 60," Ruth Miller, director of David L. Rice Library, said.

"They will be pleasant places to be," Miller said.

According to Miller, the library will offer many more options.

"There will be more choices of quiet areas to study, places to work in groups and enjoy the views of the campus," Miller said.

Miller is excited the university recognizes the importance of the library.

"It's more than a storehouse of books," Miller said.

Groundbreaking occurred in June and the staff plans to move in the summer of 2006.

"There will be some disruption, but we will work to minimize it," Miller said.

The library staff began researching what the university needed and demanded of a new library six years ago.

Many focus groups of students and faculty have met to discuss expectations.

The current library will be remodeled as an extension of the UC.

The Renovation of the David L. Rice Library and UC Concept Committee will determine which organizations will be allowed space.

Despite the increase in square footage, the materials budget will remain the same.

The budget is only one part of the library's entire budget, which is set for each fiscal year.

The materials budget for this fiscal year is approximately \$570,000 Miller said.

Most of the materials budget is spent on serials and continuations. Continuations include electronic databases, journals, and other ongoing costs.

Only a certain portion of it is used for books and audiovisual materials.

"The amount of increase varies from year to year and depends on total university revenues, a variety of university priorities, special needs, etc.," Miller said.

The library staff is presently reviewing the current collection of materials.

Most of the collection will go to the new library.

"We could always use more, but our collection is much better than it was five years ago.

"Our goal is to provide a solid base for the whole undergraduate curriculum," Miller said.

Comm program to be honored for accreditation in October

By Amelia Jeffers
Staff reporter

In late October, the School of Liberal Arts will be honoring the communications department for the accreditation it received in April.

USI, along with Indiana University-Bloomington and Ball State University, is now one of only three Indiana colleges to have accreditation from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC).

There are fifteen mass communications and journalism programs in Indiana that are not accredited.

David Glassman, Ph.D., dean of the School of Liberal Arts, said the celebration will also be a showcase of the communications department.

Various communications labs including the Scripps Howard lab and USI's AM 820 radio station will be open.

In addition, a presentation outlining the basics of the accreditation process will be given.

Glassman said that USI can anticipate four major developments this year in the communications department as a result of ACEJMC accreditation.

Prospective students majoring in communications will likely

"Accreditation is a seal of approval that students are going to have an education that is top-notch."

- Dean Glassman

of 1997.

"Accreditation required a team effort on everyone's part in the department. Accreditation will empower the department to become bigger and better.

"And accreditation will do more than draw more students to USI; it will help us to draw better students here," Herring said.

Herring said that it is important that the department use ACEJMC accreditation to contribute to the university.

On September 24 the communications department will go on a retreat entitled "Department Evolution" in which faculty will evaluate the department and its future.

Every six years, the department is re-evaluated by ACEJMC to ensure constant compliance of ACEJMC accreditation requirements and consideration of ACEJMC suggestions to improve programs within the department.

Herring said that USI's Department of Communications will be re-evaluated in 2008-2009.

"We're two years in and al-

ready strategizing how we're going to continue being accredited," Glassman said.

ready strategizing how we're going to continue being accredited," Glassman said.

Herring said students will now be able to apply for grants and scholarships through media foundations that they could not apply to before.

Herring also said that accreditation requires students to have a basic awareness on ethics and diversity.

Associate Professor of Journalism Ron Roat said communications programs are the most demanding, broadest, and toughest Liberal Arts program on campus.

"The philosophy is that you aren't going to be a specialist on journalism," said Roat. "You're going to be a specialist in liberal arts."

ACEJMC accreditation will also benefit students beyond their college years.

Herring said ACEJMC accreditation is "a prestigious accreditation that students can put on resumes and most employers understand what it's all about."

According to the ACEJMC website, only 105 out of 400 mass communications and journalism programs in the nation are ACEJMC accredited.

"Achieving this accreditation is one of the major milestones of this department since it was created twenty-five years ago," Herring said.

USI fees vary by state

Illinois, Kentucky students don't get same tuition breaks

By Hannah Wilderman
Special to The Shield

White County, Ill. and Union County, Ky. border Indiana and are about the same distance from USI, but White County residents pay \$110 more per credit hour.

USI offers nonresident grants to students in 35 bordering Illinois and Kentucky counties.

Residents must maintain a 2.0 grade point average and complete 66 percent of attempted credit hours to be eligible for these grants.

If a student meets the criteria, they will receive \$85 off of out-of-state tuition per credit hour each semester.

In addition to non-resident grants, USI also offers in-state tuition to four neighboring Kentucky counties: Daviess, Hancock, Henderson and Union.

However, the same deal is not offered to Illinois residents.

USI allows residents from the four Kentucky counties to attend while paying in-state tuition for a reason.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the Kentucky Council on Higher Education have an agreement that allows Indiana students near Louisville to attend schools in Kentucky for Kentucky's in-state tuition rates.

"Kentucky and Indiana thought there was a need to enter in an agreement.

"Illinois hasn't shown an interest in doing that. They're trying to keep their students at schools in state," James Patton, USI's director of student financial assistance, said.

This is the main reason why Illinois students cannot receive in-state tuition like Kentucky students.

"The state of Indiana would have a problem funding our school if we weren't charging Illinois students out-of-state tuition.

"They would think that we were asking the state to make up for that money. The tax payers wouldn't like that," said Patton.

Healthy?

GFI Research Center is looking for healthy men and women to participate in an outpatient medical research study of an Anthrax vaccination. The U.S. government has placed Anthrax on its priority list for vaccine development. For more information or to see if you qualify for this research study, call GFI today!

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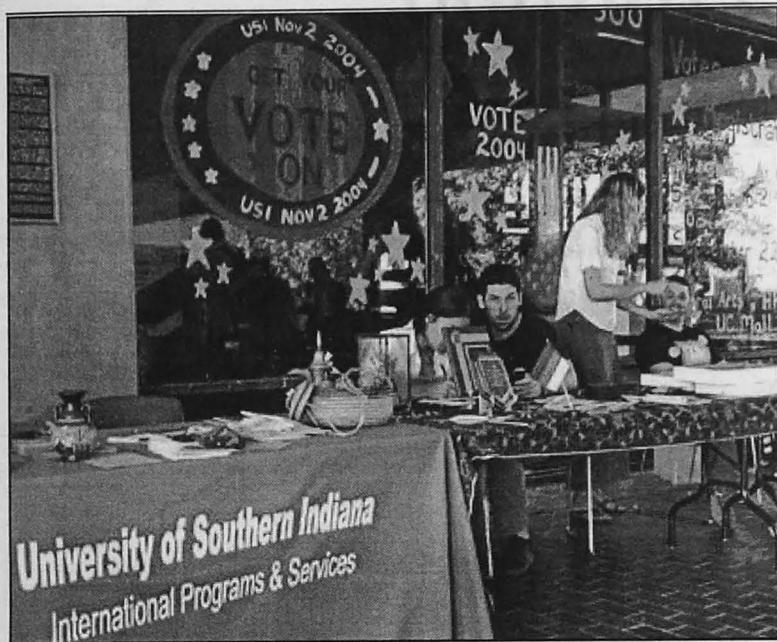
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Liquid-free alcohol coming

(U-WIRE) BOSTON A revolutionary idea that may change the alcohol industry forever has arrived in the United States—vapor liquor.

The Alcohol With Out Liquid Company has invented a machine that allows people to inhale shots of vaporized liquor that is mixed with oxygen.

Spirit Partners Inc., a North Carolina distributor, introduced the first AWOL machine to the United States at a Manhattan bar on August 20. It has already become a fixture in many European and Asian bars.

