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The SHIELD

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BULLETIN BOARD SPARKS CONTROVERSY

Black History Month message draws students' concern

By **SETH GRUNDHOEFER**
News editor

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 bulletin 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: 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 RAs, 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.

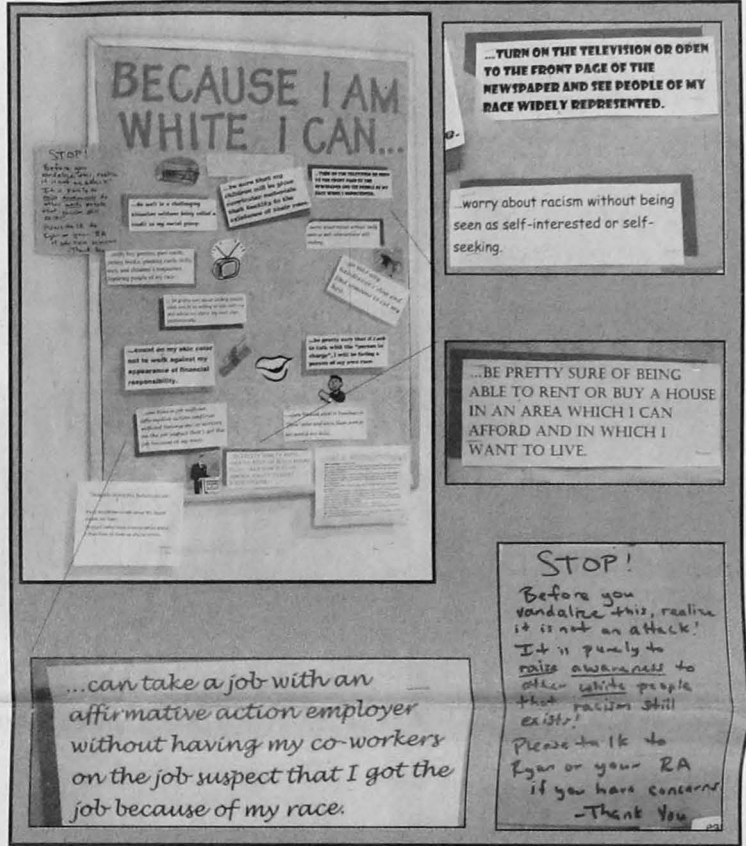
Due to the controversial nature of the bulletin board and the complaints that followed, Hopson and Thomas hosted an open discussion in O'Bannon Hall's multi-cultural room on Wednesday. Despite the concerned emails and phone calls, 12 people attended the discussion.

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.



"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



"It is something we do not take lightly," said Annie Krug, vice president of advancement. The maintenance crew spent long hours of preparing the campus for classes to start on time on Wednesday.

Maintenance cleans up USI after snow storm

By **ANTHONY PATE**
TheShield staff

USI closed campus Tuesday. This was the first time in at least ten to 15 years during school operating hours due to the weather conditions, said Annie Krug, vice president of advancement.

On Dec. 24, 2004, USI canceled a men's basketball game, but it did not interrupt the everyday procedures of the campus.

"It is something we do not take lightly," Krug said.

Short-handed maintenance and grounds crews still managed to clear roads, parking lots and walkways on campus during the ice storm that swept over the tri-state region this week.

Miles Mann, director of facility operations, said 23 people made it to help Monday night, but not everybody could show up. He said the responsibility usually falls to grounds crew to keep the walkways clear, but maintenance people usually help in situations such as this just because it gets things done quicker.

"Some people live in Illinois or Rio and some in Hatfield. So they just couldn't make it," Mann said in regards to the shortage of workers. He also said he specifically requested help from three different contracting companies to help. Deig Brothers Co., Lichtenberger Co. and Blankenberger all donated services and equipment to the

tune of two front loaders, three backhoes and pretreatment of the roads.

The priority is roads, parking lots and walkways to buildings.

"Once you get on campus we really try to get at least one path to each building," Mann said referring to the fact that campus ground crews cannot clear the on-ramps to campus because they are owned by the county.

