

SPECIAL EDITION

Sunday, May 11, 2008

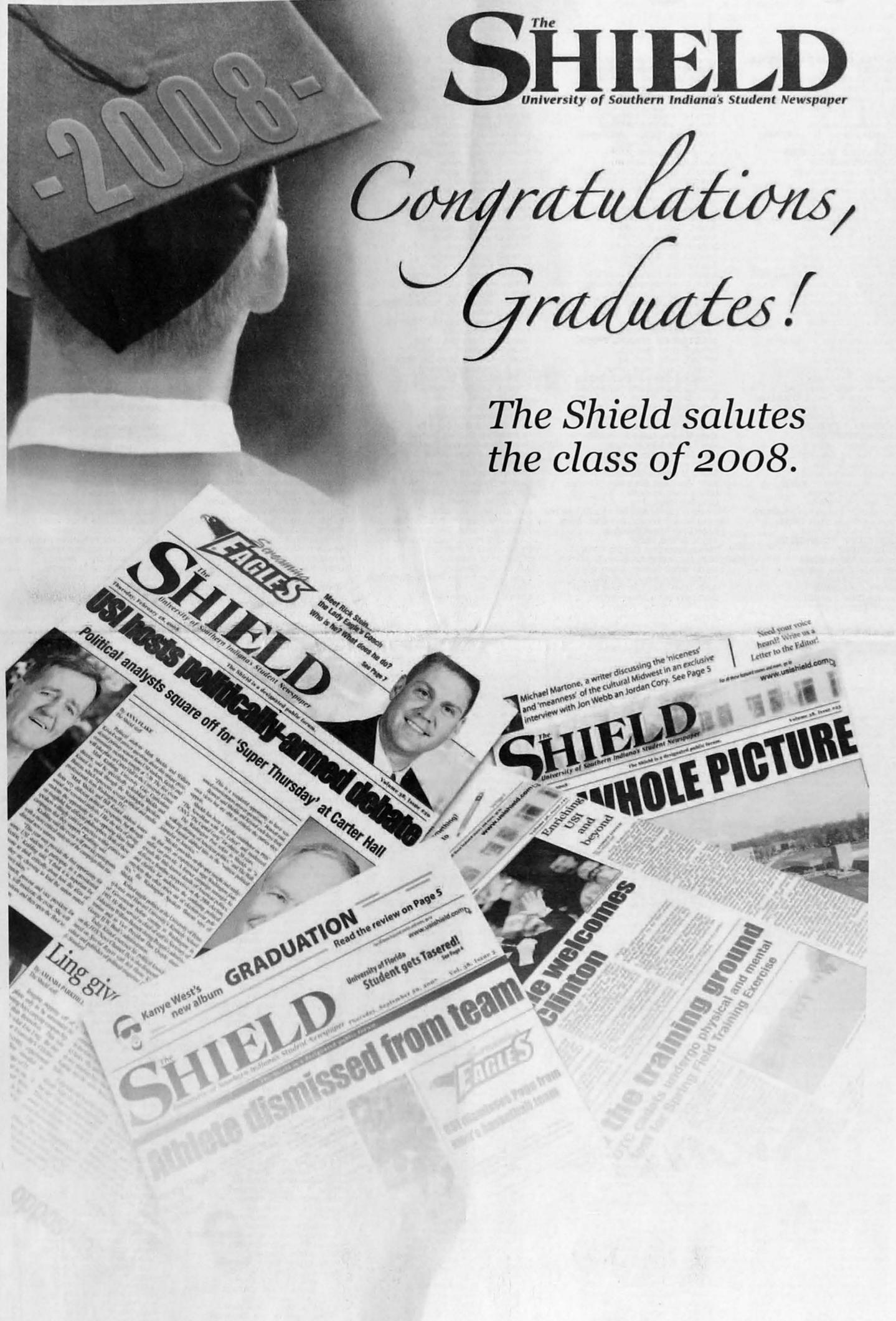
The Shield is a designated public forum.

Volume 38, Issue #29

The SHIELD University of Southern Indiana's Student Newspaper

*Congratulations,
Graduates!*

*The Shield salutes
the class of 2008.*

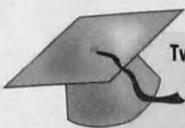


SHIELD
University of Southern Indiana's Student Newspaper
USI hosts politically-armed debate
Political analysts square off for 'Super Thursday' at Carter Hall

SHIELD
University of Southern Indiana's Student Newspaper
WHOLE PICTURE
Ranching, Uist and beyond

SHIELD
University of Florida Student Newspaper
GRADUATION
Read the review on Page 5
Athlete dismissed from team

Clinton
Clinton welcomes
the training ground
USI cadets undergo physical and mental training for Spring Field Training Exercise



Two pages,
over 1600 students...
Want to see your
name in the Class of 2008
Graduation Candidate list?
To view the list, pull out pages 2 and 15

Getting bored during
the ceremony?
Don't worry, we've got
you covered! See what
films are the hottest
right now, and what's
soon to come out!
See Page 9



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For all these
featured stories
and more, go to
our Web site at
www.usishield.com

First issue free. Additional copies 25 cents, payable in UCoog

Please remove sheet from newspaper to view the full list of candidates for the 2007-2008 USI graduation ceremony.

Spring 2008 Graduation

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USI seniors reflect

The Shield graduation questionnaire:

Seniors, what will you do after graduating?

By ANDREW FOSTER
The Shield staff

For 1,244 students at USI, May 11 will mark an important milestone in their young (or not so young) lives. Each student will receive a college degree and take the next step towards better things.

Sara Schulte, a member of the class of 2008, graduating with a nursing degree, said that her time in college has laid the groundwork for her to be a competent and a caring nurse, in addition to other things.

"Over the last four years, I have grown to be a more independent person, which I believe is what the whole college experience is about," Schulte said.

Laura Litwiler, one of four graduating from the Pott College of Science and Engineering with a science teaching degree, agrees with Schulte's assessment.

"I've become a lot more independent and self-driven and ready

to go out and do what I'm supposed to be doing with my life," Litwiler said.

Both seniors said they have enjoyed their experiences at USI and will leave with lasting memories. Schulte said her memories of USI have come from her interac-

and even outside class. It's great to have met such admirable people," Schulte said.

Litwiler also admits that her best memories of USI have come from the extraordinary people she met.

"My fondest memory has

Schulte said the class of 2008 has overcome many obstacles in their educational careers and has the ability to do great things in the years to come.

"I think that our class has great potential for making a difference in the lives of people we will come to know in the future. With the knowledge we have gained through USI, we will be great professionals when entering the 'real working world,'" Schulte said.

Litwiler admits that the time leading up to graduation has been filled with some nervousness about finding a job, but believes the actual ceremony will be a good experience for her and for her fellow graduates.

"I'm probably going to be really, really excited. I think it will be very exciting for everyone graduating this year," Litwiler said.

USI's 2008 Spring Commencement takes place at 3 p.m. at Roberts Stadium with doors opening at 1 p.m.

We all spend so much time together through class, clinicals and even outside class. It's great to have met such admirable people.

-Sara Schulte
nursing major

tions with friends and faculty in the nursing department.

"We all spend so much time together through class, clinicals

been all the time I've been able to spend outside of class with all of the friends I have made," Litwiler said.

A 'wet building' on campus a possibility

By LANA KUNZ
The Shield staff

The University of Southern Indiana is not technically a dry campus.

Since Indiana has no laws governing the consumption of alcohol on school properties, the decision is left to the discretion of the president of the educational institution.

When the policy on alcohol was revised several years ago, Barry Schonberger, dean of students, said the university "followed traditions and cultures of this campus."

"Since USI has never had a football team, tailgating in its worse sense has not existed here unlike our sister institutions," Schonberger

said.

While in the past, USI has had housing that allowed students 21 and older to consume alcohol, due to underage drinking that it facilitated, USI has discarded the concept.

However, Schonberger admitted that the possibility of a "wet building" in the future is not completely unrealistic.

"If the students could conceive a plan that would work to avoid underage drinking altogether, then it could be possible", Schonberger said.

The policy states that no student organizations are permitted to serve or consume alcohol, however, the university functions do have limited access.

"Typically the bar is open for a half and hour and alcohol is not permitted to leave the room," said CJ Regin, director of special events. Security is required to insure safety when alcohol is present at events.

Due to USI's strict policies on alcohol, very few events are planned on campus.

The only group on campus that is not required to gain approval through special events to serve alcohol is the Varsity Club, which serves beer at the basketball games. It is not a student lead organization, it is a university organization that funds athletic scholarships.

For those graduating this year, alcohol will be served at both the commencement brunch and graduation ceremony.



Lena Joyal,
history major

"I'll be looking for a job. And I am hoping to start a historical society in my home town."



Andy Wilkins,
advertising major

"I am going to Amsterdam because I heard the countryside is amazing, and the pastry dishes are excellent."



Jennifer Fritch,
dental assistant major

"Going back to school to pursue my associates of science with a concentration in dental assisting."



Pete Senefeld,
sociology and pre-law major

"I've applied with the Indianapolis Police department and the Homeland Security Department, and I plan on working my way to the federal level of law enforcement."



Rob Sheehan,
political science major

"I'll be working for a few years and getting a steady paycheck, then I can hopefully find time to explore something in my field."



Dennis Dowling,
history major

"I'm going to graduate school in a year and study student affairs. Eventually I would like to work in the Greek community as an advisor."

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Large and in charge

By JOSH LICHTENFELD
The Shield staff

One of the largest student organizations at USI, Activities Planning Board (APB) is a constantly producing group.

Around 15 to 20 new faces land in the APB office (in the basement of the University Center) each semester, looking to be involved in campus activities.

Instead of asking what there is to do around USI confines this group would rather join with others who come up with all the answers.

APB is a constant source of events, "we plan at least three to four events a month," said recently elected President Jeff Threlkeld, a senior majoring in public relations.

Threlkeld has been apart of many events since joining last spring that he has lost count.

The president said a member of APB can get more leadership experience, event experience, and "plus, it's more fun."

Threlkeld has work with group's budget of around \$95,000 a year, a budget that he said is divided amongst the different committees.

APB committees include: education, entertainment, film, Friday Night Live (FNL), homecoming, marketing, membership, series and special events. Each stays busy depending on the events they are linked to such as Halloween FNL or homecoming.

For the Halloween edition of FNL, the committee had to order wax hands, find games to use, contact the Pepsi plant (on the east-side) for pick up of donated bottles and also call Swank Motion Pictures for their showing of Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho (1960).

"I would say FNL and homecoming are the most work, especially around homecoming week when there are five programs happening in a row," Threlkeld said.

For the finalized events (such as films) that do make it through the planning phase, "We get honest opinions from audience and new members," said Kathy S. Jones, program advisor to APB.

It is with more ideas and critiques on already enacted events that APB continues to come up with their frequency of activities.

"I also talk to my friends and see what they're doing at their schools," Jones said.

APB is currently consisting of one executive member (Threlkeld) and the nine committee chairs (on the leadership part); they are looking to expand in the fall.

The group which meets every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. has already slated a couple of events for the next fall's welcome week festivities.

Threlkeld said Thursday night is outdoor movie night and Sunday will be the block party. Threlkeld expects a new group of at least 15 people to help plan events in the upcoming school year.

When politics collide...

The College Democrats and College Republicans at USI have seen a year of politics and look forward to the general election

By SETH GRUNDHOEFER
News editor

The USI College Republicans and College Democrats may differ on the subject of politics, but there is one issue both organizations fully agree upon: student involvement.

Over the past year, the two political organizations have hosted political speakers, held debates and above all, encouraged students to vote.

College Democrats
"The year has been very pivotal to the progression of the College Democrats," Brad Dotson, president of College Democrats said.

Though much excitement came to the Democratic party when both Senator Barack Obama and Senator Hillary Clinton spoke in Evansville, Dotson said he the biggest contribution the College Democrats could give to the candidates was a voter.

"We were out getting new voters every week on campus," Dotson said. For the year, the College Democrats succeeded in registering over 450 new voters at USI.

Dotson said part of that "pivotal progress" came when the group invited representatives from Democratic presidential candidate

Obama and Democratic presidential candidate Clinton. Obama's political advisors spoke on foreign policy on April 1, and Chelsea Clinton spoke on her mother's behalf on April 8. Representatives from the College Democrats also attended the speeches of both candidates, and a select few were able to meet Clinton and Obama.

"It plays a big role that Indiana actually matters," Dotson said.

Along with the national election, Dotson said that the College Democrats encourage voters to get involved with local elections as well.

"We want to continue to work with the local elections, because people need to realize that those are the elections that directly effect them," Dotson said.

Dotson also said that the organization has given back to the community in ways other than politics, such as starting an organization for battered wives. "We are more than a political organization," said Dotson.

Under Dotson, the College Democrats began an alumni chapter, which allows members to stay involved after the graduate USI.

"After my tenure is complete, I still plan on being active in the organization," Dotson said.

"People will look back on this year and say that it's the year the College Democrats really made a difference," Dotson said.