"AWOL is simply a fun, new, exciting way for adults to enjoy alcohol in a responsible manner," said Kevin Morse, president of Spirit Partners Inc., in a company statement.

Similar to an asthma inhaler, the AWOL machines consist of an oxygen generator attached by tubes to a hand-held vaporizer.

The user can choose any hard liquor, which is poured into the vaporizer.

The oxygen from the generator then passes through a tube and absorbs the alcohol. A mist forms from the two ingredients that the user inhales.

AWOL is a hangover-free way to consume alcohol because of the oxygen in the vapor, which is proven to reduce the feeling of a hangover, according to the prod-

uct's Web site.

The Web site also emphasizes that AWOL is safe because both of its components — oxygen and moderate consumption of alcohol — are safe.

The site also markets the product as a low-calorie and low-carbohydrate alternative to regular liquor because the inhaled alcohol doesn't go through the stomach.

Inhaled alcohol enters the bloodstream through the lungs instead, and the result is a less-filtered, low-calorie buzz.

The body expels alcohol the same, whether it is inhaled or sipped, and can be detected using the same methods, so AWOL cannot be used to get around alcohol laws, according to Morse.

"One of the ways alcohol leaves the body is through the mouth," Morse said in the statement.

"Therefore, contrary to reports, the alcohol will definitely register on the Intoxylizer 5000, commonly called the Breathalyzer test, which is used by law-enforcement officials to apprehend drivers who are under the influence of alcohol."

The machines have a built-in safety device that makes consuming a single shot take 20 minutes — so users cannot binge inhale.

The vapor from AWOL machines present in England in early 2004 could be snorted as

well as inhaled. According to several British newspapers, scientists in England said the product could possibly cause brain damage because the alcohol went directly to the brain when snorted.

AWOL products in the United States can only be inhaled through the mouth.

Anyone who wants their own machine and has a few thousand dollars to spare can buy one online or over the phone for \$3,000 to \$3,700.

Not many scientific tests have been made on AWOL, but an alcohol expert from England called the time constraints of using the product sensible.

"We are not aware of any current evidence to suggest that use of the AWOL machine, in accordance with (Spirit Partners Inc.) advice and instructions, poses particular risks to the user over and above the risks that may be posed by consuming an equivalent amount of alcohol in an equivalent time period in a more traditional way," Judith Hind, a spokesperson for England's Department of Health Alcohol Policy Team, said in a statement.

College of Engineering senior Kevin Hemmer said he is unsure people will want to change their drinking ways.

"I can never see that surpassing drinking in popularity," he said.

International Peace

Raul Illarramendi and Kara Pike participate in the International Day of Peace Tuesday. The event included a variety of activities to promote peace including a moment of silence, a mural unveiling on the Global Community floor in Ruston Hall and a peace candlelight vigil and service (photo by Randy Hawkins).



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Hastert view not based on facts

Republicans' baseless charges examined



By Jeff Walker
Opinion Editor

Dennis Hastert is an idiot.

Over the weekend, Hastert, the speaker of the House was appearing with another famous idiot, Dick Cheney, at a campaign rally in Illinois.

According to CNN.com, Hastert, being the model of truth and virtue that he is, said al Qaeda "would like to influence this election" with an attack similar to the train bombings in Madrid, Spain days before the Spanish national election in March.

Cheney has gone on record as

saying things like this before, to the chagrin of most intelligent people keeping an eye on the election.

Knowing that Cheney's comments caused quite a bit of anger, the press gave Hastert a chance to clarify. Instead, he chose to dig his hole deeper.

A reporter asked the speaker if he thought al Qaeda would work more comfortably outside of the Bush regime, and Hastert answered in the affirmative.

"That's my opinion, yes," Hastert confirmed.

Nice work, Denny. I did hear, though, that the members of Hezbollah (another terrorist organization) was leaning towards casting their lot for Ralph Nader.

But alas, I digress. Let's get back to Hastert. He's engaging in the exact same sort of campaigning that has become typical of Republicans.

Basically, they want to scare you into voting for their candidate. They want you to believe that somehow, magically, they alone

can stop terrorism.

Never mind that the largest single act of domestic terrorism occurred during a time which Republicans held a majority of seats in Congress, a majority of Governorships, AND the Presidency. They don't even know who's to blame.

They blamed terrorist ties in Iraq, still, when OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES have said there is no link.

For example, the National Foreign Intelligence Committee has said in recent reports that not only are their no ties between the two, but instead that Saddam Hussein refused to allow Osama Bin Laden into his country.

VP Cheney was still alleging links between the two this past weekend.

Of course, Hastert is known for arbitrarily linking two completely unrelated entities for his own political gains.

On *Fox News Sunday* a few weeks ago, Hastert alleged that

Billionaire financier and John Kerry supporter George Soros made his money from drug cartels.

Even "Righty" Chris Wallace, the show's host, was blown away by Hastert's allegations, which have not been seconded by anyone.

That's probably because there's absolutely NO evidence that would support such a crazy charge. But then again, when have the Republicans felt the need to be honest and credible, or support their facts for that matter?

Hastert later said that he was referring to organizations that support the legalization of marijuana in this country, organizations that Soros contributed to, not organizations that Soros worked for.

Because of this, Soros has asked the House Ethics Committee to look in to Hastert's comments, something they had not done at the time this column was being written.

So the Republicans in charge are misleading you. The Speaker

of the House is making crazy unfounded charges, and the Vice President continues to lie about terrorism's connections with Iraq.

The only obvious choice is to remove these people from positions of power.

I recommend starting with Cheney, and his ringleader, President George W. Bush. That's why you have to vote in the Fall election.

Essentially, if you re-elect the current regime, you're voting for continued lies, mistruths, and unsupported accusations. That's not what this country wants or needs.

If you need further proof, it will come in the weeks leading up to the election. If that doesn't do enough for you, watch Fahrenheit 9/11, then go to www.michaelmoore.com and read where his facts came from.

Think of it like *The X-Files*. I believe the truth is out there. You just have to get past the unfounded and oftentimes untrue Republican rhetoric.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Media ruining election



By Randy Hawkins
Editor-in-Chief

With all this hoopla about voting, I still find it hard to get in the mood.

I realize it's my "civic duty" to vote and I have "no right to complain" if I don't exercise my democratic

"voice" so to speak. This is what I've been told. In the 2000 election, 537 votes made the difference in Florida.

That's approximately the amount of people in O'Bannon and Ruston Halls, so that's exciting. What about Indiana though?

In Indiana, George W. Bush won by 343,856 votes. Suddenly, it's not so exciting anymore.

More frequently, every station that has anything remotely resembling a news show is putting up the pretty blue and red graphic of the United States. You know the one. It's the map that shows which states each candidate has already won.

According to the latest map on C-Span, Bush has a solid 25 states with 215 electoral votes. Kerry on the other hand trails with only 13 states and 188 electoral votes.

However, there are the "battle ground" states where it is unclear which candidate is going to carry the state.

According to those "in the know," those are the states where the election will be decided.

Really though all the news is teaching me, is that unless I live in Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Min-

nesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New Hampshire, or Maine my vote won't matter. The other 38 states made up their mind already.

I admire the gung ho, passionate people out there campaigning for "Get Your Vote On." It is nice to see Republicans, Democrats, and everyone else out together trying to get more young people to vote.

The numbers are embarrassing. At the same time, that message is all over the mainstream news and television. The very same people who are saying that voting only matters in certain states, are sending you this message.

That makes it hard to convince the skeptical and convert them into believers of the system.