"As time is available we try to clear more walkways to entrances," Mann said.

Mann said if it wasn't for people like Steve Selby, Motor Vehicle Operations supervisor, who kept the vehicles used to clear the roads running, the

maintenance and ground crews couldn't have done their jobs as well. Some student had differing opinions about how the roads and walkways were cleared.

Nijat Majidli, an international student from Turkey, lives in Newman Hall said in some spots it is clear and others it is not.

"On some places I had to walk on the road, but mostly it's clean on campus," Majidli said.

Marielle Scheid, a sophomore theatre major who lives in The Hanly apartment building, said she thinks the ground crews did a good job.

"Everything is clear except for the stairways," Scheid said.

Alert system performs during severe weather

"We're always exploring ways to improve as technology becomes more and more advanced."

- **Stephen Woodall**
Director of Security

USI uses alert system twice this semester both to warn and inform

By **ANDREW FOSTER**
The Shield staff

The USI text messaging alert system performed its first test when it was used to warn the USI community of approaching severe weather on Jan. 29.

Director of security Stephen Woodall said that the system was activated when tornado watches were announced in Vanderburgh county. The system can be activated by the president and vice president of the university, Woodall himself or a security official he designates.

"I got it [the text message] and I live in the northeastern side of the county," Woodall said.

The Jan. 29 storms did expose some drawbacks to the new system. Megan Wichman, a junior studying Social Work, originally signed up for the service at the advice of her mother. Wichman received the text message 45 minutes after it was sent and after most of the severe storm activity had left the area.

She blames bad cell phone reception during the storm for the delay.

"I don't feel it was the university's fault," Wichman said.

Woodall said that differing locations on campus and differing cell phone services could lead to delays in getting text messages during an emergency, but students and faculty shouldn't rely totally on the text messaging system to get emergency information. Woodall said that sirens, weather radios, Eagle TV messaging and other means are all good ways of receiving emergency information on campus.

"In cases where we think it would be absolutely necessary, we can send our staff around," Woodall said.

Woodall said that better training can improve the implementation of the system in the future. His department is also looking into other alert systems that could make the campus a safer place.

"We're always exploring ways to improve as technology becomes more and more advanced," Woodall said.

The text message system was also implemented during snow storms on Monday, and informed the USI community of the cancellation of classes for Tuesday.

USI's budget depends on 'its own needs'

By **SABRIA DUGHAISH**
The Shield staff

Many factors determine how much money each college of the University of Southern Indiana receives. The five colleges within USI include: College of Business, Bower-Suhrheinrich College of Education and Human Services, Pott College of Science and Engineering, College of Liberal Arts and College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Some of the colleges do receive more money than others and certain majors are given more

than another. It does not matter if one college has more majors or minors than another. Each of the colleges' budgets is based on its own needs for that particular year.

The amount of money a college or program receives can vary year to year. The Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer Mark Rozewski said the dividing of the budget depends on certain things such as equipment that is needed in a certain program.

Also, if a larger amount of students are enrolled in a college than the previous year, it may require the university to hire new

faculty.

There are also some programs that are essentially more expensive than others. Chemistry is going to be more expensive because of the equipment it requires compared to another major like English or history. "Because each of the colleges has different needs and these needs tend to vary in cost, it is expected that differing levels of funding allocation will occur," said David Glassman, dean of college of liberal arts.

USI's annual budget is not only divided among the colleges

but in other areas such as library services, honors program, academic services, university division, choir programs, the university's radio station and more services, programs and activities within USI.

The tuition students pay each year is a part of USI's annual budget. The majority, however, comes from the state of Indiana.

Usually the tuition goes up each year because the number of students in attendance is larger and because of this the state will give more money to the university.

Other reasons for the increase

to the budget include raising employee's salary every year and rising insurance rates.

One area is the price of gasoline that usually rises every year. Rozewski said there are over 100 vehicles on campus that are in operation and that must receive a certain amount of the budget to be able to run.