College Republicans
After "Super Tuesday" (February 5) during the primary elections, the College Republicans have been watching and waiting for the national convention to announce Sen. John McCain as the presidential candidate, said executive chairman of the College Republicans Dan Otto.

"The Democratic race is a lot more competitive than the Republican race," Otto said.

With just one presidential nominee still in the race, Otto said the Republican party does not have the same image that the Democratic party has. Otto said that most college students he meets pledged a vote to Obama in the primaries. "I think it's hard to look past his charisma," Otto said.

Because Indiana was not a pivotal state in the Republican primaries, Otto said the organization focused more on local candidates and conservative issues that are the core agenda and backbone of the Republican party.

In April, the College Republicans hosted a speech by Greg Goode, eighth district congress-

sional candidate in Indiana. Otto said the event was the most important of the year, and that he hopes to invite Goode back to campus closer to the general election.

Otto said the 12 active members of the College Republicans also held two empty gun holster protests this year in defense of concealed carry at USI, and to deter campus shootings like Virginia Tech (VT) and Northern Illinois University (NIU) in the future.

"People may not agree with our methods, but I don't think you'll find anyone who is against preventing something like NIU," Otto said. He also said he would not trust himself with a firearm without the proper training beforehand.

If the university continuously refuses to allow concealed carry on campus, Otto said the College Republicans would look into arming USI security.

The organization plans on an exclusive planning session over the summer. The group recently reserved a room in the basement of the university center. "Having an office will allow us a bigger presence on campus," Otto said.

Otto also said that he would not oppose holding events with the College Democrats in the future.

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Building the perfect resume

By RACHEL TERLEP
The Shield staff

With summer break just around the corner, businesses around the country are preparing for the influx of college students looking for jobs.

Whether searching for a permanent position after graduation or seeking a more seasonal post, chances are you will need some sort of résumé for your potential employer. The way your résumé looks can make or break your chances at getting an interview, so writing it well is imperative.

According to www.how-to-write-a-resume.org, before even starting your résumé, you should clearly state your objective. Make sure you fully understand what

exactly you want from a job and what skills and experiences you need for it. Also ensure that your skills match the company's needs. Once you begin writing, try to stay clear and concise. Imagine yourself as the person reading the résumé. What would that person be looking for in a candidate?

Start your résumé with a heading. This should include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. Use a professional e-mail address; sexipr1ncess69@hotmail.com or d3vils_adv0cate666@aol.com probably will not fly with potential employers.

According to Barbara Mulligan of www.jobweb.com, some employers focus on the educational portion of a résumé, while others

look mostly at the experience portion. Because of this, make sure you include plenty of information in both sections.

For education, Mulligan suggests including your high school and collegiate institutions and corresponding GPAs, degrees, relevant course work and any academic honors. For experience, Matt Longino, a college recruiter for the GTE Corp. in Irving, Texas, encourages you to expound upon your achievements.

"I've seen a lot of résumés that really don't have anything on them," Longino said on the Jobweb website. "The students don't describe their accomplishments. They might just say, 'rang up sales and talked to customers.' Instead of saying 'rang up sales,' say

'responsible for generating 50,000 sales transactions in three months,' or something like that."

Do not hesitate to include any previous part-time or summer work experiences, even if they do not initially seem correlated to the job you're seeking.

"Students are way too negative about their fast-food experience," Longino said. "It's how you position it that matters. Customer service is a wonderful training ground. Try to identify how what you did fits into the corporate world and play up that experience."

Employers also encourage incorporating activities — school related or not — into the résumé, as long as the applicant can relate the activity to the job. Include other

key attributes like "skilled in Microsoft Word and Excel" or "knowledgeable with CSS and html format."

Utilize bullet points and short sentences. According to the How to Write a Résumé website, most readers spend a mere 10 to 30 seconds on each résumé. Do not spend much time on specific details for the résumé; finer points of your experience will be discussed during the interview.

Use compelling action words like "accelerated," "facilitated," "inquired" and "salvaged" to make your résumé stand out from the rest. Bear in mind that spellcheck does not work for grammar, so check for proper use of homonyms "there /they're /their" and "your/you're."

Stress your strengths. Since reviewers do not spend much time reading your résumé, be sure to write your greatest assets first so they ensnare the reader's attention.

As for formatting, font size should be no smaller than 10 point. Use white or off-white paper; pinks, blues and purples can be hard on the eyes. The length of the résumé should be one or two pages. Remember: quality not quantity.

Most importantly, be positive. While you should not lie, do not feel compelled to list your faults or failings. Irrelevant information includes your race, height, weight and religion. Keep an affirmative tone to the résumé and be expecting a callback.

Learn to dress for success

Only one chance to make a first impression

By LINDSEY ZILIAK
News editor

You'll never get a second chance to make a first impression.

That statement sums up the reason dress is so important in the professional working world, said Nancy Bizal instructor of the career planning and professional development class.

While mini skirts and cut-offs may have been acceptable in college, after graduation they should be saved for the weekends. Bizal said she would expect all college graduates to wear a suit to an interview.

"What they look like shows the company what they can do," said Bizal.

In order to show a company that they are capable of doing the job, men and women should follow certain dress guidelines for interviews.

Men should wear a suit. The shirt underneath the jacket should be long-sleeved and buttoned to the top. Always wear a tie, and the tie should hit the middle of the belt buckle. A man's pants should hang at the middle of his waist—low-slung trousers are not appropriate.

The socks should match the color of the suit, and shoes should be shined. Men should also take notice of their hairstyles. Hairstyles should be conservative.

"I'm not telling these people to look like old men, but they need to look professional," Bizal said.

Women tend to have a little bit more to

worry about when it comes to looking professional.

They, too, should wear a suit to an interview. It can be a pant suit or a skirt suit. If a lady chooses to wear a skirt, she should be sure that's its knee length, and no shorter.

The shirt underneath the jacket should have a conservative neckline. Heels should be closed-toed—no slingbacks. A woman should also be sure that she can walk effectively

in her heels. She needs to be able to keep up with other men at work. Jewelry is permissible as long as it doesn't distract. Panty hose should also be worn no matter what even if the girls has a great tan.

Piercings in the ear should be kept to a minimum. All other piercings should be removed. This applies to guys as well.

Long hair is fine for girls as long as it doesn't hide the face.

"When we can't see the person's face, it sends a message subliminally saying can I trust you or what are you trying to hide?" said Bizal.

And if a girl carries a purse, she should always carry it on her left shoulder, so that her right arm is free to shake hands.

Bizal also said that people should dress for the position they want to be promoted to because companies like to hire people who are promotable—people they think can fill leadership positions. Often times this means straying away from the fads.

"What's fun and fashionable doesn't always translate to the business world," she said.

What they look like shows the company what they can do.

-Nancy Bizal
Instructor of business

The SHIELD

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Applications can be found in **The Shield** office (lower level of the University Center) in room 003A.

Submit applications in **The Shield** office.
For more information e-mail shield@usi.edu

Before you attend a wedding...

By BRANDI WEYER
Editor in Chief

After the rush of getting a diploma and the first job, what else could there be? A wedding. For those of us not getting hitch in the near future, we are fortunate enough to celebrate this beatific day with our friends who choose to settle down.

These will be amongst the first weddings you will attend that do not involve family, or your parents buying the gift. The torch has been passed on, and it is now your turn.

This event is not only stressful for the wedding party, but for the attendees as well. You may ask yourself these questions: Should I go to the wedding? Should I just go to the reception? What should I get as a gift? How much should I spend? What should I wear?

These shoulds are quite overwhelming. I got my feet wet a couple of months ago after attending a few weddings myself. I made mistakes, and I know what I need to improve before the next one. It is all a learning experience, but I do not want you to make the same blunders I did.

Lesson one: Remember it is the bride's big day, and the only day where she can honestly say she is the most beautiful one in the room.

The groom plays an integral role, but the day shines brighter on the bride. Don't wear your ball gown. On the other extreme, don't wear your cut off shorts and muscle shirt exposing your fresh tan lines. It is good to look presentable, but remain unnoticed. Wear a pleasant summer dress if you are a lady or slacks and a button down or collared shirt if you are a gentleman. It would also be to your benefit to give up old college habits by showering and brushing your hair that day.

Lesson two: Don't show up drunk before the wedding starts, or show up late because you were

too busy getting drunk.

This is a common mishap that opens up the realm of nasty stares from the mother of the bride. This would be breaking the ultimate wedding commandment: Thou shall not piss off the mother of the bride. The chances of you causing a scene and making an ass out of yourself will be greater. To save you from that trouble, wait until the reception before getting blitzed. That way you start drinking at the same time as the rest of the guests, and no one will know the difference.

Lesson three: It is okay to send cash in a card. We now live in an era that allows us to go to certain places and buy items that are on the "register." This error proof advancement in technology allows the couple to pick out what they want without repeats, but it still does not save the newlyweds from receiving five handmade Afghans from their great aunts. So cash is acceptable. This way, they can use the money for their own personal purposes. From one young couple to another, \$20 in a card is more than generous.

Lesson four: If you are unsure about attending the wedding part, be safe and go anyway.

The reason you are attending this event is because you are good friends with the bride, groom or both. If you have any hesitation about attending the wedding part, especially those long-drawn out Catholic ones that count for the one time a year minimum for those non-practicing, you should go anyway. Remember: they are feeding and boozing you; it is only polite to share in the moment of the two exchanging vowels and professing their unconditional love for each other. I know it sounds like an excerpt out of a romance novel, but deal with it.

If you honor these tips, you will be golden. Not only will you have an enjoyable experience, but everyone around you will appreciate you, too.

HEALTH

Quit smoking today! Steps to help kick that nasty habit

By **ANDREW FOSTER**
The Shield staff

You know you should quit. You know it's bad for you, you know about all the harmful chemicals in cigarettes and have seen those pictures of black lungs. Maybe you've tried to quit a couple times and it just hasn't worked out.

Well if you're looking to kick the habit for good after graduating, here are some steps to help, according to National Cancer Institute.

***Set a Quit Date** - Pick a date to stop two weeks after you decide to quit, in order to prepare yourself. Try picking a date you'll remember so you can keep track of how long you've stopped smoking.

***Tell Others You've Quit** - Tell those around that you've quit and to be prepared for any moodiness involved with quitting (the moodiness will last for about two weeks). If you have friends who

smoke, ask them to not smoke around you.

***Anticipate and Plan for Challenges** - Figure out what times and places cause you to smoke the most and figure out an alternative activity or coping strategy for these instances.

***Remove Cigarettes and other forms of Tobacco** - Throw away all cigarettes or other forms of tobacco. Remove ashtrays and clean your house and car so that it no longer smells of smoke or reminds you of smoking. Possibly go to the dentist and get your teeth cleaned to remind you of the positives of not smoking.

***Talk to your Doctor** - Your doctor can provide additional information on quitting or prescribe medications that can ease withdrawal.

For more information, go to smokefree.gov. For a toll free information line about quitting smoking, call 1-800-QUITNOW (1-800-784-8669).

Losing those college pounds

By **ANDREW FOSTER**
The Shield staff

After four years at USI, many graduates may be realizing that they gained a lot more than a degree. All the ordered pizza and late-night fast food runs may have caused some graduates to fill out a little more than they liked during their experience in college.

For those looking to enter post-graduate life with a smaller waistline and healthier lifestyle, Lesa Cagle, an assistant professor of Food and Nutrition department, has provided some simple steps for shedding a few unwanted pounds.

***Don't Diet** - Dieting is usually a temporary solution that produces results that aren't sustainable. Most people start diets and rarely stick to them.

***Increase fruit and vegetables** - Fruits and vegetables provide

many of the vitamins and nutrients needed for healthy activity. Don't add butter or margarine to these snacks, however.

***Increase low-fat dairy** - There is research that says that having 3 servings of low-fat dairy helps in losing weight. Instead of eating whole cheese, try eating cheese made with 2 percent milk.

***Decrease portion sizes** - Often times if we eat less, even of the things we like, we can lead healthier lifestyles. When going out to eat, eat only half of your meal and save the other half for the next day.

***Watch fat content and liquid calories** - Fast food and beef products are usually meal laden with fat. Try replacing these meals with fish or turkey that is not fried. Calories found in drinks, such as Coke or Pepsi, should be reduced because these calories don't keep people full for

long. Try cutting down on these drinks, moving to diet options or drinking water.

***Eat broth-based soup and cut down on condiments**

Broth-based soups are a good option in keeping you full without too many calories, especially when eaten before meals. When eating in general, cut down on condiments, such as butter, sour cream, salad dressing and mayonnaise.

***Replace bad habits with good ones** - This is called behavior modification. Instead of watching TV after a meal, trying going for a walk or doing something active.

***Increase your activity level** - Going to the gym is good, but other small activities like going for a walk or throwing a Frisbee is also good for some light exercise.

Student joins AIDS fight Summer internship takes USI student to Africa

By **LINDSEY ZILIAK**
News editor

Priscilla Walker's friends call her "the biggest cheerleader of love." This form of cheerleading won't leave Walker doing back handsprings or shouting chants on the sidelines of games, though. It will instead take her all the way to Africa.

The junior nutrition major at USI will be spending two and a half months of her summer interning in Nairobi, Kenya in East Africa.