Perhaps they should put more emphasis on the other lesson learned from the 2000 election. Florida was declared three different times in the closing moments of the election.

Granted, it was because the race was so close, but the professionals who do these sorts of things assured the public that Bush had won. Then Gore won. Then Bush won again. Then they didn't know.

So maybe the election isn't predetermined. Last election, we say what happened when people and "pollsters" rushed to judge something that they thought they knew.

All these people might have the states declared wrongly this time, too. Maybe everyone really should get out and vote.

Who knows? Maybe Kerry will win Indiana. Either way, better vote anyway just to be safe.

Rights and Responsibilities: Redux

By Jon A. Webb
Special to *The Shield*

While skipping class the other day, I stumbled upon a copy of *Student Rights and Responsibilities: A Code for Student Behavior*, the epic creed to which USI students are forcefully bound.

One look at the document's lengthy prose made me realize that no one in their right mind would ever sit down and read the entire thing.

However, since I really didn't want to go to my next class and had nothing better to do, I picked up a copy, walked to the University center and familiarized myself with the document.

After reading it (a task I completed in a little under three days; I was asked to leave the building several times by the janitorial staff, but I refused), I came to the conclusion that it was a bit, shall we say, "puffed up."

Everything in it could have been said in four pages as opposed to twelve. So, in an attempt to clear things up for other students, I have taken what I think are the key points and given a brief summary for each.

Alcohol use: Students Rights and Responsibilities makes it very clear that alcohol use on campus is strictly prohibited and can result in various slaps on the wrist. However, I think the message is muddled by the fact that the college is minutes away from a place called "University Liquors." (It may also serve to mention that the said establishment proudly displays a "Welcome Back USI Students" poster in its window.)

Stalking: The code defines it as "willfully, maliciously and repeatedly following or harassing another person in a manner that would cause a reasonable person to feel threatened or molested." So don't stalk someone unless, when questioned, you can prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the

person you're stalking is crazy. Also, refrain from making anyone feel molested. No one likes that.

Decorations: Decoration is encouraged to make our "homes away from home" feel homier. The university wants you to hang up your favorite posters; you just can't use nails, poster putty or tacks to do so. Also, Christmas lights are welcome in season, as long as they are approved for outside use and plugged in to exterior outlets. While there are guidelines concerning Christmas lights, Hanukkah decorations are not mentioned anywhere in the document. Apparently Jewish students have free reign in celebrating Hanukkah. Menorahs as far as the eye can see!

Drugs: Don't use them.

Quiet Time and/or Courtesy Hours: Courtesy hours are 10 pm through 8 am on Sunday through Thursday and midnight to 8 am on Fridays and Saturdays. However, on the

night before finals, darkness falls over the apartments and a 24 hour quiet time begins. During these twenty four hours, students are to refrain from slamming doors, revving up engines or playing Linkin Park CD's. (The latter is in effect at all times and is not restricted to quiet time.)

Attempts to Commit and/or Complicity in Prohibited Acts: This basically says that you are not allowed to fail or be accomplices in any breaking of the rules. So, in short, although it may be fun to encourage your roommate to stalk your professors, don't do it. It's just not a good idea.

I hope my summaries of the policies of the University have given everyone a clearer understanding of what is expected of them. But if you want more than anything to be the perfect student, I suggest picking up a copy of the document itself. It's a lengthy and difficult read, but so was War and Peace.

Letters to the Editor

Assault weapons do not figure into debate over protections of Second Amendment

Liberals up in arms? A shallow campaign? While I was glad to see some articulate and interesting articles in last week's Opinion pages, I feel it is my liberal duty to point out some inconsistencies.

If you read last week's *Shield*, you might have noticed Matthew Funkhouser's article on the now extinct assault weapons ban.

Not understanding an issue or intentionally misinterpreting it is perhaps Mr. Kerry's way of trying to speak the same language as the Republican Party.

After all, Mr. Bush is one of the country's finest debaters on national and international issues today, is he not? I think we should really look at the issue, as Funkhouser suggests, in its "full historical context."

The Second Amendment refers not to "well prepared, trained and armed" citizens, nor was it written "to protect exactly the type of firearms that the Assault Weapons Ban restricted."

I would venture to assume that our forefathers never envisioned semi-automatic rifles in the hands of almost anyone who wants them. Nor did they say "well regulated" but really mean "well trained".

Regulate means control, not train or arm or prepare. Regulated in this instance refers to a citizen army, under the control of government officials.

Whatever tyranny we face in

America today will not be scared by a semi-automatic rifle wielded by a "well informed" citizen any more than it would be by someone with "a single-shot shotgun and a head full of misinformation".

Every day the government tracks militia groups who are well armed, well informed, and themselves tyrannical. After all, before 9/11, the worst terrorist attack in this country had been perpetrated by Americans, on Americans, in the form of Timothy McVeigh at Oklahoma City.

That was an attack on what he, saw as a tyrannical government, and it was not patriotic; those responsible were put in jail.

Heinrich Himmler did not advocate a ban on just specific types of assault weapons,

but any and all firearms. The Nazis were not fighting a war in their own country against an oppressive government, but taking their war to other countries. To use such an argument against gun control is misleading.

Speaking of misleading, how about those campaigns? You say you want to hear the issues debated? Well so do I and I can't wait until they are. Except I proba-

bly will have to keep waiting.

The Republican negative attack machine seems to want nothing to do with silly things like issues.

I'd like to think that we can decide this election on which person has the better record. I'd also like to think that we can do what is right for the American people.

It's up to the Bush campaign to set the tone for this election, and as we've seen, they'd rather tell us how John Edwards is a sleazy trial lawyer with no experience.

It's up to Bush to stop the negative attacks and start telling Americans how, thanks to him, we're all better off now than we were four years ago. Aren't we?

Darrin Burns

Protection from state impossible nowadays

Citizens could use more than assault weapons for their protection

I recently read the article by Matthew B. Funkhouser stating that the assault weapons ban is better off expired.

Mr. Funkhouser's argument was that the 2nd Amendment was created by our forefathers to protect us, the citizens, against tyranny against our own government.

I agree. I don't see how you couldn't.

Clearly that is why it was created. However this is my point.

First off we wouldn't be fighting our government. I mean really, if you put me in the ring with any given senator or representative in a 12 round bare knuckles boxing match, I think out of aggravation alone I would win in the third round.

That's fighting the government;

the least of our concerns.

The concern is that the government would abuse the military, I don't think I have to point out exactly what kind of arsenal our military has, or that we have the strongest military in the world.

Let me just remind you that the two bombs dropped on Japan at the end of WWII have multiplied by the thousands, and have become more devastating.

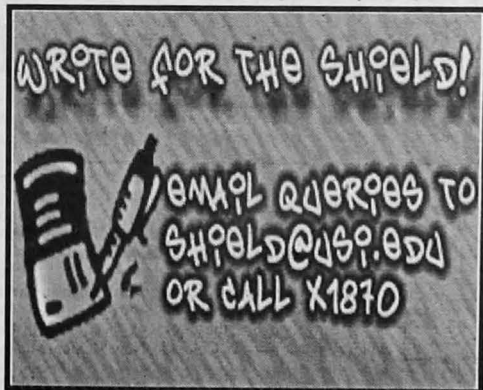
Let's disregard that argument, and put it this way: if our tyrannized government acting vicariously through our military wanted to take over the fine city of Evansville, I don't think it would use a couple 70,000 troops armed with ak47s and rocket launchers to do it.