"The annual budget process at USI is conducted openly and I believe is extremely fair. Each of the colleges and other university units on campus are provided equal opportunity to present the needs and budgetary requests of

their respective units. The dean of the five colleges at USI and each others needs. We, the deans, do not view the USI budgeting process as a competition, but rather a process that seeks to improve the learning opportunities for all of our students throughout the university," Glassman said.

Nursing program works with VCCF

By **DANI PALMER**
The Shield staff

The College of Nursing and Health Professions is currently participating in a program involving the Vanderburgh County Correctional Facility (VCCF), said Mayola Rowser, grant project coordinator and instructor of nursing.

The college has a five-year collaborative agreement with the VCCF and the Community Health Center. It is funded through a five-year grant from the Department of Human Health and Services and Health Professions Bureau. Through the grant, nursing and health professions faculty and students get to provide supplemental health care for the inmates at the VCCF.

The objective of the project is to provide supplemental health care and health education to the inmates, to provide case management or health care referrals for the inmates and to provide students with an opportunity to deliver health care services in a diverse environment.

The undergraduate nursing students participating in the pro-

See 'NURSING' on Page 8

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CAMPUS CALENDAR

Thursday, February 14, 2008

The Clothesline Project at USI
9:00 AM- 4:00 PM
Under the UC Bridge
Basic Orientation Plus-Refresher
3:00- 7:30 PM
University Conference Center (Room 204)

The Termination of Procrastination
4:00- 4:30 PM
Education Center (ED 1102)

USI Men's/Women's Basketball hosts Rockhurst University
5:15 PM
Physical Activities Center
Center for Communal Studies Lecture Series
7:00 PM
Kleymeyer Hall
USI Theatre Presents Twelve Angry Jurors
7:00 PM
Mallette Studio Theatre
The Vagina Monologues
7:00 PM
Carter Hall

Friday, February 15, 2008

Basic Orientation Plus
8:00 AM- 3:00 PM
University Conference Center (Room 204)

Faculty Senate Meeting
3:00 PM
Education Center (Room 0138)

International Club Meeting
4:30 PM
Ruston Hall (Multipurpose room)

USI Theatre Presents Twelve Angry Jurors
8:00 PM
Mallette Studio Theatre
APB Friday Night Live: Comedian Loni Love
8:00 PM
University Center (Eagle's Nest)

Saturday, February 16, 2008

Keep Evansville Beautiful Clean-Up
8:00- 10:00 AM
Westside Starbucks
Math Skills for the SAT
9:00 AM- 3:00 PM
Education Center (Room 2112)

USI Men's/ Women's host Drury University
1:00 PM
Physical Activities Center
USI Theatre Presents Twelve Angry Jurors
8:00 PM
Mallette Studio Theatre

Sunday, February 17, 2008

USI Theatre Presents Twelve Angry Jurors
2:00 PM
Mallette Studio Theatre
Catholic Mass
8:30- 9:30 PM
Liberal Arts Center (Room 0101)

Basic Orientation Plus-Refresher
8:00 AM- 12:30 PM
University Conference Center (Room 204)

Monday, February 18, 2008

Basic Orientation Plus-Refresher
8:00 AM- 12:30 PM
University Conference Center (Room 204)

College of Business Alumni in Residence Program
9:00- 9:50 AM
Carter Hall

Study Abroad Information Center
11:00 AM
University Center (Room 215)

Using Windows
6:00- 9:00 PM
Forum Wing-Wright Admn. Bldg. (Room 46)

Japanese Bunraku Puppetry Performance
6:00 PM
Carter Hall

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Improve Your Reading Speed
4:00- 4:30 PM
Education Center (Room 1102)

Toastmasters Meeting
4:30- 5:30 PM
Robert D. Orr Center (Room 2011)

CPMPTIA Network + Certification
5:30- 8:30 PM
Forum Wing-Wright Admn. Bldg. (Room 47)

Effectively Navigating Meetings and Presentations
6:00- 9:00 PM
University Conference Center (Room 201)

Spring Film Series: Safety Last
6:00 PM
Forum Wing-Wright Admn. Bldg. (Forum I)