Through a program called Christian Missionary Fellowship International, Walker will be offering help to AIDS victims in the country.

This Christian Missionary program currently serves people in over 18 different countries. There are full-time missionaries living in Kenya, and the physicians that Walker will be interning with are in that group as well.

Every day she will go out into the community with a number of physicians

and other college students going on the trip. Together, the group will be educating people about AIDS, how it's transmitted and how to prevent it.

They will also be testing for HIV, administering nutritional and medical home-based care and helping those who are without jobs find employment. Since the trip is through a Christian program, the group will be trying to spread the gospel as well.

"We will be sharing the gospel with them offering them hope in the eternal as they are hopeless now-fighting a losing battle," said Walker.

The USI student said she is excited about the trip. She has wanted to go to Africa for the last five years.

Walker said she has been so burdened for those who have HIV or AIDS since there is no cure for the virus that takes over a person's body, leaving a weakened immune system.

"Something as harmless as the common cold can end up being your ultimate demise because your body cannot fight

the disease or infection," said Walker. "So when you are tested and find out you are positive for HIV, it is a death sentence."

She explained that the problems are even more complex in Africa. According to Walker, up to 40 percent of people in Nairobi have tested positive for HIV.

Those identified as carriers, she said, are then ostracized from the community.

Women lose their homes. Their husbands throw them and their children out on the streets. These women are denied employment and often resort to prostitution to support themselves and their children. This spreads the disease at exponential rates.

"[These people] are in desperate need of hope and comfort and care that we can offer," said Walker. "I believe that in order to fight the AIDS enemy, we must penetrate the heart of the problem. This, I believe, starts in Africa."

Despite her passion for the cause, Walker knows the trip will be difficult.

"I don't think you can ever be ready for something like this. I know it will be a

huge culture shock. It will challenge me every day. I think I will see things that terrify me. I have done everything I can, though, to ready myself. And I know I am supposed to do this," she said.

She said she has prepared spiritually and mentally through prayer, research and by talking to other people who have gone to Africa.

Walker thinks that she will make it through the trip, though, because her interest is genuine and deep-rooted.

"My eyes were opened to those with HIV and my heart was burdened. This is an epidemic that we cannot ignore. Colin Powell says it is currently the world's greatest weapon of mass destruction. We have got to respond to the disease that is killing millions," she said.

Walker leaves for the trip at the end of May. She is funding the \$6,500 trip herself and is still over \$2,000 short of her goal. Anyone wishing to help can send support to CMF International P.O. Box 501020 Indianapolis, Ind. 46250, and indicate that it's for Priscilla Walker.

These people are in desperate need of hope and comfort and care that we can offer. I believe that in order to fight the AIDS enemy, we must penetrate the heart of the problem. This, I believe, starts in Africa.

-Priscilla Walker
Junior nutrition major

Fitness center has something for everyone;

New addition will bring even more to USI

By **DANI PALMER**
The Shield staff

More plans for the recreation and fitness center have been made.

The center will not only be adding a climbing wall, combat room, larger areas for the cardiovascular machines and free weights, a third basketball court and a bigger lobby, but it will also replace the current group exercise room with a game room that will contain pool, ping pong, along with other games and perhaps Dance Dance Revolution.

There will be two group exercise rooms side-by-side connected by a collapsible wall and a third, smaller room that will probably contain yoga, Pilates, wrestling and martial arts classes.

A stretching area will be added to the track, cardio and weight areas along with an outdoor adventure area where camping equipment can be rented out.

The center sees around 600 to 700 students a day throughout the week on average. Currently, the amount of students decreases a little after the first few months of

the spring semester because warm weather arrives, and students want to exercise outside. The new additions will most likely attract many students year round.

The current activities in the center vary in popularity by students.

The group exercise classes are very popular and are for anyone who enjoys working in a group.

Cardio kickboxing and yoga are big group activities and a core strengthening class that is only fifteen minutes long is also popular because students can come in and get their workout done quickly. That way they have the rest of the day to do whatever they have planned.

The basketball courts are often full and many students come in and do a little of everything. Several work with the free weights and weight machines and/or exercise in the cardio area or run the track. Students are even welcome to make new suggestions for classes or activities.

"We get a lot of usage in all of our space which is one of the reasons we're looking forward to the expansion so that we can accommodate more students and have different activities," Stephanie Walden-Schwake, assistant director of recreation, fitness and wellness, said.

There are also plenty of work opportunities for students interested.

Welcome greeters at the front



A group of USI students play basketball on one of the outdoor basketball courts at the fitness and recreation center. The fitness center sees many students come through its doors on a daily basis and will see even more once the expansion is complete.

desk check IDs, answer phone calls and rent out equipment. Fitness consultants work on the floor and answer questions. They are typically exercise science or physical education majors so they have enough background to answer questions correctly.

There are students that do

one-on-one consultations with students or employees and clean equipment. Students that have worked in the center for at least two semesters can become student managers who have more responsibility and are often put in charge. In the past, PR students have done advertising and maintenance

students have done some specialized cleaning or routine maintenance. There are plenty of students who work with the intramurals as well.

"We definitely rely on students to help us. They basically manage the building and we're just here to help behind the

Photo by **Seth Grundhoefer**

scenes," Walden-Schwake said. The recreation and fitness center will be available to students during the summer. Summer hours will be Monday-Friday from 6 am to 7 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm. The center will not be open on Sundays and is usually closed on July 4.

Graduate studies: continuing higher learning

By KYLE KNIGHT
The Shield staff

In high school, Sanjeev Singh, a 21-year-old biology major at USI, made the decision to attend medical school. He began volunteering in the emergency room and job shadowing numerous physicians in an effort to bolster his experience.

However, another source truly inspired his dedication to become a doctor.

"Traveling abroad was a personal catalyst for me," said Singh. Singh traveled to such countries as India and Mexico which developed an altruistic inspiration in him to help others living throughout the world.

For others, the decision to attend a professional or graduate school can weigh heavily, especially as you progress in your college career. The mounting concerns about the cost, test scores, grades and any number of personal concerns, can create feelings of apprehension.

However, enrollments trends for graduate and professional continue to remain high. The US Department of Education expects graduate school enrollment to increase to 1.75 million this year, and enrollment in professional schools to increase to 286,000. In 1983, enrollment for graduate school was 1.3 million, and in 1982, professional school enrollment was 270,000.

So what motivates students to take the plunge into post baccalaureate education, and what factors should you consider before you begin filing admission papers?

"Students should look at research institutions carefully and look for programs and courses of study with matching interests. It's important the program of study matches your future," said Peggy

Harrel, Director of Graduate Studies at USI.

For some, the plan to attend began when they chose a major at USI. Chris Dickens, a 32-year-old creative writing major, knew he wanted to attend graduate school after entering the creative writing program.

"Graduate school has been the plan all along, since I started back at USI. You can't do a lot with an undergraduate English degree that I'm aware of, unless you build on it."

Students can choose to take time off after graduation, and study for their specific standardized exam, or even obtain field experience important to their field. Some programs require field or work experience to add more real world examples to classroom discussion. One typical program that requires or looks favorably upon such experiences includes business administration.

So once you decide to attend graduate school, when should you start looking and what goes into the preparation of research and studying? "You should start as soon as you know what you want to," said Harrel. Harrel mentioned that preferably you should start researching institutions in your junior year.

For Singh, applying to medical school included two months of researching the institutions and their programs.

For Dickens, who applied to over 15 Master of Fine Arts programs, he too studied the institutions and the programs they offered. "I spent an awful amount of time on graduate school websites, reading books by the faculty at programs and underlining key points in Tom Kealey's MFA Handbook."

Communicating with students who currently attend or have attended programs offers a

substantive perspective from someone who has experienced the institution first hand. Dickens turned to Web site, www.poet-sandwritersforum.blogspot.com for substantive feedback, while Singh turned to www.studentdoc-tor.net.

National ranking and the faculty members also tend to weigh heavily upon decision making. "Those (national ranking and faculty) were huge factors, especially faculty, but also funding and location were big ones. I'd say, in this order, more or less: location, faculty, funding and national ranking (of programs, not schools overall), and overall vibe."

Certain programs will offer more scholarships or research opportunities than others, which remain important factors. It is important to find a school that suites your interests because graduate and professional school involves an intense focus on one specific area.

"You're going to spend a sizeable portion of your life there and you need to see if you fit in there," said Singh.

For Singh, scholarships and the option of traveling abroad were also two important areas.

To find the top programs in your field, U.S. and News World Reports offer a yearly report; and also, books by companies like Peterson's help evaluate programs.

After narrowing your choices, now comes the application and standardized test process, which can become pricey. Harrel said application deadlines tend to begin January of your senior year, so it is important you get everything in the fall of your senior year.

For standardized tests most graduate programs require you to take Graduate Record Examination (GRE), or the Law School

Admission Test (LSAT) for law school, the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) for medical schools or the Graduate Management Admission Test for business administration programs.

Most recommend taking your standardized exam no later than October of your senior year. This means studying the summer or months before your scheduled date. As a result of the competitive application process, some students may take their standardized test more than once to obtain a better score.

Singh eventually took the MCAT twice to improve his scores.

"The first time I studied two hours everyday for two months and the second time I studied for ten weeks and took a review course," Singh said. The MCAT alone costs \$200 to take, and \$140 for the GRE and \$127 for the LSAT.

Dickens, who took the GRE said, "I wish I'd clocked the hours. I had a big book and I sat at bars and coffee shops just memorizing it. I learned 400 new words, and not one of them appeared on the test. I only took it once, because I did well enough to let it go at that."

After the mounting pressure of the standardized test becomes apparent, you still must find at least three letters of recommendation and finalized letters of intent or letters of purpose.

With the letter of intent, the time comes to put down where you shine personally and how the degree will help you achieve your goals.

"You should show how your strengths and interests match the institutions interests," said Harrel.

In some fields, various applications require different letters. Despite all the application differences, in the end, both Dickens

and Singh had to explain why they wanted to be apart of their respective fields.

"My letters were about a page and half, and I emphasized mostly that I love to write and serious about writing. But I also let them know that I'm a guy with some life experience, who has done more than just go to college, and so I have some things to say in my fiction," said Dickens.

"I emphasized my research and volunteer experience, along with my extracurricular activities," said Singh.

To further accentuate your interest in your field, letters of recommendation also highlight your skills and desire to succeed. When choosing who writes your letters, it becomes increasingly important who you select. "They want a letter that shows that person knows the student and the student's ability to succeed," said Harrel. Most will require at least three letters of recommendation at the.

This can also be very time consuming for the writer depending on the amount of applications. "It can be a pain for them, especially when you apply to as many schools as I did (15), so my advice is this, let your letter writers know how much you appreciate them doing this. So publicly; thanks Ron Mitchell, Dr. Wilhelmus, and Patricia Aakhus," said Dickens.

When all is said and done, the time comes to breathe a sigh of relief and survey the damage. Both Singh and Dickens admitted to spending over \$2,000 on the whole process once it was all said and done.

Once the acceptance and rejection letters began coming in, the time comes to make their final decisions.

Dickens chose the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, while Singh chose Indiana Uni-

versity for medical school.

"I chose IU because I received a scholarship and it offered in-state tuition and travel abroad opportunities which made it more appealing," said Singh.

Dickens, who felt more at home on the east coast, chose a school that he felt had a more inviting environment.

"The people at UNCG are so awesome, and they really let me know how much they wanted me here. I think that was a big one for me," said Dickens.

In the end, neither expressed any regret and each currently seeks to mentally prepare for the challenges ahead.

"I'm working on my chi (spiritual energy) a lot," said Dickens.

Singh plans to spend the remainder of his undergraduate days "trying to have the most fun as possible."

And their advice to those who plan to seek out graduate or professional programs:

"Do this over the summer, and don't apply to 15 schools. Mix up the super hard to get into programs with some that take more people to round out your chances," said Dickens.

"If you really want to go too medical school make sure you know what you're getting into. Shadow doctors and study late, but it's well worth it if you want it," said Singh.

Still, as you enter into advanced degree program, you will be required give a portion of life and time before reaping the rewards of an advanced degree. "What you need to be able to do is balance your time. It's important to have a personal life, but minimal. Mainly you will give up time and will mainly gain a future. If you have chosen a good discipline it will give you the rewards of your discipline," said Harrel.

Under the cap:

By NICK DURCHOLZ
The Shield staff

Graduating senior Jenna Cox knows it is not just about the destination, sometimes it is about the ride; this is no doubt a motivating factor reinforcing Jenna's work ethic in the completion of her college career.

As of the present Jenna is unaware of this destination but she is doing her best to explore the possibilities of her future in the field of psychology, which is Jenna's major. Jenna was raised in Newburgh and she attended Reitz Memorial High School on Evansville's east side. A couple hopes Jenna has for the next five years are finishing graduate school and finding a job she enjoys, while at the same time allowing her to spend time with her family. The following questions allowed me to get inside this psych major's head.

The Shield (S): What do you plan on doing with your major?

Jenna Cox (JC): I am going to try to find some sort of psychology-related job or higher education administration job, then after about a year or so go on to graduate school for either school psychology or higher education administration.