I'm not sure if you're aware of this, Mr. Funkhouser, but our military has access to tanks, jets, and since this would be considered urban warfare, I think the Apache helicopter would probably be utilized.

Assault weapons would have as little effect against these weapons as a single-shot shotgun would be effective against assault weapons.

Hold on, that gives me an idea. I propose giving citizens the right to own and operate tanks, jets and war helicopters. Just in case.

Jason Freyensee



Local hardcore show brings touring bands with loads of music and mosh

By Ashlee McCann
Et Cetera Editor

Last Tuesday was a night of high-quality hardcore music. This was one of the best local hardcore shows since the school year began.

With many local Evansville hardcore bands flourishing, the scene has only broadened.

This means more touring bands from out of state.

These professional bands are great to have especially in Evansville where hardcore is starting to dominate.

Touring bands Suffocate Faster, A Perfect Murder, and Love is Red graced the stage in Evansville for one night only. To add to this great set were local bands Disregard and The Redemption Song.

Beginning hardcore band, Disregard, started the show off with tough music and good vocals.

Anyone into hardcore should keep their ears open for upcoming shows because Disregard is sure to get better.

Well known locals, The Redemption Song, took the stage



Chris Alsip of Suffocate Faster unleashes some crushing vocals. Suffocate Faster is a straight edge band out of Cincinnati. (Photo courtesy of Jenn Day).

next and played relentlessly. Ripping the vocals like always and playing with power these guys know how to rock.

This was their last show for a while but they will be back playing shows after some time off.

They will also have a new CD coming out in October.

After the local bands warmed

up the crowd, Cincinnati band, Suffocate Faster, took the show to the next level. Along with being from Cincinnati, this band is known for their beliefs in the straight edge lifestyle.

Suffocate Faster made the crowd dance like it was their last chance. Suffocate Faster's music is best described as brutal hardcore

Evansville hardcore scene. After playing shows here several times, most kids know what to expect and that is a good time accompanied by great music.

Love is Red's tough, intense vocals backed by hard music had kids dancing from wall to wall.

The Hardest Fight, is Love is Red's newest full length CD from

that brings the mosh all the time.

Canadian band, A Perfect Murder, kept the show going next.

This metal hardcore band is now touring the U.S. with Love is Red and trying to give America some first-class music from up north.

Love is Red closed the evening out with some heart pounding energy.

These Nashville natives are quite known in the

Evansville hardcore scene. After playing shows here several times, most kids know what to expect and that is a good time accompanied by great music.

Love is Red's tough, intense vocals backed by hard music had kids dancing from wall to wall.

The Hardest Fight, is Love is Red's newest full length CD from

Stillborn Records. If you missed the show but still desire some good hardcore music, check out their new CD.



Vocalist of Love is Red, Hunter Weeks, belts it out. Love is Red is based out of Nashville and well known in E-Ville (Photo courtesy of Jenn Day).

'Sky Captain' and Jessica Simpson all the same, good to look at with little inside



By Shane Todd
Shield Staff

There's an old saying, more than likely made up by some ugly broad, that "looks aren't everything." And as of recent, we've had that bit of wisdom shoved in our faces far too often.

I'm speaking, of course, about Jessica Simpson. If ever there were definitive evidence that this saying were true, it is this lone woman that goes out of her way to

prove it every single day.

I'm sure you're wondering now, why I even mention the vacuous abyss of intelligence that is Simpson. Because "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow" reminds me a lot of the bumbling blonde. It looks good. In fact, it looks damn good. It's got a lot of buzz. But after just a few minutes with the film, it becomes obvious that it's quite empty. Much like Ms. Simpson's head.

"Sky Captain" is, without a doubt, a fantastic looking movie. It's filmed somewhere between

color and...not, giving it a faded kind of look that one might expect from a movie that takes place sometime after World War I.

Most all of the film was done against a green screen, so that later the director could come in and insert his entire world of computer generated marvels.

And from a dark Manhattan overrun by giant robots, to the strange island of Dr. Totenkopf, everything is done with a sense of grandeur and magnificence. Everything in the World of Tomorrow is bigger, better, and suppos-

edly more awe-inspiring.

But about ten minutes into the film, the beauty of it all kind of fades away, leaving the audience at a point where they'd usually be drawn into the movie.

Unfortunately, in all its attempts to look good, "Sky Captain" forgot about this second point. The plot is depressingly simple. Robots are stealing resources from all over the world, apparently under the direction of a, surprise, German scientist named Dr. Totenkopf.

Apparently Jude Law's Sky

Captain, as inept as he is, is the only man who can save the world. And his reporter ex-girlfriend, Polly Perkins, played by Gwyneth Paltrow, will be tagging along to get the full scoop.

That's about it. We get a few convenient appearances from Giovanni Ribisi as Dex, Sky Captain's tech head and seemingly best friend.

And for a few minutes, Angelina Jolie steps in as the tough commander of a secret British airship, Captain Franky Cook. See SKY CAPTAIN on Page 8

Megadeth is back in action with newest CD

By Adam Calloway
Shield Staff

Nearly two years ago the driving force behind Megadeth, front man and lead guitarist Dave Mustaine suffered what he claimed to be a career ending injury that made him unable to play guitar.

He broke up the band and many thought his, along with the illustrious career of Megadeth, had come to an end.

It was a sad day for fans of this innovative thrash metal band.

But at the beginning of 2004 Megadeth began to rise from the ashes. Reports began coming in from Mustaine about his improving condition and the possibility of a new album.

Mustaine formed a new lineup of the band and began putting together the new album; surprisingly without David Ellefson, bass player and member of Megadeth since day one.

The System Has Failed has silenced the fears that Megadeth is dead.

After listening to just the first track of the album it is clear that this is a return to classic Megadeth, reminiscent of the Rust in Peace era in the early 90's.

A far cry from disks such as Cryptic Writings and Risk which began to delve more into the mainstream, System brings back the



anger and speed of Megadeth's heyday.

This is especially apparent in the songs "Kick the Chair" and "Back in the Day."

Megadeth has made the old thrash style sound a little more modern.

Solos fit more cohesively into the songs instead of standing alone. Also, as is popular in current metal, powerful drumming

has taken a strong hold. The songs are laden with hooks, but do not fall into the generic pop formula.

The songs are also strong lyrically.

Appropriate for its election year release, Mustaine's lyrics are politically charged. This is also apparent in the album's title and cover art.

A hint of his newly found religion is also seen, especially in the song "Of Mice and Men."

The song is an autobiographical piece where Mustaine sings about how he nearly destroyed his life as a young man, but came out stronger after learning life's lessons and cleaning himself up.

Many fans of early Megadeth thought Mustaine would never be able to return the band to its glory days. They were wrong.

For any fan of Megadeth or the metal genre in general, this album is a must have.

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CAMPUS CALENDAR

Thursday, Sept. 23

RopeWalk Reading Series - 7 p.m., Liberal Arts Center, Kleymeyer Hall. Fiction reading by Nicole Reid, assistant professor of English. Information: 465-3049.

Saturday, Sept. 25

Cross Country hosts Stegemoller Classic - 8:45 p.m., USI Cross Country Course. Info: 465-1121.

Excavation Open House - September 25-26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Hovey Lake Archaeology Site, Posey County: archaeology demonstrations, field lab operations, artifact exhibits. USI students are involved in the project. Park at the Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Office. A part of THREADS Diversity Celebration Month.



Volleyball at Northern Kentucky - 1 p.m., Highland Heights, Ky. Information: 465-1121.

Sunday, Sept. 26

Men's golf at NCAA II Great Lakes Fall Tournament - September 26-27, South Haven, Mich. Information: 465-1622.