One World Film Series: Enemies of Happiness
7:00 PM
Liberal Arts Center (Room 101)

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Computers for the Home
2:30- 4:00 PM
University Conference Center (Room 214)

Improving Your Time Management
4:00- 4:30 PM
Education Center (Room 1102)

Activities Programming Board Meeting
4:30- 5:15 PM
University Center (Room 203-204)

Habitat for Humanity Meeting
5:00 PM
University Center (Room 206)

USI Economics and Finance Club
5:00- 6:00 PM
Robert D. Orr Center (Room 2027)

USI Theatre Presents Twelve Angry Jurors
7:00 PM
Mallette Studio Theatre
Global Community Mardi Gras Celebration
7:30 PM
Ruston Hall (Multipurpose Room)

SPECTRUM MEETING
9:00- 10:00 PM
David L. Rice Library (Room 0012)

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Clinton vs. Obama:

Who can beat McCain?

By **KYLE KNIGHT**
The Shield staff

With the democratic primary race gearing up for a heated finale, many continue to ask whether Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama can beat the likely Republican nominee John McCain. The race between Obama and Clinton galvanized democratic voters on Tuesday, and three million more voters turned out for democratic primaries than the republican. In Missouri alone, the democratic primary witnessed a 70 percent higher turnout than the republican.

With Clinton's narrow lead over Obama, the democratic race might not end with the Convention in Denver. One key factor in this year's election concerns the independent vote. As President John Zogby, of the famous Zogby International polls stated, "the rise of the independent voter coincides with a dramatic increase in the level of distrust in the current political system." The ability to sway independent voters stands as an important key to a successful change in leadership, and with Clinton's emphasis on politicking, a Clinton nomination will only serve as a detriment to the Democratic Party.

Obama's rhetoric and policies have brought independent voters in record numbers to his side, especially in traditionally republican states. For instance Obama won over 60 percent of the independent vote in Utah and managed to win the independent vote in Arizona, despite losing to Clinton. In other traditional republican states, such as Alaska and Idaho, Obama carried a three to one margin in Alaska and a two to one in Idaho. Overall, Obama won nine of the 13 red states on February 5.

Even when Obama lost in states like New York and California, he still beat Hillary among independent voters. Obama beat her by 15 percent in New York and over 30 percent in California, further proving his appeal among those straddling the fence even in democratic states.

Not only does Obama sway independents but voters 18 to 24 also strongly support him. In Tennessee the youth vote quadrupled and in Georgia it tripled. Although Obama lost Tennessee, he carried over 53 percent of the youth vote, and over 70 percent in Georgia. Many young adults who could not vote in 2004 becoming eligible this year, the youth vote constitutes an important part of the vote leading to the white house.

However, Obama has shown poorly with the Latino population, especially in California. This brings to mind another point highlighting the desperation of the Clinton campaign and its willingness to resort to lowbrow campaign tactics. A pollster for Clinton made the erroneous statement in the New Yorker that "the Hispanic voter has not shown a lot of willingness or affinity to support black candidates." Los Angeles Times columnist, Gregory Rodriguez pointed out that in Los Angeles three of the heaviest Latino populated areas have black congressional representatives, and five black members of the United States House represent areas with Latino populations over 25 percent.

Such ridiculous statements highlight Clinton's attempts to manipulate political perceptions. The Clinton campaign even continues to play the race card after her husband's remark, "Jesse Jackson won South Carolina in '84 and

'88," to downplay the significance of the heated battle.

Throughout Clinton's run as a Senator and her presidential campaign her efforts illustrate status quo politics unwilling to take a decisive stand when necessary. You can see examples of this in her vote for the war in Iraq, her vote for the Senate resolution threatening war with Iran, her decision to take over a million dollars from registered lobbyists.... do I need to continue.

One more thing I forgot to mention. She chose to campaign in Florida and Michigan after the national democratic party chose to stand in opposition to the states for moving up the dates of their primaries. These tactics highlight a figure more concerned with the appearance of winning than respecting the wishes of her party, which Obama did.