S: What is your favorite genre of music?

JC: That's tough. I like most everything, except for rap and hard-core metal. Other than that, I like indie, acoustic, rock, folk, blues and alternative.

S: Are you into any sports? If so, which is your favorite and why?

JC: Sports on TV are not my thing. However, I love playing sports of almost any kind, especially volleyball, tennis, softball and disc golf!

S: What is your definition of a perfect day?

JC: Sunshine, warm weather, no work, no school, just hanging outside with some friends!

S: Tattoos or piercings? If neither what would you rather have?

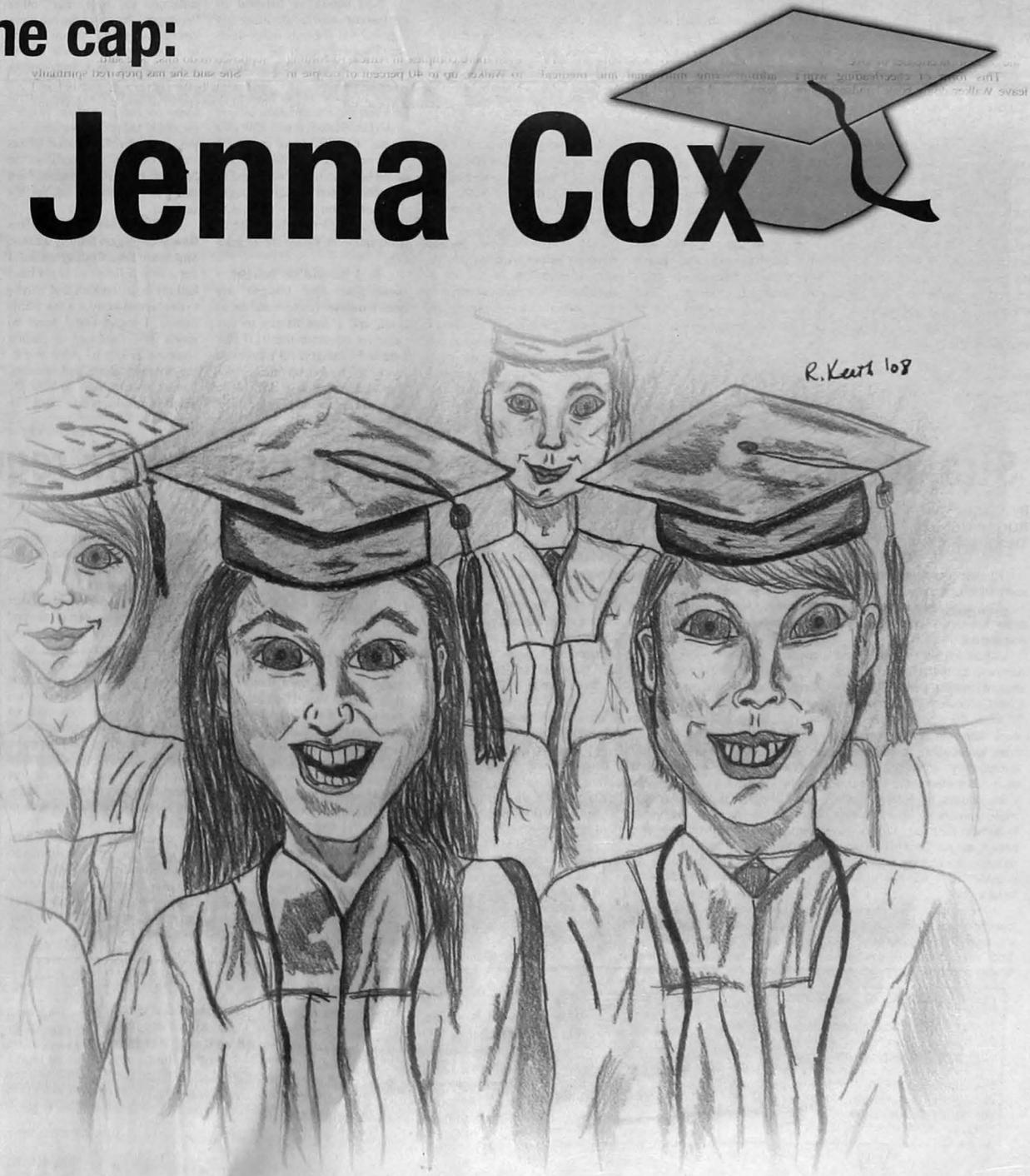
JC: Piercings because they are removable.

S: What are you afraid of and why?

JC: I'm afraid of losing those I love. That's scary, and I'm also afraid of storms!

S: Big city, small town or in between and why?

JC: In between. Small enough to see familiar faces but not so small that every face is familiar.



A traditional non-traditional view

By AMANDA PARKHILL
The Shield staff

As graduation nears some of the seniors at USI may be starting to "freak out" a little. Understandably so, the "utopia" of college life is quickly coming to an end and the "real life" everyone has warned you about is drawing near. The stress of finding a job is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to real life. What about your student loans? In six months the companies loaning you money will begin to want payment. The toilet paper in the bathroom will no longer miraculously re-appear on the roll. Mom and dad may still pay for some things, but the burden of your bills now falls on you, and only you. Being an adult is not as easy as it looks and at times I wish I could go back in time and let my parents take care of me again. Trust me; I have been out of my parent's house longer that I would like to admit. I have experienced those "real world" experiences that made me want to crawl in a hole and die. I am not saying there are not wonderful experiences to be had, but it is hard when you are just starting out.

Looking back 10 years, I realize I have experienced both the best and worst of adulthood. I remember moving to Chicago in 1999 and living off of my husband's Navy pay. Wow, the military does not pay much when you just get out of boot-camp. Don't get me wrong the money was not bad, but when you take into consideration the cost of living in Chicago, it was horrible. The cost of a one bedroom, 600 square foot apartment was almost \$700 per month, in 1999. Imagine the cost of that apartment now.

The prices on food, the necessary evil, have also risen tremendously. Even in 1999, my husband and I struggled to eat. For many months, until I was able to land a decent job, we lived off of Ramen noodles and egg salad. I can not tell you how much I now despise both. The point is to not expect much immediately after graduation. The burden now falls on you and it is time to become an adult. Just some words of wisdom, don't rely on credit cards, they will only get you in trouble, ask for help when you need it and just work hard. You will make it, but it takes time, as all good things do.

I will leave you with the words of the great Edward R. Murrow, seniors, "Good Night and Good Luck."

Knight's closing remarks

By KYLE KNIGHT
The Shield staff

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."
-Martin Luther King Jr.

When September 11 occurred, this current generation found itself in the midst of its most historic and defining event. This event has defined our perception of the world and fostered in us a binary conception of good and evil that has led to two failing wars, and a foreign policy creating more terrorists than it supposedly eradicates.

The current policy of this country has mutilated and taken the lives of far too many men and women in the military, along with countless civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan. What this policy thrives on concerns the fear of terrorists, and a desire to extinguish it by military means wherever it appears. However, this policy only enrages more civilians whom it has affected. Continually non-partisan groups and academics from all across America, to even the Strategic Studies Institute of the US Army War College, admit "the nation's current policies and actions may, in fact, be creating more, not fewer extremists."

The climate of fear induced and exploited by this current administration allowed Americans to wallow in a distorted perception of perceived threats. Continually our country resorts to war, which under our country's current policies, constitutes its own terrorism. The use of violence to force and intimidate

other members of the world, especially under the false perceptions used in Iraq, constitutes a contradictory stance that will only cause the United States greater harm.

The United States needs a leader to alter the present policy, and insist on reevaluating our interest in oil in the Middle East, Israel and our reluctance to enter into a dialogue with other nations.

Those graduating could help alter the current circumstances through civic engagement in national and local groups. Also we can begin by evaluating the news and questioning the loosely constructed evidence placed before us or even hidden from us. Right now, Iran serves as a perfect example as military members and other Administration speakers, continually label Iran as a country determined to destroy Iraq and develop a nuclear bomb. They fail to present conclusive evidence, other than vague testimony, and with the current climate possibly allowing for another war, they will only create more disastrous results.

This generation has lost a willingness to make the news a priority and to foster an engagement on serious issues. However, even with the public relations and advertising machines molding newspapers and American interests; it is not surprising to find members mesmerized

by shallow celebrity news. Also instead of the substantive investigative reporting or questioning editorials of past generations, we received complicit agreements from the media leading up to the Iraq war.

Our generation needs to reinvest time and energy into the community discussion found in older generations. We need discussions deeply invested in community politics and national concerns. We need to foster groups and create pressure to lobby political candidates during the primaries to shape the issues that matter the most.

By gathering support through grass roots efforts, you can force the higher powers to pay attention. This has happened in American history with the civil rights movement and other political causes that began with an integral component, community organizations.

As you enter the workforce, you have a choice to make this change a priority, or to ignore it. You can fall on the conventional excuse that "I don't have enough time," or you can choose to find the time to participate in efforts that can alter the present climate. You have a choice, no matter how many delusional public relations efforts or commercials seek to pacify us with reality television or shallow celebrity profiles. There exists an opportunity for change, but it begins by coming from within you.

"We must become the change we want to see in the world."
-Mohandas Gandhi.

We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.'

-Martin Luther King Jr.

We must become the change we want to see in the world.'

-Mohandas Gandhi.

Should've... Could've... Would've...

By BROOKLYN SOLIS
Opinion editor

Instead of a typical end of the year banter, I have decided to end my college career with a list. A list of things that I could've, should've, would've done during my stay here at this University. Here is the top ten.

10. The most obvious one, I should've read the book and studied more. I was under the impression that college would be similar to high school. If you showed up, looked interested and read the review sheet the night before, you can pass the class. While some professors practice a similar method, most of them expect more. Some even select books that are interesting. I wish I'd read all of Tom Wolfe's *Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*.

9. I should've spent less time facebooking and more time making friends on campus. Don't get me wrong, I love facebook, and I wasted a lot of time with too many applications. Your wall can't laugh at your bad jokes, or share a pitcher of beer with you wall.

8. I should have never joined a sorority. While I am

sure the Greek community on campus is fun over this one, I can assure you that joining the sorority was just detrimental to me. I wasn't great at time management as a freshman. I don't regret the part about being involved with campus activities, and even making great friends, but my GPA was lower than my blood alcohol content level.

7. I should've completed my core classes at the beginning of my college career instead of at the end. My advice to all incoming freshmen, please finish these classes before you start taking upper level classes. It was difficult to struggle through math, while being the oldest one in the class. If I wouldn't have had the help of the girl that sat on the right of me, I may not be graduating right now.

6. I should've forged stronger bonds with my professors. It is easy to be the one to slide into a back row seat and sign an attendance sheet everyday and go unnoticed. It is also easy for an internship, or a scholarship to pop up and for you to also go unnoticed. Professors probably understand more than anyone else what you are going through, after all, it

wasn't that long ago they were the one's sliding into the back row. I am sorry that I didn't pay more attention to Paul Doss, associate professor of geology. Half way through the semester I realized how interesting he was, because of how interested he is in geology.

5. I should've listened to my parents more. Admitting this in print, will not only make them proud but give them the satisfaction of knowing that I have finally grown up. USI wasn't my first choice to continue my education. I wanted to go to Emerson School of Arts in Boston. It was \$50,000 a year in 2001. I got in, and I never told my parents. I stayed home because it was supposed to be easier. Even though I fought my mother on it, I realize now that she saved me from a lot of debt, and even forced me to get a life.

4. I should've bought a meal plan and bought my books online. I hate standing in lines, and I hate having to pay more for whatever reason. I also hate to be hungry. I'll admit that trying to scrape up change for Sub Connection was difficult to do in the beginning of my college

career. It wasn't until senior year that I have been able to afford The Loft. I definitely would have eaten more wraps.

3. I should've fought harder for an internship. The last few months have been a panic to try to find one. It's difficult to get a job without one. It's even more difficult to beat out other "younger" students who are more ambitious, easier to mold and have stronger GPA's than you. In the middle of my college career, Ron Roat, associate professor of journalism, didn't push internships on the journalism majors. He could make a phone call, and you were hired, because of his credentials and relationships he had with other news outlets. I am still trying to secure one for the summer.

2. I should've spent less time focusing on finding a mate, and more time finding myself. I am a firm believer in fate. I have had my heart broken, and maybe even chipped away at a few hearts myself. I regret that I spent so much time focusing on finding someone to love me, then nurturing my own talents and interests. I want to learn how to play the piano and make potato salad like

my aunt Sandy. I want to read a book for fun and work on my own. Just because I am not graduating with a ring on my hand, it doesn't devalue who I am, or who I am going to become.