Women's golf hosts Screaming Eagles Classic - September 26-27, Helfrich Hills Golf Course. Information: 465-1622.

Men's/Women's soccer host Findlay - 11 a.m., USI Strassweg Field. Information: 465-1622.

Monday, Sept. 27

Children's Center Scholastic Book Fair - September 27-31, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Science and Education Center lobby. Free. Open to public. Proceeds benefit the Children's Center. Information: 464-1869.

Tuesday, Sept. 28

Welcome Reception for Dean Glassman - 5-6:30 p.m., University Center, Carter Hall. Information: 464-1925.

Wednesday, Sept. 29

Women's tennis hosts Indianapolis - 4 p.m., USI Tennis Courts. Information: 465-1121.

Venezuelan Night - 7:30 p.m., Ruston Hall, lounge. A part of THREADS Diversity Celebration Month. Sponsor: Global Community. Information: 465-7183.

Volleyball at SIU Edwardsville - 7 p.m., Edwardsville, Ill. Information: 465-1121.

Friday, Sept. 24

Women's tennis at Aces Classic - September 24-25, UE. Info: 465-1121.

Men's/women's soccer host Kentucky Wesleyan - 5 p.m., Strassweg Field. Info: 465-1622.

Volleyball at Kentucky Wesleyan - 6 p.m., Owensboro. Info: 465-1121.

"The Parthenon," an international interdisciplinary colloquium - 9 a.m.-4 p.m., UC, Carter Hall. Following the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, USI presents an interdisciplinary colloquium featuring 12 lectures by USI faculty on poetry, essays, politics, art, history, popular culture, and philosophy with an exhibition of photographs and paintings.

A part of THREADS Diversity Celebration Month. Free. Open to public. Students may earn credit for attendance through Core courses. Information: 465-7088.

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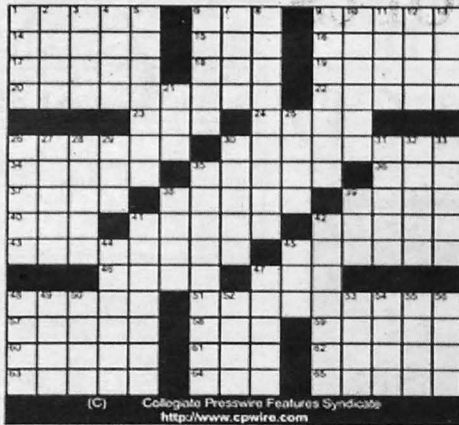
PUZZLE

Across

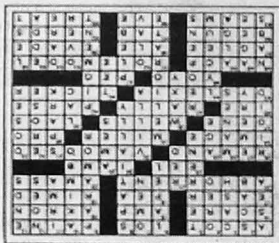
1. Neck scarf
6. Angries
9. Common Sense author
14. Frighter
15. Amplifier
16. Rubber capital of the world
17. One who eases
18. _____ in the pod
19. Covered with frost
20. Louthouse
22. Gather
23. Lamepny
24. Metrical foot
26. Send back
29. Left in a hurry
34. Picture
35. Mile runner
36. Professional
37. Hereditary unit
38. Time Machine author
39. Asian country
43. Worth
41. Rouse
42. Analyze grammatically
43. Learning disorder
45. _____ape parade
46. Tug on a string
47. _____ing
48. Civil Rights org.
51. Merase
57. Gang aft _____
58. Beer
59. Avoid by cleverness
60. Stuffed
61. Soda
62. Tiny candy
63. Lines of fiction
64. Adam's a girl
65. Trick or _____

Down

1. All sea
2. Snakebreaker
3. Cooney
4. Cream-filled cookie
5. Fairly
6. Colic extension
7. Portent
8. Relating to space
9. Jewish singer Noam
10. Hands on hips
11. _____ Vep



12. Negative response
13. Outcomes
21. Cinnamon
25. Department store
26. Stuff
27. Nail filing board
28. Kooten sports of dead
29. Get older
30. Pancho
31. Incandescent particle
32. Irregularly notched
33. Device for asthmatics
35. Improve
38. Covered with wax
39. Used in shellac
41. Opens again
42. Color
44. Public lecture hall
45. Golf device
47. Annapolis freshwater
48. Seizes
49. Biblical fugitive
50. Seaweed
52. Musician Basia
53. Not under
54. Triple dog _____
55. Old Norse poems
56. Fear that



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USI Health Corner

Ten Easy Ways to Stay in Shape While Back at School

1. Exercise Regularly- No less than three times a week.
2. Weight Train- It boosts metabolism, builds muscle and helps burn fat. You have no excuses because personal training is free in the Recreation and Fitness Center.
3. Walk to Class or Park in the Back of the Lot- Every extra step makes a difference and you should be getting 10,000 steps daily.
4. Avoid Fast Food- Yes, it is fast and easy, but most of it is horrible for you with little or no health content.
5. Go Outside- While the weather is nice take a walk, ride a bike, get a group together and play volleyball, basketball, softball etc.
6. Give Intramurals a Try- They are fun, mostly free, and a great way to meet people and stay active at the same time.
7. Try a Group Exercise Class- The RFC has everything from Yoga and Pilates to Boot Camp and Spinning. Also, you can give your abs a workout with our Six-Pack class.
8. Keep a Diet and Exercise Diary- If you keep track of everything you do or eat you might make yourself put down the chips and head to the gym.
9. Eat 6 Small Healthy Snack-like Meals a Day- It keeps you full all day, and stops you from late night binging in the process.
10. Get a Workout Buddy- Refuse to let each other slack off, be each other's constant motivation.

SKY CAPTAIN from page 6

Apparently, she and Sky Captain may have something of a past as well.

But most of the movie revolves around the adventures of Sky Captain and his tag along reporter, neither of which turn out to be very likeable characters.

Polly is an incredibly self-absorbed reporter, who far too often willingly forsakes their mission for the sake of her story. And though the film insinuates that she is indeed a top reporter, she often misses even the most obvious of clues. Everything, it seems, must be explained to her.

As for the Captain himself,

well, he's not exactly the hero they make him out to be. There is an attempt here, I think, to make the Captain fallible. Something akin to Indiana Jones' fear of snakes.

However, Sky Captain is so fallible that he comes off as a fool, and it's surprising to me that he's as renowned as he is in this World of Tomorrow.

Throughout the film, it does feel as though they're trying to reawaken that magic from the Indiana Jones series. The movie has a very old school comic book look to it, a different genre of the same era that inspired Mr. Jones.

But it almost seems as though they're trying too hard, and thus, end up failing quite miserably. The performances, especially from our two main characters, are about as washed out as the color of the film itself. There, but far from vivid or lively at all.

In the end, "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow" is just asking too much. Simply because it's pretty, the film thinks it can forsake nearly everything else that makes a movie good.

They've taken everything that ruined both the new Star Wars and Matrix trilogies, stunning yet pointless special effects, and made an entire movie out of them. And speaking of, there are more than a few little tributes to Mr. Lucas, among others, in the film, most of which come off more as blatant rip-offs rather than friendly homage.

Unless you've absolutely got to see the effects in this one, I'd wait for "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow" to debut on the Campus Channel. I promise, you won't be missing much.

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SHOWTIMES FOR SEPTEMBER 24-30
Friday—Sunday early Matinees in [bracket
FIRST DAUGHTER (PG)
[11:00am] 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:50
THE FORGOTTEN (PG-13) [11:20am] 12:00
1:40 2:20 4:20 4:50 7:00 7:40 9:30 10:
MR. 3000 (PG-13)
[12:20] 2:50 5:20 7:50 10:20
SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
(PG) [11:15am] 11:45am] 1:45 2:15 4:15
4:45 6:45 7:15 9:15 9:45
WIMBLEDON (PG-13)
[12:10] 2:40 5:00 7:20 10:00
I, ROBOT (PG-13) 12:45 3:40 6:20 9:10
CELLULAR (PG-13)
12:40 3:00 5:15 7:30 10:05
RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE (R)
[12:30] 3:10 5:30 8:00 10:15
EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING (R)
[11:50am] 2:30 5:10 7:45 10:25
GARDEN STATE (R)
1:00 3:20 5:40 8:15 10:35
WITHOUT A PADDLE (PG-13)
12:50 3:15 5:45 8:10 10:30
THE BOURNE SUPREMACY (PG-13)
1:15 3:50 6:30 9:00

STADIUM ART
MARIA FULL OF GRACE (R) Exclusive
[11:00am] 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:20
FAHRENHEIT 9/11 (R) 1:20 4:10 6:50 9:40

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Eagles look to clean up oil slick Sunday

By Tony Black
Sports editor

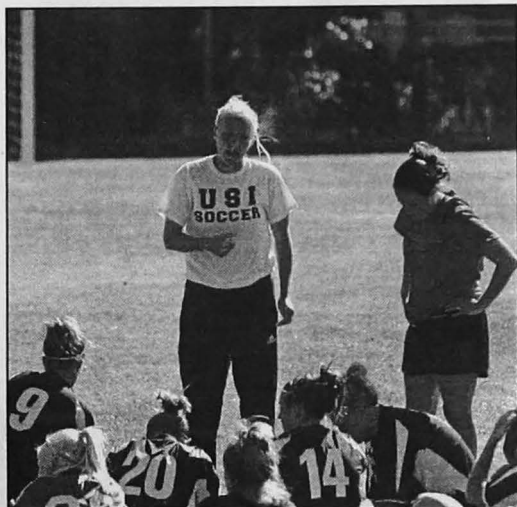
Sunday was the sixth time this season that the University of Southern Indiana women's soccer played to a goal game.

The Eagles have lost five out of the six games. Friday night's game was the first none one goal game since August. USI fell Friday to Quincy University 2-0, and lost Sunday 2-1 to SIU-Edwardsville.

The Eagles defense let Quincy score a goal in each half, with those goals the Hawks had five shots on goal. The offense for USI had three shots on goal, two by junior Alisann Shetler.

On Sunday afternoon it was more of the same bad luck for the Eagles, as they had shot opportunities but only one goal went in. The one goal came in the first half off the foot of senior Lisa Stucki; the pass came from junior Brooklyn Gant.

USI had other possibilities to



Coach Meek instructs her team half time of Sunday's contest. Assistant coach Aimee Muller, who use to play at USI looks on (photo by Tony Black).

score but could not find a home for the ball in the back of the net. Midway through the second half Shetler was streaking down the field when her shot off the mark.

Also in the game the Eagles were called for two yellow cards as well, sophomore Casey Hrvatin and Stucki. This was Hrvatin's first game back since the first exhibition contest against the University of Evansville.

"We had two of our people go to the hospital, two of our best players. SIUE is a very good team, and when two of your players are gone it's hard to defend properly" head coach Crissy Meek said.

The Eagles next bit of action will be Friday night against Kentucky Wesleyan College at home. Then Sunday they return for the final game of the four game home stand against University of Findlay.

The KWC Panthers are 1-2-1 this season, winning their second conference game of the season against Lewis University 1-0 and

lost their first one to SIU-Edwardsville 6-0 on Friday night.

Since USI added women's soccer in 1996 the Eagles have never lost to Kentucky Wesleyan in seven tries. Last season USI blanked the Panthers 3-0, behind a Gant goal and a Kara Marcum goal.

"We are going to have to pick it up and work a little harder. We played really well today, and it's going to keep happening for the rest of conference." Stucki said "We are 0-2 but we're going to turn it around."

On Sunday the Eagles are going to have to contend with a good Findlay team, that has shut out three team thus far. Oiler's freshman goalie Tabitha Goetz has got all three of the shutouts.

This week for Findlay however will be a bit tougher. They will play three games in four days.

They started yesterday at St. Joseph's College, and then back home Friday against Northern Michigan, then Sunday here.

Volleyball starts fast in GLVC over weekend

By Tony Black
Sports editor

It can be ugly or it can be pretty, whatever the case maybe the University of Southern Indiana volleyball walked away with two wins this last weekend.

On Friday the Eagles started the GLVC season with a 3-1 win over Lewis University.

From the start, it looked like it was going to be a barnburner. Neither team lost by more than seven points.

USI jumped on top first with a 30-27 victory, but Lewis came back to win game two 28-30.

The Eagles took care of business from there winning 30-23 and 34-32 in games three and four.

Freshman Stephanie Wilson had yet another great game dishing the ball to teammates. Wilson came away with a game high 62 assists. Junior Laura Ellerbusch had a game high of 15 Kills.

On Saturday it was a bit different of a tune for USI, as they went the distance against a struggling University of Wisconsin-Parkside team.

The Eagles dropped game two and four, and rallied late to win the deciding game five 15-10 to win the match 3-2.

Sophomore Mandy Probst had nine service aces, 20 digs, and nine Kills.

Probst was just one ace and kill away

from her first career triple double. Ellerbusch and senior Leeanne Gross had a team high 15 Kills.

"Our coach tells us to serve aggressive and that's what I did" Probst said.

USI will now get ready for the road, as they travel down to Owensboro tomorrow, and Northern Kentucky Saturday.

Wesleyan and USI have done battle 31 times and the Eagles have only dropped one of those matches.

The first and only loss to the Panthers was in 1995.

The last time the Panthers were able to pull out a game was in 1999, when assistant head coach Shannon Wells was a freshman.

KWC won the game 14-16, which was the highest, score the Panthers were able to put out in that match.

"We hope it will be a short match, however in those types of matches you want to come out set the tone."

Head coach Molly Alvey said, "You want to force your opponent to play up to you, and don't play down to them."

USI will play GLVC powerhouse Northern Kentucky next.

The Norse and Eagles have had some battles in the past including last season GLVC tournament semi-final match that went five games.

"We didn't play our best matches this weekend. Hopefully we learn from the mistakes we made this weekend and can clean it up by next weekend." Alvey said, "North-

ern Kentucky will be a pretty tough match for us."

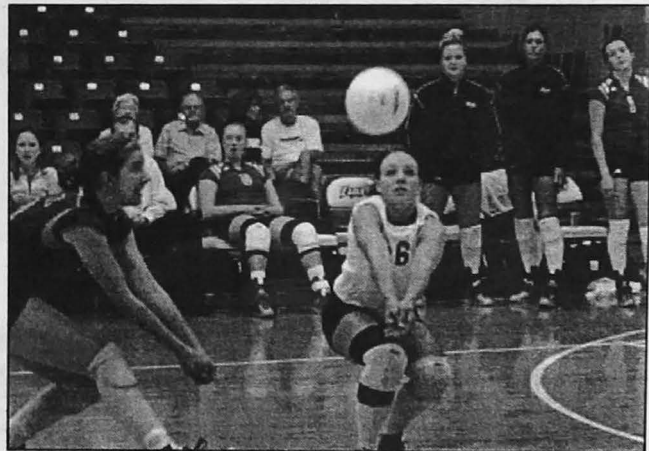
USI will play one more road game after Saturday before returning home the first weekend in October.