1. I should've worried less about the small stuff and enjoyed the college experience more. I should've gotten a USI tattoo on my back and went to more basketball games. I should have went out for roller derby or at least considered it more seriously. I should've laughed more and stressed out less. The glass is only empty until you fill it up again. The next round is on me. Fellow graduates, I hope you got what you paid for. I hope you learned that life is hard. Nothing is handed to you. If it is, you didn't earn it. I hope you picked a degree that will make you wealthy or happy. (Whichever one is more important to you) Read the newspaper everyday. It is a tool to increase knowledge, and move towards change. Be informed, and vote. Stop using plastic bags and don't drink tap water. Recycle the bottles you do use. Hug your parents often. Love your enemies, and let go of your should've, could've and

Straight to the Core : a closer look at curriculum requirements

By ANDREW FOSTER & ROGER GUDDÉ
The Shield staff

"I am never going to need to solve trinomial equations."
"What exactly a thesis sentence has to do with economics and finance?"

Thoughts like this are far too common in the minds of many students taking their University Core Curriculum (UCC) courses. To some, the core is simply busy-work the University requires them to complete in addition to things they actually want to study. For others, the Core provides classes to bide the time while one decides what they want to do with their life. Others may have found the Core to be a wanted exposure to classes that they wouldn't have had the initiative to take.

The question in evaluating the Core then is which is it? Do the majority of students at USI find these required courses a

waste of time or a needed learning experience?

An excess of students probably find themselves agreeing with the former idea regarding the UCC. This isn't a shock to a majority of teachers and students who perceive a low attendance and lack of motivation in these courses.

"About five people [in my English class] are motivated," says Megan Scott, a freshman graphic design major. "In general, it's a waste of time."

This lack of motivation isn't lost on professors teaching these courses as well. A source within the College of Liberal Arts who prefers to remain anonymous points out that motivation is a key problem within the classroom.

"A lot of students in the core classes don't want to be there; they don't see the purpose of it. I feel like I spend most of my time trying to convince students to be interested," the source said. With motivation being a

major problem with the current UCC, one wonders why we even need a core curriculum? At the end of the day, does any core curriculum only provide obstacles to students in the university setting?

Mark Krahlung, UCC director and associate professor of chemistry disagrees with this sentiment and believes that the UCC is essential to the education offered here at USI.

"The UCC helps build the foundation for a well rounded citizen," Krahlung said.

The source inside the LA, despite seeing a lack of motivation for core classes, agrees with Krahlung. "I do think that four year universities need some kind of core curriculum."

The UCC's Web site further outlines its goals by saying that it "seeks to encourage in all students the desire and ability to achieve personal growth and contribute meaningfully to society." Obviously these are lofty goals, but goals that are admirable and

worthy of seeking. If the current incarnation of the UCC is failing in some instances to motivate students to be better citizens, what can be changed to make the system better?

In general, sources both in the College of Nursing and Health Professions and the LA said that instructors must emphasize the importance of core to the study, both to their major and their overall life. If students see the reason for doing the Core, these sources said, they will be more likely to try in these courses. One source in the HP said, "Students need to see outcomes, things need to be applicable."

These sources also suggested several courses of action that could help promote interest in the UCC.

One idea that was suggested was creating the first one or two years of college. Essentially every freshman and sophomore would be put into the same classes, giving continuity to the early

experiences of college. This would provide freshmen and sophomores added social interaction with their classmates, which, in theory, would help eliminate stress and isolation.

Thematic classes are another option. Classes across several disciplines would be organized into certain themes, such as a time period or area of interest. Students could learn about the physics involved in a certain sports and could then take an English class centered around sports literature, for example. Students would be allowed to take classes with a theme that interested them, while still learning some of the basic values of the UCC.

Similar to this, certain courses could be offered with two instructors from different disciplines. A general writing course could have a biology emphasis, with both an english and biology professor teaching in the classroom. Students would then be

able to write about what interests them, something the source in the LA believes is important.

"If you were to have writing courses that were interdisciplinary, where you were trying to give them an idea of how writing is done in other disciplines, rather than just this divorced from content kind of writing, [that would be preferable]" the source said.

"We [the UCC Board] meet and discuss the current UCC and talk about any problems someone could be having," Krahlung said that change is gradual in the UCC and that anything that occurs will be gradual and built upon the current structure of the UCC.

There is no "one" solution to the problem with having a core. There will also be students who aren't motivated to pass ping pong, much less a required English class. This discussion should be continued on around the university in the hope of providing the best education and life experience for all those involved at

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Shield accepts original, unpublished letters from all of its readers. Letters should be no more than 250 words. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number for verification. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, style, grammar and spelling. Pieces will appear in The Shield Online. Letters can be submitted online or via e-mail.



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Iron Man winning over critics

... but Batman begins again this summer with *The Dark Knight*

By KIMBERLY STURGILL
The Shield staff

In June of 2005, *Batman Begins* came to the screen as the story of Bruce Wayne: the billionaire destined to become the nighttime hero of Gotham City.

Directed by Christopher Nolan (*Memento*), this film was nominated for an Oscar (Achievement in Cinematography) and several smaller-scale awards.

The story unfolded just as all the *Batmans* before it: Wayne, as a child, witnesses his parents' death and struggles with his conscience through the remainder of his life until he discovers a cave that holds one of his greatest fears—bats.

This, of course, is how he became the nighttime terror to the criminal population of Gotham.

As the tragic hero started his journey of justice, he met the villain Scarecrow, a twisted psychiatric doctor polluting the veins of the common people with the most basic poison: their own fears.

In hopes of turning the town into nothing but chaos, Scarecrow pulled out all the stops, only to be thwarted by the Dark Knight.

At the end of the first film, a clue is presented to enlighten the viewers of who the next villain will be: a Joker playing card.

The Dark Knight will come to screens in July of this year.

Directed once again by Nolan, many familiar faces will return to the screen: Christian Bale (*American Psycho*, *I'm Not There*) will play Batman.

Sir Michael Caine (*Children of Men*, *The Cider House Rules* and countless others) will play Alfred.

Cillian Murphy (*Red Eye*) will return as the Scarecrow and Gary Oldman (*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, *Sid and Nancy*) will play the newly promoted Lt. Gordon.

A new face will grace the *Batman* world as well: Heath Ledger (*Brokeback Mountain*) will portray the deathly comical role of the infamous Joker.

Renewing his efforts to lessen Gotham City crime, Batman hunts down the Joker, a notorious bank robber in search of a lot of loot.

After the fall of the previous crime boss of the city, rookie boss-try to stake their claim on the town, but drop one by one as the fights go by.

Throughout these endless fights, it is the Joker's tauntingly eerie grin that brings forth the nightmares of the town.

It is up to Batman and Lt. Gordon to try to stop the hand that has been dealt to them.

As the public is well aware, Ledger died on January 22 of this year.

Reports indicate that his death was caused by an accidental overdose of prescription drugs.

Ledger's death may increase audience interest in *The Dark Knight*.

We can only hope that the film will be as good as the first, and hope that Ledger fans will be satisfied.



Robert Downey Jr. in Paramount Picture's *Iron Man*. Starring Downey Jr. (*Wonder Boys*), Jeff Bridges (*The Big Lebowski*) and Gwyneth Paltrow (*The Royal Tenenbaums*), the film overcomes the Marvel-stink of recent comic-book-to-film movies. *Iron Man*, directed by Jon Favreau (*Made, Swingers* and *Elf*) hit theaters May 2.

Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

From Montana to maturity

By JON WEBB
Et Cetera editor

Disney Channel star and eventual empress of Earth Miley Cyrus found herself mired in controversy last week after appearing in a provocative photo spread in *Vanity Fair*.

The photo—taken by famed photojournalist Annie Leibowitz—depicted Cyrus, 15, sitting sideways, baring her back and shoulders and covering herself only with a sheet.

Some parents and Disney Channel staffers worry the photograph could sully Cyrus' Lysol-clean image and lead her down the insanity-street taken by Britney Spears.

Cyrus defended the photo at the onset of the controversy, describing it to the Associated Press as "really artsy. It wasn't in a skanky way."

Since her initial comments, however, she has admitted the photo "embarrasses" her.

The inevitable question has now been raised: how can Cyrus grow up without going crazy?

Many pop stars shot from Disney's uterus—Spears, Christina Aguilera and Justin Timberlake for example—choose to transfer into maturity by sexing-up their images or writing "tougher" songs sprinkled with the occasional curse word.

Spears became a slave for all of us, Aguilera went "diirty" and Timberlake got us naked by the end of his song.

These kinds of transforma-

tions are pathetic have become so commonplace they no longer shock the general public.

But doesn't Cyrus have to make some sort of transition into adulthood?

After all, a 15-year-old kid leading a double life as a pop star is fun and intriguing, but an adult leading a double life is probably hiding the bodies in the basement.

Cyrus can't possibly maintain her current reputation as she ascends through her mercury-teenage years.

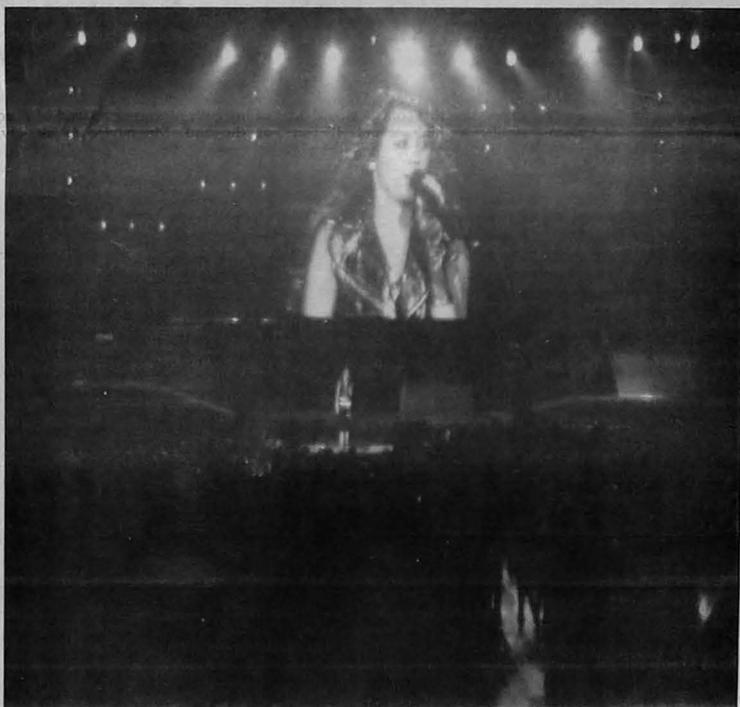
This doesn't necessarily mean Cyrus will chase down her housekeeper in an SUV at three in the morning armed to the teeth with cocaine, but she will, eventually, take off her blonde wig for good and turn her bareback to everything Disney.

When this happens, parents will complain and direct Junior's eyes to the next sensation pumped from the feel-good pipeline.

Cyrus, however, cannot function merely as a robotic role model for television-addicted children.

She should avoid, say, giving herself a military buzz-cut and crapping-out kids at Kennedyesque speeds, but she cannot provide parents with the *Best of Both Worlds* (normal girl/infallible role model) for long.

She needs space to make mistakes or—like many teen sensations before—she may soon find herself buried under her own image with no choice but to either suffocate or dig herself into a hole.



Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus performing in concert.

Photo courtesy of Blogspot.com

From Evansville to Egypt

By JON WEBB
Et Cetera editor

(USI student Kelly Evans will travel to Egypt over the summer to extensively study Arabic Language and culture thanks to receiving a government scholarship. Before leaving, Evans talked with The Shield about her excitement and expectations.)

Shield: You're going to Cairo in June to study Egyptian Arabic as part of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Critical Language Scholarship. What led you to apply?

Kelly Evans: This is only the third summer that the program will be offered, started in 2006 by President Bush as a way to increase the number of Americans who have been trained for some of the critical need languages.

Matt Silen, an ESL teacher here at USI, knew that I was self-studying Arabic and informed me about this opportu-

nity last August.

I anxiously waited four months until the government began accepting the applications for the Summer '08 program and then I waited another four months for the acceptance letter.

Shield: How important will Americans' knowledge of Arabic language and culture be going forward? Should USI offer an Arabic-focused course?

Evans: With over 240 million people speaking Arabic across the world, it is also the native language of 25 countries.

I am ecstatic that I have been given this opportunity, which is something I hope to use in my future career and in my personal life.

Across the board, more universities in the US are beginning to offer Arabic courses. While USI is not currently offering Arabic as an official course, our extended services programming arranged a Monday night "Conversational Arabic" informal course that started

back in late January.

This is a step in the right direction and hopefully in the future Arabic will begin to be offered here and be incorporated into the Foreign Languages Department.

Shield: You carry a double major in biology and health services on top of minors in nutrition and public health. You also participate in several clubs. Really: how can you possibly do that?

Evans: [haha!] And I also work part-time as a pharmacy technician! It's definitely not easy, and I wouldn't recommend it for everyone, but I have to say it has taught me a great deal about who I am and what I can achieve.

Shield: You hope to live abroad. Give me the ideal situation: where, and what would you be doing?

Evans: Once I finish my master's I would enjoy spending some time abroad, incorporating my love of travel, language and people with the skills that I will have acquired in the healthcare field.

I hope to work in the public health field, using my knowledge of the Arabic language to communicate with the people about the importance of nutrition and preventative medicine, such as prenatal healthcare and cancer screenings.

Shield: The transition from Evansville to Cairo will be... well, shocking. Are you at all nervous about absorbing yourself into such a radically different culture?

Evans: While the two cultures may be vastly different, not only do I already have several Middle Eastern friends but I will also be attending a pre-departure orientation in Washington, D.C. before I head for Cairo.

That being said, I am not nervous about adjusting to the life there—I am actually excited and very much looking forward to it.

Learning about other cultures helps one to become more globally minded and ultimately you can learn more about yourself in the process.



Kelly Evans in Haiti last summer. The photos taken by her friend Horace Etienne, who has heavily involved in mission trips. [Etienne] "often rode his motorcycle through the marsh roads of Haiti, to the market and other places, as he accompanied me on these outings to ensure my safety," Evans said. "Americans have often been kidnapped for ransom in some areas of the country."

Photo courtesy of Kelly Evans

Women's basketball team loses its leaders

By **MATTHEW STALLER**
The Shield staff

With school coming to an end and graduation right around the corner, many students begin looking for summer jobs and activities to pass the time until next fall. For two people in particular though, the end of school also marks the end of their collegiate careers here at USI as women's basketball athletes.

Marshay Jolly and Jasmine Baines have made wonderful careers here at USI over the past few years as well respected standouts on a basketball team greatly focused on teamwork and dedication.

Throughout their careers, Jolly and Baines have averaged a combined 25 points per game, along with a plethora of other great feats in the categories of assists and steals. Not to mention how they helped lead their team each and every game with a flawless demeanor.

At a school notorious for its transfers, Baines and Jolly have been a rare exception. Though Baines transferred from IUPUI her freshman year, she has played here at USI for three years along with Jolly, who was recruited by coach Rick Stein himself.

While Baines played at IUPUI she averaged five points and five rebounds per game, while also earning herself a spot on the Mid-Continent Conference All-Newcomer Team as a freshman. When making her move to USI, not only did Baines step up her game and go to work, but her numbers also flourished just as she recently closed the 2007-2008 season with a spectacular 17 points per game along with seven rebounds per game.

Anyone watching Baines could notice how she played with an unparalleled passion for the game not many have seen. Throughout games, Baines would constantly be seen hitting the floor for loose balls and blocking shots with such a high intensity.

Baines legacy here at USI will be remembered for years to come.

So many coaches around the world dream of the day they get the opportunity to be a part of a great players' growth and development, such as current coach Rick Stein.

Though Baines was the go to girl for quite some time, not even she would disagree with the fact that Jolly has been a great force as well.

Jolly, a recruit of Coach Stein, made it clear every single game that she was playing to win.

Though Jolly never put up huge numbers like Baines, what she did display was a quiet strength that not many can successfully utilize. While Baines was the clear and undisputed vocal leader, Jolly, on the other hand, showed that leading by example also speaks volumes.

Jolly had a smooth style of play that was fun to watch. Whether she was speeding up the court for a layup, or snagging a loose ball and going the other way, Jolly always made it look simple. Throughout every single game she played with USI, Jolly was never accused of going through the motions or going half speed. Jolly's love for the game and respect for her fellow teammates always showed through, even during the tough times.

With the end of great collegiate careers and spectacular times now behind them, Baines and Jolly will now venture off into the real game of life, where their hard work and dedication will surely follow as they continue on into their respected careers.

As the lights go down on the court, and the crowds stop cheering, Baines and Jolly will continue on into their new lives as alumni of USI.

Track team says goodbye to some of its best

By **COLLEEN BINKLEY**
The Shield staff

As the USI men's track team season comes to a close, so does college for many graduating seniors.

All year, the men's track team has been working hard by training several times a week. Although the team has many successful underclassmen runners, this month they will say farewell to their beloved graduating seniors.

Rey Alvarez, from Danville, Ill., finished up his running career in December and is now pursuing his boxing career. He just recently won the Indiana Golden Gloves fight and is currently training for his next big win.

Intramural sensation: college fun for you and everyone you know

By **LANA KUNZ**
The Shield staff

Intramural activities play an intricate role in the social development of the average college student. Functioning as a team, dedicating time to hone a skill, and communication are abilities that can easily apply to a career after graduating.

"We try to offer something for everyone. You do not have to be athletic or good at sports to participate in our program. The main focus is on having fun, playing fair and being a good sport," says Joe Gratz, assistant director of Intramural Recreational Sports.

In intramural sports the most popular proved to be flag football with 87 teams and 4,216 student participation contacts.

Kurt Beaman, an USI sophomore, was involved in soccer, flag football, basketball and volleyball this year.

"I played intramurals to get out on the field, stay in shape and meet new people," Beaman said.

"Our student participation contacts for last year was 36,364 and we expect that number to be even bigger this year as we offer new activities and our participation increases," Gratz said.

Several outdoor adventure trips were offered this year to satisfy any student's traveling urges. From trips to Vertical Escape for indoor rock climbing to the white water rafting and camping trip on the Ocoee River in Tennessee, there was a variety for everyone.

Special events were planned for those that are not outdoor enthusiast or sports oriented. Bowling events for Halloween and Hawaiian Glo in the Dark bowling were very popular.

For more information on the Intramural Recreational Sports, check out the Web site www.usi.edu/rfv.

"Boxing has always been his best sport," said Coach Mike Hillyard, who has been the men's track and field coach since 1998.

Samuel Gebreselassie moved to the United States from Eritrea, a small country located in north-west Africa. He is currently pursuing his business career.

"Sam was injured in the fall and he still has one year of eligibility left, so he'll be back," said Coach Hillyard.

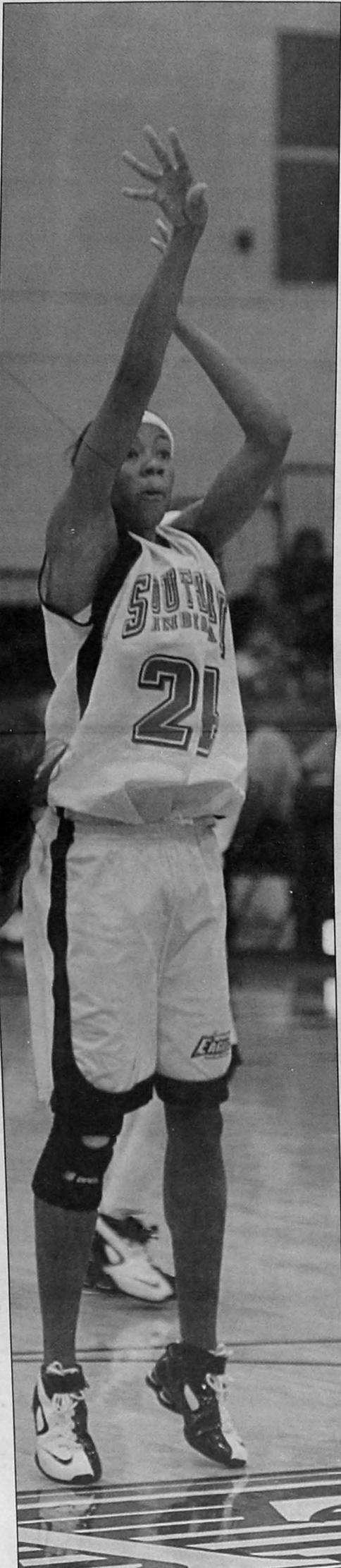
Paul Jellema, from Dyer, finished his running career with USI last fall when he graduated in December. In 2007, he was awarded student athlete of the year and is currently running professionally at Hanson/Brooks, which is the most elite level of running.

Tristan Mannix will graduate this semester with a major in sociology and criminal justice. He plans to stay in Evansville and continue his education with his focus on public administration. He hopes to assist in coaching the men's track team next year, since his eligibility runs out after this season.

Jerry Kemper, from West Terre Haute, will also be graduating from USI this spring.

"As of last week, he was accepted to law school at Notre Dame," said Coach Hillyard.

For many of the seniors, the GLVC Championships is the last chance to qualify for Nationals. These last couple weeks, the men will be training hard for the last leg of the season.



Senior Jasmine Baines shoots the jumper in a game this season. Baines and senior Marshay Jolly proved to be assets to the team this season as the pair scored an average of 25 points per game this season.

Photo courtesy of News and Information Services



Integra/USI Student Athletes of the Year

Female Student Athlete of the Year



Kristin Eickholt

Senior Kristin Eickholt of Van Wert, Ohio found her spot atop the USI record books this season. The third baseman for the USI softball team secured the crown spot for career doubles as she made the trip to second base 48 times in her four years on the team. She also holds the number two spot in the USI record books in homeruns and RBIs. Eickholt secured a position as first team All-GLVC this season and in the 2007 season. She was named second team All-GLVC and All-Region in 2006 and has been named Academic All-GLVC for three straight seasons.

Male Student Athlete of the Year



Paul Jellema

Senior Paul Jellema has proved to be amongst the top runners in the history of the USI cross-country program. Jellema, of Dyer, was named All-American in cross-country and track. He was named All-Region twice in cross-country and was also named All-GLVC seven times in cross-country and track. Jellema was honored in 2007 as the GLVC Cross-Country Runner of the Year and placed 21st in the NCAA Division II National Championships in November.

Screaming Eagles Spirit Award



Kathy Wood

Senior Kathy Wood, left fielder for the USI softball team, was honored for four years of dedication and prestigious sportsmanship in her career with the program. After undergoing a torn ACL earlier this season, the Lynnville, Indiana native returned to the field a month later and managed to make second team All-GLVC. Wood also made Academic All-GLVC three times and is a candidate for the most exalted USI student honor for graduating seniors, the President's Medal.

Photos courtesy of News and Information Services



Senior guard Tyson Schnitker shakes defender in a game this season. Schnitker and center Norman Plummer will each leave the Eagles this year.

Photo courtesy of News and Information Services

GLVC champs to battle in post-season

By JAMARR HENDERSON
The Shield staff

The 24th ranked University of Southern Indiana baseball team is looking forward to concluding a successful year as the season winds to an end. The Screaming Eagles are currently at 36-18 having just finished the season over the weekend with four games against Drury University.

The graduating seniors put in great effort over the years and would like to be rewarded again this year.

"Our goal is to get into the Regional Tournament and win it again so we can have a chance at the National Championship," says senior pitcher Jeremy Kehrt.

"The season went good, but these next three weeks are vital being that we focus and play well," head coach Tracy Archuleta said.

Since steering the Eagles to their best year of the program in 2007 when Archuleta took over, the seniors were able to visualize winning tactics.

"We are just making a push to win our division and get a bid to a regional so that

we can host the game here in Evansville," senior outfielder Michael Beaven said.

The seniors emphasize that they are very confident in winning games from experiencing comebacks with their backs against the wall late in several games. The seniors said this season had some of the best victories they will never forget dating back to the Grand Valley State and Quincy competitions.

"Beating our rival Grand Valley State this year was huge because we beat them last year in a competitive game," said Kehrt.

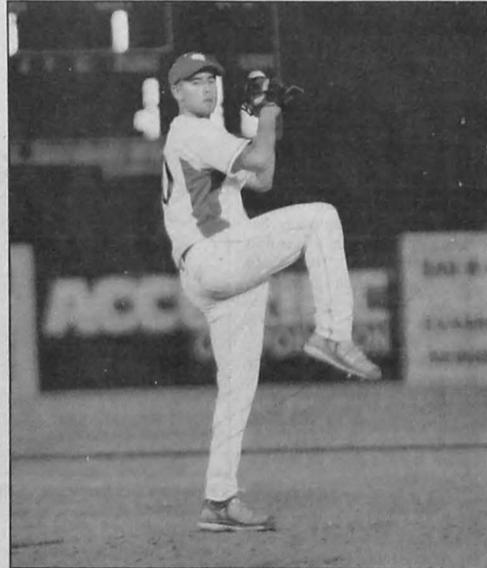
"My favorite game was the last game of the Quincy series, being down four runs going into the ninth we battled back to win the game in the tenth inning," Beaven said.

The graduating seniors will be missed on and off the field as they now urge for the students to come out and support them in their final run.

USI would like to wish the graduates the best in their future careers and lives, as they will leave behind a great tradition that will continue to live on forever here at the university.



Senior catcher Garrett Oros watches his hit sail over second base in a game earlier this season. Garrett is one of seven seniors who will leave the team after this season to pursue a career.



Senior pitcher Cory Julian winds up for the pitch in a night game earlier this season.

Photo courtesy of News and Information Services

Photo courtesy of News and Information Services



Senior Matt Pleiss rounds second while heading for third.

Photo courtesy of News and Information Services



Screaming Eagles baseball team seniors (from left) Aaron Schmitt, Josh Malone, Garrett Oros, Jeremy Kehrt, Matt Pleiss, Cory Julian and (center) Michael Beaven.

Photo courtesy of News and Information Services

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Special thanks to Barbara Goodwin and the staff at News and Information Services for their contributions to the Shield.

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USI Campus Growth...

In its infancy

By **BLAKE BENHAM**
The Shield staff

"I remember when USI was cornfield."

You've probably scoffed at your grandparents' recollection of our fine university's heritage as both a west side fixture and farm. Sometimes we take for granted the speed at which this institution has grown and changed.