That weekend they play GLVC rival Bellarmine and then a home and home with

NCAA powerhouse North Alabama.

North Alabama was the Division II National Champion. The last time USI played North Alabama was during the 2002 season.

The Eagles were invited to play North Alabama in the North Alabama Tournament. USI was blanked 3-0.



Two USI freshman look to avoid the collision Saturday at home. Eva Kieffer and Stephanie Wilson look to play the ball to a teammate. Two of these seniors look on Natalie Atzinger and Randi Raff (Elizabeth Randolph).

Junior Brooklyn Gant talks off the field

You might know her as number one on the soccer field. Now here is your chance to meet the third year player from Evansville. Brooklyn has become one of the leaders on this years team full of freshman and sophomores.

Birthday: March 3, 1984

Hometown: Evansville, Indiana

Major: Elementary Education

High School: Central

You are in your third year at USI. You played under Bill Wilkins your freshman year the last two years you played under coach Meek, what has that been like?

Well it's a girl coach and she relates to us very well. Coach Wilkins tried to put us together as a team and as a team and we just didn't do it under him. Coach Meek knows how to pump us up before the games, and during games knows exactly what to say to us. She is an awesome coach.

How do you think you'll play out the rest of this year and next year?

After the game today (Sunday) I don't think it will be nothing but wins the rest of the way. We are pumped up now, and ready to fin-



ish this conference and make the tournament.

What is your favorite movie?

I would say "Remember the Titans" it shows from individuals and comes to a team. When I watch that before games I honestly get pumped up, so that's why it's my favorite.

What do you do before games for rituals?

I do probably the most unhealthy thing. I eat a chocolate chip Granola Bar, and two Gatorades throughout the day.

Who is your favorite musician or band?

Good ole' Tim McGraw. Good

country and I listen to him because he's hot.

If you were to win the lottery what would you buy?

A house or maybe a condo on the beach for my family whenever they want to use it. I would buy USI a new field and nets behind the goals, so we don't lose our balls.

What's your best moment on or off the field?

Off the field I would say when we are in the team room getting pumped up before the game. On the field is when anybody scores, and when one of scores everybody is right there with them.

Eagles ready for rare home meet

By **Katie Busching**
Sports writer

Strength and endurance are two things that the USI Cross Country team has this season.

Both teams had high hopes going into this weekend's Little/Big State competition on Purdue University's Varsity Cross Country Course.

The Little State race consists of 17 teams while Big State is 25 teams.

The women's team ran to a 2nd place showing behind a strong 1st place finish by Junior Heather Cooksey (18:07) at the Little State Competition.

Cooksey finished 5th overall in the Big State competition. The women rounded out the top 8 in the Big State race.

Sophomore Missy Burgin also had a strong showing finishing seventh in Little State and 30 overall. All eight runners finished within three minutes of each other.

A couple of bright spots in the women's open race included freshman Stephanie Schilling and sophomore Carrie Leimberger who finished the 5K open 19 and 20 with impressive 21:04 and 21:05 times.

The Men's Cross Country Team finished third in Little State and seventh overall in the Big State race.

Senior Doug Schwartz (26:40) and Junior Jesse Davis (26:40) lead the pack. Schwartz

edged out Davis at the finish line placing two and three in Little State and finishing out 13 and 15 overall.

Finishing seventh overall the Men's cross-country team had planned on a better showing.

"We had higher goals going in," said Schwartz.

"Things don't always go the way you like. But it's early in the season, so we'll be ok." All eight of the men's varsity team finished within three minutes of each other.

It seems that Little State has prepped the teams for this coming Saturday's competition.

"It (Little/Big State) was out first 8k race of the year, and the Stegemoller is 8k so it will help us," said Schwartz about the men's race.

USI will host the Stegemoller Classic September 25th. "We are definitely excited since it's our first home meet in four years," said Schwartz.

"We are going to see how good we really are. There is some good competition coming in."

The Stegemoller Classic is expected to have between 15 and 20 teams for both the men and women's races.

This meet will feature teams from all over the country. The Stegemoller Classic is the pre-nationals race.

Division II schools will not be the only ones competing Saturday.



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Eagles open GLVC season winless, now playing Kentucky Wesleyan and Findlay

By **Tony Black**
Sports editor

The hard luck season goes on for the University of Southern Indiana men's soccer team, as they dropped to 0-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The two losses last weekend also marked their fourth straight defeat.

The last time the Eagles lost two to open the conference was in 1998 when they were beat by Lewis and Parkside.

On Friday the Eagles were met quickly with a goal five minutes into the game, but USI was able to get it back just under five minutes later.

Then on a penalty kick Quincy took the lead for good at the 21-minute mark. The Hawks won 4-2 over USI.

On the hot sunny Sunday afternoon the Eagles played SIU-Edwardsville, but it was more of the same.

The Cougars scored three first half goals, and they scored a goal late to seal the deal 4-0.

USI's offense was shutout, as they could not get a shot on goal in the first half. Freshman Sam Gelven had three shots on goal.

Junior keeper Kyle Penick made great saves but the defense outside of Brian Shepherd did not help him out.

"He's (Shepherd) working for three guys back there, guys aren't doing their job. He keeps stepping in and doing it for them. He has been

hurt just about all year. If the rest of the healthy guys would put the same amount of effort in we would be ok" head coach Dan Hogan said.

In the second half Penick was pulled in favor of senior Josh Hill, who let the one goal get past late.

Hill made two saves, while Penick made eight saves. One of Penick's saves came from one side of the net to the other.

"We've played like two good halves, one good half against Quincy and the other against SIUE," Hogan said,

"That's the tale of us right now. We have given up a minimum of three goals every first half, and this team we just aren't good enough to dig ourselves out of that hole."

One player that Shepherd is drawing comparisons from is former Eagle Brian Peroutka. Both are from St. Louis, and they played together last season. Shepherd, who has played hurt this season with an ankle

and Peroutka, who played with bad ankles and knees.

"He is just like him, but with better knees and ankles" Hogan said.

This week the Eagles will get back to action against Kentucky Wesleyan and the University of Findlay.

USI shut down the Panthers last season 3-0, but all three goals came late in the game.

"They are much improved, it was three nothing last year. We didn't score until the 75-minute," Hogan said

"The longer you keep teams in the more pressure there is. I want to take care of business and have good first half Friday evening."

The Oilers are playing good soccer right now at 4-3-1, they tied their first game of the season against Bellarmine.

They went on to lose their next two before they won their next three of four.

Eagles advance in ITA Regional

By **Katie Busching**
Sports writer

This past weekend's ITA Women's Tennis Tournament was a challenge that the Eagles were ready to tackle.

Coach Keely Porter took four players up to Midland, Mich, including two freshmen.

Sara Wilhoite won both of her matches Friday before losing in a third set tiebreaker 10-7 on Saturday.

Wilhoite's loss came to the girl who beat the number one seed at the tournament.

Wilhoite's opponent was from Northwood University, one of the strongest teams in the region.

Freshman Reilly Ackerman advanced to play Saturday as well. She won her first round, then upset the number 4 seed from Wayne State.

"That was a great win for her," said Porter.

After winning in straight sets over Hillsdale College's Julie Emmenecker in the first round Bartlett lost in the second round.

She fell to the seventh-seed from Michigan Tech University's, Ajiana Otunchieva in straight sets.

In doubles competition, Bartlett and Rees moved into the second round with an 8-4 victory, but teammates Ackerman and Wilhoite lost in the first round.

Bartlett and Rees were knocked out in the second round; finishing USI's run in doubles action.