Before dismissing your elders as lunatics, know that there is a grain of truth somewhere in their random recollections.

As a fifth year senior, I've had the opportunity—and the nearly constant feeling of shame that goes along with it—to hang around this place a full 12 months longer than an average person. The change I've witnessed is quite impressive.

USI exists as two separate places in my mind. There's 2008 USI—a place of joyful tulip gardens, Starbucks and eye-catching labyrinths.

But there's also 2003 USI.

I've got news for you: 2003 USI was a place you wouldn't recognize. It was a place you wouldn't want to recognize.

As a point of reference, in 2003, USI was still a cornfield. When I say "cornfield," I'm talking about pushing bountiful husks aside to go to your biology class.

Imagine, in your mind's eye, USI with only one campus fountain. Picture the four-story Rice Library as a rustic wine cellar with limited resources.

Think of the Orr Center as the jewel of campus and Reflection Lake as merely a puddle.

This was the USI I once knew.

At 2003 USI, a student actually earned his degree, both by studying hard and living a life devoid of convenience. The University Center's modern luxuries such as ATM machines, plasma screens and Burger King were preceded by something resembling a soup kitchen.

A 2003 USI student had few choices when it came to entertainment.

In 2002, the football stadium was implored to make room for the present-day rugby field, located near the campus apartments.

In 2004, USI had its first on-campus party. 2003 USI students did not drink alcohol.

Myspace and Facebook were merely figments of a 2003 USI student's imagination. As were cell phones. Much like a small town, word of mouth was the fastest form of communication.

Somehow, we got by.

If I've made 2003 USI sound like an undesirable place, you've got me all wrong. It was just a different place. What was charming and rudimentary is now shockingly modern and developed.

Fields where stalks once grew "knee high by the fourth of July" now sprout a multi-million dollar facility every few years.

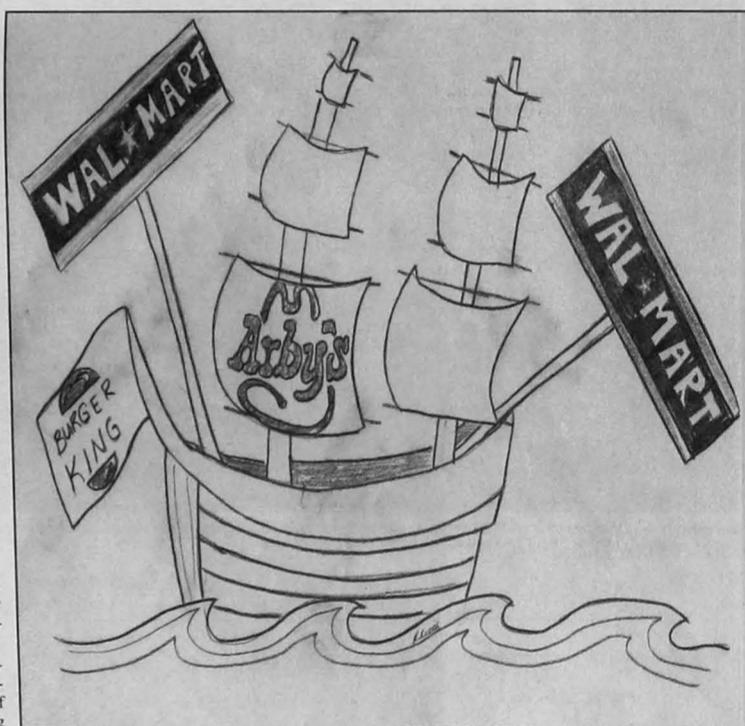
Though the modern-day luxuries of 2008 USI are well documented, I still long for the days of 2003 and wouldn't mind going back. You can keep your quadrangle.



The barren USI landscape of 2003.

Drawing by Rachel Keith

Into infinity



The bold, buccaneer USI of the future.

Drawing by Rachel Keith

By **JON WEBB**
Et Cetera editor

USI's transformation from a conservative Liberal Arts offshoot of Indiana State to a glimmering, nouveau-hipster beacon of education seems nearly complete.

Architecture firm Holzmans Moss announced plans in January for a renovated University Center that would include a 70-foot tower, new restaurants and a fireside lounge suitable for the ghost of Franklin Roosevelt.

While University officials tingle with virginal glee and students... probably feel no strong feelings whatsoever, we all wait for USI to shed its pretty-but-plain cocoon and morph into something garish, complicated and expensive.

I have thoroughly studied Holzmans Moss' plans and illustrations, and while they are impressive, I believe I can do them one better.

I now present for the first time in print (I sketched it on the Turoni's bathroom stall last Tuesday) my plan for USI: Phase 2.

(Editor's note: See left).

Judging from the success of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films — the trilogy grossed over \$1 billion in the United States alone — a pirate-themed UC would thrill students, professors and simple-minded children alike and could

even serve as a tourist attraction for Evansville.

The time has long since passed for a major state institution to invest millions of dollars and embrace the sexy underworld of pirates.

A scenario: a student wakes in the early afternoon, nearly sick at the thought of trudging to chemistry.

The student skips class and, in the absence of nothing better to do, constructs an intricate methamphetamine lab in the trunk of his car, loses his teeth and eventually begins to tweak uncontrollably, severely irritating those around him.

But what if his chemistry class took place at the mast of a pirate ship? *Present and accounted for.*

The ship, however, wouldn't house worthless classrooms, but instead be designated for the less-lame.

To celebrate Evansville, the ship would house six of every generic fast-food restaurant imaginable.

Need some mozzarella sticks at 11 pm, but don't have time to visit one of the 10 Evansville-area Arby's?

Well then climb aboard and satisfy your overpowering urge for fried-cheese.

The ship would not only appeal to those too lazy to cook, but also those too lazy to shop at more than one store.

Dueling Wal-Marts — one at the bow, one at the mast — would operate at full-tilt 24-hours a day.

Once a month, the Wal-Marts will move from one side of the boat to the other without explanation and watch the other businesses follow suit.

The best part about my pirate-ship plan, however, is that it provides the most important quality a University can possibly have: attractiveness.

Sure, the millions of dollars needed to build my pointless trophy in the middle of campus will do nothing to quell rising tuition, increasingly scarce parking or raging student apathy, but none of that matters.

The smile on the administration's face and the dripping "wow" on the faces of the alumni: that's what progress is all about.

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Oct. 12, 2006

Nude photos cause controversy

By BRANDON COLE
The Shield staff

A photo depicting two women in a sexual manner that was published in the university's student literary journal is not pornography, according to Liz Fields, who took the photo. But USI College Republicans disagree.

"It's not pornography," said Fields, a sophomore art education major, regarding the controversial photo, titled "Lose," featuring Leslie Mundy and an unidentified woman.

The picture shows two women in bed. One is naked and the other has her hand next to the other woman's genitals.

"The Aerie has run nudes

before," said Scott, managing editor of The Aerie. "The last issue exhibited some nudity, but it seems that certain people have taken offense on this occasion."

USI College Republicans have made it clear that they believe the photo published in The Aerie is pornographic.

"Why does the University of Southern Indiana abstain from using the word 'Christmas' in a press release, but has no qualms publishing soft-core porn," the USI College Republicans ask on their Website.

"This question is prompted by a photo of two naked women in bed kissing, while one appears to masturbate the other, which appeared in the USI-funded Aerie, a USI journal of arts and

letters."

Dr. Glen Kissel, USI College Republicans faculty adviser, said, "USI had no problem using the word 'Zen' as in Zen Buddhism, last May in a press release publicizing a sailing class. So why are 'Zen' and soft-core porn no problem, 'Christmas' such a problem?"

Kissel also spearheaded the protest of a nude art exhibit in the Technology Center last year.

The Republicans' Website also states, "It was learned that the Aerie is funded in part by the Student Activity Fee paid by virtually all USI students."

The Web site also supplies a link to the photo with the following warning: "Parental warning contains nudity."

The Aerie staff hosted a reading on Oct. 5, and no one - including College Republicans - came to protest the photos. The reading went on as planned.

"Nudity is not the problem," said Scott. "It is the fact that there are two women in the photo."

"No comment," said Kissel regarding The Aerie and the controversial photo. Although the Web site discusses the photo on the main page, Kissel said, "The College Republicans have taken no position."

President H. Ray Hoops said the university administration has taken no stance against The Aerie.

USI was the first school in Indiana and the third in the nation to designate The Shield and

Access USI "public forums" free of censorship. Student editors make content decisions, Hoops said.

The Aerie is a student journal that showcases the work of students in photography, creative writing and poetry. It is published twice a year, once a semester.

On Page 2 is a disclaimer: "The views and opinions displayed in this magazine may or may not reflect the opinions of the editors and staff."

A note on the table where copies of The Aerie were displayed in the Tech Center read: "Being pulled."

This could have been the source of rumors that the journal was going to be "recalled," or "pulled," according to Kissel,

whose office is in the Tech Center. He said the table was to be removed, not The Aerie magazines.

"We had it replaced," said Eric Sprouls, chair of the engineering department. He made the work order for the table to be removed.

"It blocked the door and it wasn't supposed to be there in the first place," he said.

Most of the attention is on Fields' photo, but the journal also includes an ode to Hunter S. Thompson, the father of gonzo journalism, and a story titled, "Marriage Costs More than a Penny," by The Rock Defender.

The Aerie is distributed on campus in the library, the bookstore and the Technology Center.



A car becomes totaled following the aftermath of the November 2005 tornado.

Photo by Julia Hunter

Nov. 10, 2005

Tornado touches USI

By LEAH BARR
Et Cetera editor

Less than a week after a deadly tornado hit Southwest Indiana, USI students and the community share their stories as they rebuild their homes and lives.

The tornado tore through Henderson, Ky., Evansville and Newburgh, Ind., early Sunday morning.

It left hundreds of homes destroyed, damaged and without electricity, over two hundred people injured and almost two dozen dead.

Evansville's Eastbrook mobile home park paid the biggest toll, where at least 18 deaths have been confirmed.

A fearful vigil

USI junior Kristy Hatch kept vigil throughout the storm, advising friends to take shelter via instant messenger.

"I couldn't even see out my window. The rain was just like the thickest fog I had ever seen... I was scared out of my mind," she said.

"I was up until 4 a.m. just watching the news. My eyes were glued to the television."

gigantic piles of trash... State troopers were running in the middle of 164 in horror of what they were seeing."

The two then picked up a friend who lives on Bell Road who showed them where to park so they could walk around.

"It was just so intense. The roof from every house was gone," Hatch said.

"Families were walking in the middle of the street, holding hands, looking at the destruction."

"The thing that got me the most was when I saw this two story house, and you could see that an infant's room was just torn from the house. There was just a tiny bit of children's wallpaper remaining on half of the still-standing wall."

Goodwill in wreckage

USI freshman Misti Taylor, a Henderson native, helped give food to survivors in Newburgh.

"My boyfriend Kyle [Miller] worked on Prospect Road at a machine shop. There were about 20 shops there, all gone now," she said.

Sept. 9, 2004

Enrollment tops 10,000;

Admission test scores higher for class of 2008

By AMELIA JEFFERS
The Shield staff

USI surpassed its enrollment goal of 10,000 students when enrollment figures totaled a record-high 10,050, an increase from the 9,899 students who enrolled in 2003.

Assistant Director Mark Rusk of the Office of Admissions describes the USI as "the fastest growing and best kept secret in Indiana."

In terms of undergraduate enrollment, USI is close to passing Indiana State University, which is currently the fourth largest school in Indiana.

Less than ten years ago, USI

was a regional commuter campus aiming to serve local needs.

USI's focus has shifted to becoming a competitive residential college, attracting many students from northern and central Indiana, non-Indiana and international students.

Among the thousands of applications to the university, the Office of Admissions has noticed a significant increase in applicants' class ranks and standardized test scores.

Previously, the average standardized test scores of applicants were between 900 and 1000, Rusk said. This year's average score was around 1020.

Tim Shierer, one of the 58 valedictorians to enroll as freshmen this year, chose USI because of the modern look to campus, the teaching-oriented faculty, rather than research-oriented, and the Presidential Scholarship USI offered him.

"We go head to head with other universities," said Rusk. "We

have some people choose us over Ivy League schools."

USI has a slightly higher female to male ratio than the national average. While the national ratio of female to male college students is 55 to 45, USI has a 60 to 40 female to male student ratio.

One reason for the higher number of female students is USI's nursing program, which is top in the state of Indiana and a female-dominated field, Rusk said.

Another is that USI has one of the top two education programs in the state, also a female dominated field. Thirdly, USI's housing attracts many young women.

Students make the choice to attend USI for reasons such as the housing accommodations, the top-notch nursing program and the high-quality laboratory facilities.

Sometimes more importantly, as Mark Rusk states, "We combine the positive aspects of a private school, yet we don't cost them an arm and a leg."

Evansville's Eastbrook mobile home park paid the biggest toll, where at least 18 deaths have been confirmed.

A fearful vigil

USI junior Kristy Hatch kept vigil throughout the storm, advising friends to take shelter via instant messenger.

"I couldn't even see out my window. The rain was just like the thickest fog I had ever seen... I was scared out of my mind," she said.