The University of Evansville's Aces Classic is this weekend should be great practice for the upcoming conference match against the University of Indianapolis Sept. 29.

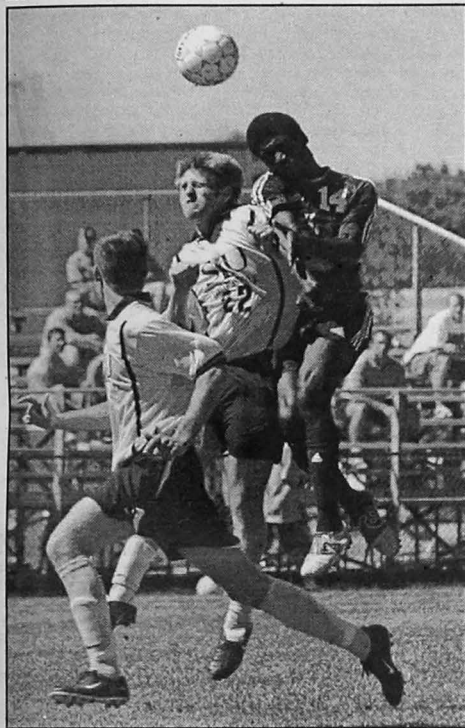
The Eagles will be the only Division II on the UE courts this weekend.

"I'm certainly looking forward to the Indy match. I'd like to get 100 fans out...said Porter...our support was great against NKU."

Indianapolis has a steady team, but they don't appear to be overpowering. The key in defeating Indianapolis will be setting up points, attacking when they get the opportunities.

"We want all the pressure on them, in both singles and doubles," said Porter.

The way the Eagles are playing this season, it looks as of the opportunities will arise one way or another against their conference rival, the Greyhounds.



Freshman Damiete Charles goes up for the header Sunday afternoon against SIU-Edwardsville (photo by Elizabeth Randolph).

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Colts will not play in Super Bowl XXXVI in Jacksonville



By Aaron Grider
Sports reporter

Well it's finally football season again and everyone is optimistic for their team, myself included.

However there is as least one guarantee that I can make for the upcoming season: The Indianapolis Colts will not make it to the Super Bowl.

The Colts are one of several teams in the league that are flat out overrated.

They may have one of the best quarterbacks in the league considered by many and a healthy running back, Edgerrin James, but that will not be enough to get the Colts to the promised land.

There are thousands of reasons why this won't happen but for sake of time, I will only give you four.

The first and obvious reason is that the Colts have one of the worst defenses in the league with

only the Chiefs and Rams ahead of them.

The Colts were absolutely torn apart by the New England Patriots both last week and in the playoffs last year.

The Colts have the softest cornerbacks in the league and despite the best efforts of Tony Dungy the defense just hasn't improved to the level that some may have expected.

Reason number two is the schedule. If you take a look at the schedule it is just downright brutal.

The Colts play Green Bay, an improved Jacksonville team twice, they go to Kansas City, and they host both Minnesota and Baltimore.

They play a home and home against an improved Houston team. Last but not least, they end the season at Denver.

The league definitely did no favors for the Colts with that schedule.

I will be very surprised if the Colts finish with more than 10

wins.

I mean between having to face Brett Favre, Randy Moss, Jamal Lewis, and Priest Holmes during the course of the season, there may be nothing left of that defense come playoff time assuming they even make the playoffs.

Reason three is the New England Patriots the defending Super Bowl champions are the demons of this Colts team

Sooner or later, the Colts have to prove that they can beat the Patriots.

They came up short against them twice last year including being stopped three straight times on the one yard line.

The Colts never recovered from that game and it showed both times that they have played New England since.

For the Colts to be considered a championship contender they must overcome this obstacle just like they finally seem to have conquered the Titans.

Now I just don't see the Colts

being able to beat the Patriots.

Reason four is the franchise player Mr. overrated himself Peyton Manning.

I realize that he finally won two playoff games last year. They were against sub-par opponents.

I don't care what anyone else says when it comes to top-notch competition like the Patriots; Manning can't win the big one.

For example in 1999 when the Colts had home field in the playoffs and the Titans came to town, what happened? Peyton choked and the Colts went home losers.

Of course, let's not forget about last year at New England when Peyton threw four interceptions and watched his Colts fall short yet again.

It's just a sad trend that will continue to repeat itself.

When it really counts Peyton just can't seem to perform at the level that he's used to. No worries its happened to many quarterbacks that just couldn't win the big one.

Colts will take it to Eagles in Super Bowl XXXVI, promise



By Tony Black
Sports editor

First off, let me tell you that I'm not an Indianapolis Colts fan, but I do think they are one of the teams to beat in the NFL.

As the professional season moves forward; the teams to beat list will keep getting smaller.

Already two weeks into the season, a few teams have been knocked off. That list includes the Kansas City Chiefs, who are 0-2. Another team that was considered a potential contender, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, also sit 0-fer.

The Colts are 1-1 right now, with a loss to THE team to beat, the New England Patriots. The Colts played that game extremely close, and lost because they made mistakes, not because the Patriots were a better football team.

By the way the Patriots have beaten just about everybody in the NFL, so Colts fans don't need to panic. Not yet, anyway. The P-Men are on a 16 game winning

streak.

They just need two more wins to tie the record for consecutive wins set by the Miami Dolphins in 1972-1973 and the 1984-1985 Chicago Bears.

Indianapolis was also just a kick away from sending the game into overtime, but if the idiot kicker from Canada, Mike Vanderjag, would have hit his field goal try, *Shield* writer Aaron Grider might be singing a different tune.

Let's go back to last season when the Colts had the chance to beat the Patriots.

Yes, Peyton Manning did throw a few interceptions. The defense allowed many passing yards from New England quarterback Tom Brady, so the Colts' woes were not entirely Manning's fault.

Manning is one of the great-est quarterbacks playing the game today. Maybe the only better QB in the league is Green Bay's Brett Favre.

Super Bowl rings don't make a great quarterback. Sure they help, but there are other things that quality to be great.

As long Peyton keeps winning ball games, it shouldn't matter if Grider thinks he's overrated or not. It's not like Manning is Ryan Leaf or Todd Blackledge Who? Exactly.

Dan Marino was the best ever, in my opinion, and he didn't win a ring. His golden right arm made him great.

Manning will lead the Colts to Super Bowl XXXVI because he has the offense to take his team to Jacksonville.

According to Grider a 1-1 start is not very good, but an 0-2 and start is?

To him the Houston Texans are an upper echelon team, and already have their bags packed for the Super Bowl.

It also seems to him that since a team starts 2-0 they are on their way down there too.

The Jacksonville Jaguars will be the first team in history to go to the Super Bowl in their host city.

I remember a few years back the Carolina Panthers were 2-0, and people jumped on their bandwagon. The "stunning" Panthers

then went on to lose their next 14. Jacksonville is going to have to score more than 20 points in two games to compete with the Colts' offense.

The Colts have scored 55 points. If I do my math right, that's 35 points more than Jacksonville has put up.

There is still a lot time from now until the Super Bowl, and a lot of things could happen. The Chiefs could win many more ball games, and the Colts could do the same.

The Hoosier/RCA Dome is a hostile place, and will help the team win. Injuries also play a big part in how a team does. No one player should make or break a team, but an injury to one guy can mean a game or two, the difference between the playoffs and an early vacation.

After week two, I see the Colts and Eagles in the Super Bowl. Manning as Super Bowl MVP, and Edgerrin James and Marvin Harrison can stay instead of leaving for free agency. Sure it's early, but it could happen!