"I was up until 4 a.m. just watching the news. My eyes were glued to the television."

Hatch said she and her roommate woke at 8 or 9 Sunday morning to answer calls from family and friends checking on them. Her father told her that the tornado had ripped through Evansville and Newburgh.

"After I got off the phone, I was in no state to go back to sleep, nor was my roommate," she said.

"We had to see what had happened, so we were dressed and out of the apartment within 10 minutes."

Their first stop was the remnants of Ellis Park.

"From far away it looked like nothing because there is still a big chunk of the stands still standing, but when you get right up to it, there's an enormous pile of rubble."

They continued to I-164. Hatch, an Indianapolis native, said she is not very familiar with the Evansville area, so she had no idea Eastbrook mobile home park was ahead.

"Instantly, my entire body was covered in goosebumps because I had never seen such a disaster in real life. The trailers were turned into what looked like

gigantic piles of trash... State troopers were running in the middle of 164 in horror of what they were seeing."

The two then picked up a friend who lives on Bell Road who showed them where to park so they could walk around.

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Goodwill in wreckage

USI freshman Misti Taylor, a Henderson native, helped give food to survivors in Newburgh.

"My boyfriend Kyle [Miller] worked on Prospect Road at a machine shop. There were about 20 shops there, all gone now," she said.

Taylor worked at Franco's, an Italian restaurant in Newburgh.

"Me and Kyle met up at Franco's to see how it was, and Franco [Minino] was there making sandwiches, so we helped him go through the neighborhoods and pass out the sandwiches and water, and the houses were just gone."

"After passing out drinks and food, we drove to Henderson to check on my granny and mom, and we saw Ellis Park, or what's left. It's just one building of bleachers, and that's just moments from our house."

"Just 6 months ago we both lived in downtown Newburgh, in the area that was hit," she said. "I am so glad we moved."

Taylor considers Miller and herself lucky because their home is intact and all their loved ones are accounted for.

"We are jobless, but at least we have our house."

Coping with loss

USI freshman Derrick Smith was at his campus apartment when the tornado destroyed his home in Newburgh.

Smith has ironic memories of the night.

"I didn't even know there was a storm until 2:15, and my exact words were 'It could not be that

bad."

"About 30 minutes later, Mom called me and told me my house was pretty much gone."

Smith only knows as much about his house as his family has told him. Traffic prevented him from being able to see the damage himself.

"From what I've been told, what little of it is still standing looks kind of like a holey cactus. The neighbor's fence and ours found their way to get stuck into the walls."

"Most of the neighborhood was totaled. I don't know if all my neighbors are okay or not," he said.

"I couldn't quite make it to Newburgh, because they were starting to block off the road."

Looking forward

Today, the survivors try to rise above their losses and work toward a brighter future.

Smith said his home was covered by insurance and his parents are planning to rebuild.

"I think I've handled it pretty well," he said. "Not much to do but keep on keeping on like I always do."

Taylor said she already had an interview Tuesday for a new job at Biaggi's.

USI director of counseling James Browning said the counseling center is confidential and free of charge for students who need it.

"After an event like this, there's a more keen awareness of the uncertainty of life," he said. "In times like these, we're more fragile than we'd like to think we are."

"If there's a lesson to be learned from this, it's to pay attention to relationships with other people because we may not always have, you know, tomorrow or next week," he said.

"It's crazy all the people you never talk to anymore, but then they call when they think you could have died in the tornado," Hatch said.

South said her friend's experience prompted her to patch up an old disagreement that left them distant until the storm hit.

"The stupid thing is I don't even remember what she and I disagreed about that we didn't talk so long," she said. "Now, I'd like to hug the crap out of her."

Feb. 14, 2008

Bulletinboard sparks controversy

By SETH GRUNDHOEFER
The Shield staff

Students in O'Bannon and Ruston Halls were surprised to see the words, "white privileges" displayed on a bulletin board during Black History Month early last week.

Once a month, all area coordinators and resident assistants (RAs) are required to create informative bulletins boards for their residents.

For the month of February, which is also known as National Black History Month, dormitory area coordinator for O'Bannon and Ruston Halls Ryan Miller posted a bulletin board based off an article written in 1990 by Peggy McIntosh entitled, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack."

Miller said he picked certain examples that highlighted "white privileges" in the article and formed them into a bulletin board in order to raise awareness against racism during Black History Month. The headline read, "Because I am White I can..." "I wanted people to talk about it [bulletin board]. However, I think people focused on the headline instead of the message," Miller said.

The contents of the bulletin boards were taken verbatim from the McIntosh article that examined

"white privileges" in our society. Miller encouraged any students with comments or concerns to address him personally instead of vandalizing the bulletin board. Freshman and Ruston Hall resident Hollan Staker said, "I think for the people it was aiming to influence, it wasn't the right way to go about it. But it was a good gesture."

A stream of concerns and complaints soon came. E-mails and phone calls soon reached Miller and many RA's, as well as the director of the multi-cultural center Pamela Hopson, and the assistant director of the multi-cultural center Herman Thomas.

Hudson said the problem stemmed from students taking the bulletin board at face value. Some students who were offended by Miller's message even created a Facebook group deeming his message as a racist gesture.

The bulletin board in Ruston Hall was torn down one day after it was created. RAs replaced the original displays in both Ruston and O'Bannon Halls with the article from which the information was taken from the next day.

Senior and O'Bannon Hall RA Jennifer Eckerle said students gathered in the lobby the night the bulletin boards were created, expressing concern about the content. Eckerle said many residents

were not willing to discuss the matter, and immediately thought she had created the bulletin board herself.

"Just knowing how upset people were, it hurts when they don't come talk to you," Eckerle said.

Due to the controversial nature of the bulletin board and the complaints that followed, Hopson and Thomas hosted an open discussion in O'Bannon Hall's multi-cultural room on Wednesday.

Despite the concerned emails and phone calls, 12 people attended the discussion.

Eckerle said she and other RA's posted flyers around the dormitories for the discussion on Tuesday night, but found them torn apart and in a heap in front of their doors early Wednesday morning.

Members of the meeting focused on empathy to address the problem and formulate a solution. "We want to make sure the residents realize that we are doing something about this," Hudson said.

Both Hudson and Thomas said, with the help of RA's and all concerned residents, they plan to host an event before the end of February that will allow students to "continue the dialogue" and continue awareness during Black History Month.

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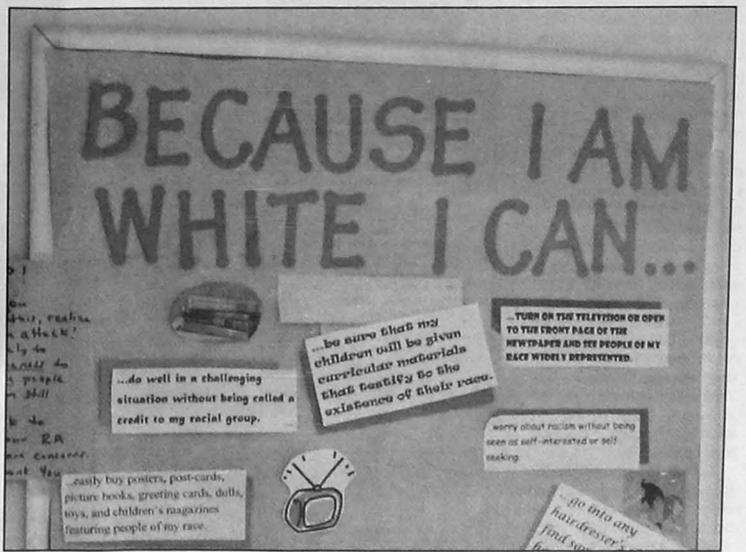
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"White privilege" was the title of Peggy McIntosh's 1990 article, which is where the idea of this poster was derived from.

Photo by Amanda Parkhill

SGA President Kristina Pelly speaks out

By KRISTINA PELLY
Special to the Shield

Looking back on these past four years, I have had nothing but a smooth journey. I began attending USI in the fall of 2004. At that point, I went through recruitment and became a sister in Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority. I met amazing women who helped me make a smoother transition from home into college life. As I sit here now, I realized that I would not have excelled without my sisters. I became a

member of Student Government Association my freshman year. I was an Associate Justice on the University Court. Since then, I have held a variety of offices from Executive Clerk to President.

If it wasn't for my Alpha Sigma Alpha sisters, I would have never ran for President of Student Government Association. Being President of the student body is anything but easy. I dealt with both student and faculty concerns, on top of trying to graduate. My experience as President has been very enlightening. I feel

that I have become more of a well rounded person and learned so much about politics, more than my political science major has taught me.

I would recommend to all students to be involved as much as you can throughout your college career. It will be stressful at times, but it makes you learn how to better manage your time and become a well rounded individual. Although one door has closed, another has opened for me. I feel confident in leaving SGA in the hands of the new officers.

Best of luck, students.

From the editor's desk... Final thoughts from the Chief

By BRANDI WEYER
Editor in Chief

I met my friends for drinks every Wednesday night since the beginning of this school year. It was our time to relax from the daily battles of what we call life and to celebrate another issue of *The Shield* (I celebrated anyway) put to bed.

The Shield issues acted as my personal countdown to graduation. From the beginning of this year, I oversaw the production of 29 issues, one issue per week, with the exception of some mishaps that occurred in September. These mishaps occurred for the simple reason the whole staff was new, and no one had a clue to what they were doing.

I sent one after the other to the printers, and each time, I heard the fear of these questions: Did I catch everything? Does it look presentable? Who will complain this time?

There are always mistakes you overlooked at three in the morning on a quark file, and you shrug it off. As hard as it is to just shrug it off, you have to because you are reminded by those who choose not to participate in *The Shield* and criticize your every move, but not tell you how to fix the problem. Regardless of useless criticism, I always say to myself after sending another issue to the printers: I could have done better.

And of course, every senior goes through this sentimental reflection period the weeks upon graduation: What could I have done better? Do I have any regrets?

I know of many things I could have done better. I could have not cut myself off completely from physical activity except for walking to and fro from the refrigerator to the couch, and the one not to tell the parents (not drank so much beer). This is how one gains the freshman 40 and keeps it. It is the gift that keeps on giving.

I could have studied more. I always said "I'm going to get a 4.0 this time." Has it happened? Almost, but then I decided to go out. Which led to my next problem: went out too much.

I must admit I do not hold much will power when it comes to turning down a night out on the town. The second someone asks me what I'm doing, I quickly do an analysis in my head, which always starts with I could always do that 10 page paper in the morning...

To answer the second question, do I have any regrets? No. I know all of my "do betters" are directly linked to my Wednesday night outings. But as long as I was having fun, who the f*** cares. I still made it on time.

And for those getting ready to graduate in the next couple of years, live it up because this is the only time in your life you will not be under your parents' supervision and a mortgage to pay at the same time.

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SHOWTIMES FOR MAY 9 - 15
FRI-SUN EARLY MATINEES IN [BRACKETS]
REBELT (R) [10:40a] 1:10 4:20 7:00 10:05
SPEED RACER (PG) [10:30a] 12:30 1:00 1:30
3:30 4:00 4:40 6:30 7:15 7:45 9:30 10:15 10:40
WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13) [11:50a] 1:50
2:30 4:30 5:10 6:50 7:30 9:20 9:50
IRON MAN (PG-13)
[11:00a] 12:40 1:15 1:45 2:20 3:40 4:10 4:50
5:20 6:40 7:05 7:40 8:15 9:40 10:00 10:30,
No 7:05 Thursday, May 15
MADE OF HONOR (PG-13)
[11:30a] 2:10 5:00 7:50 10:20
BABY MAMA (PG-13)
[10:50a] 1:20 4:15 6:45 9:45
HAROLD & KUMAR: ESCAPE (R)
2:00 5:15 8:00 10:25
88 MINUTES (R) 2:15 5:30 8:05 10:35,
No 5:30 8:55 Wednesday, May 14
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R)
1:40 4:45 7:20 10:10
NIN'S ISLAND (PG) 12:50 3:50 7:20 9:10,
No 6:20 9:10 Thursday, May 15

RAMBO: FIRST BLOOD (R)
THURSDAY, MAY 15 - 7:30PM - ALL SEATS \$10
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Congratulations, Shield staff!
Best of luck to Brandi, Brooklyn, Christina, Jordan, Lauren and Ryan for their unwavering commitment at the office.

Dennis, Rob and Pete,
Congratulations on making it through college and the best of luck in your future career.
Fraternally,
Sigman Pi

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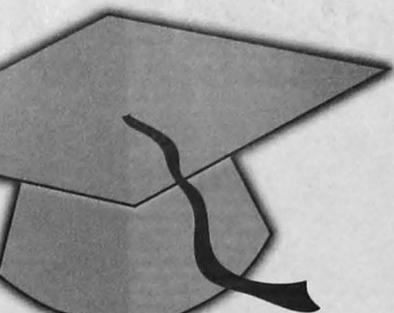
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 Britney Lynn Scott, Evansville
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 Andrew Brian Smith, Evansville
 David Michael Smith, Magnat
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 Joshua R. Staples, Portage
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