With Obama winning one primary and two more caucuses on Saturday, the Clinton ship shows signs of wear and tear. Another telling fact includes the \$5 million loan she took out to keep her campaign afloat, while Obama produced over \$32.5 million.

An Obama nomination would present a strong contrast to a McCain presidency which would ensure an indefinite stay in Iraq. Obama stands in stark opposition to the hawkish Clinton, whose voting record for the war could only point out the inconsistency of her policy. Also this month, the Pew Research Center conducted a survey that found 80 percent of Republicans dislike the idea of Bill Clinton back in the White House. Not only will her voting record present problems in a general election, but her husband's presence could only scare more moderate republicans away.

If America wants a leader to represent some degree of change, Obama's willingness to question the loosely created reasons for invading Iraq serves as an example of his decision making skills under pressure. People continue to forget this key difference between Obama and Clinton, and should remember this when deciding who to support. While Clinton ran around spouting Al Qaeda's presence in Iraq, Obama attended an antiwar rally to call attention to those deceitful and destructive claims. With the broken system of health care and other important domestic issues taking precedence, none of them will matter if another hawkish president takes us into another war.

Bush budget makes big promises

By **J.J. LUTZ**
The Shield staff

President Bush's new budget offers great news for today's college graduates. Apparently, the budget will be balanced and the Iraq war will be over by 2012. I draw this hopeful conclusion based on the administration's newly submitted budget proposal, which includes \$515.4 billion for the pentagon, none of which is earmarked for Iraq.

Not only will the budget be balanced, there will even be a \$61 billion surplus. That amount is far less than the \$160 billion surplus President Clinton left for George Bush, but hey, we'll take what we can get.

There are a few obstacles to achieving the predictions outlined in the President's budget but our representatives in Washington are highly competent people, and I'm sure they will all work together to overcome any problems that arise.

The first obstacle is the obvious conflict between the administrations stated aims of keeping a U.S. presence in Iraq and the reality of that presence not being funded by the budget. The administration doesn't really believe we will be out of Iraq by 2012. They just don't include the cost of the war because it is being funded with emergency allocations that don't show up in the budget until after the fact. For instance, when Bush made his 2008 budget forecast, he projected a \$239 billion budget. Once supplemental requests were factored in, the actual deficit was \$410 billion.

Another problem with the proposed budget is that it continues the government's practice of using the social security surplus as regular tax income. Without that surplus, the proposed budget actually goes into deficit.

Congress has consistently allowed the theft of social security surpluses over the years. They essentially take the money and leave an IOU in its place.

Now that the baby boom generation is beginning to retire, the bill is coming due and the government doesn't have the money to pay up. I'd really like to see somebody fix that.

Many politicians, especially Republican presidential candidates, blame the social security system for future budget woes. Many baby boomers, having paid into social security their entire lives, believe the money to pay for social security would be available if the government hadn't stolen it. I blame it on illegal immigrants. From what I hear, they are the ones causing most of our nations problems.

Bush's budget proposal also assumes that many taxpayers will be hit with the new alternative minimum tax that is scheduled to take place after 2008. Many in Washington want to stop that tax from ever taking effect.

Further complicating the issue are Bush's tax cuts for upper income individuals, which are projected to cost \$1.6 trillion over 10 years. The administration claims that it would cause great harm to the economy should Congress fail to extend the cuts.

Personally, I can't figure out why, if Bush's tax cuts are so good for the economy, the economic outlook has declined during the years in which they have been in effect. Even so, I remain confident that the administration's predictions are correct because I know the President wouldn't lie to us.

Six years ago, the administration promised that Iraqi oil revenues would pay for the war. Perhaps the administration believes those revenues will finally make their long-awaited debut. That would be awesome.

Meanwhile, it's nice to know that the war will soon end and there will be a budget surplus coming as early as 2012. Maybe it will even grow large enough to rescue the social security trust fund. I'd like that because I'm a member of the baby boom generation, and I want my money.

Both sides of the green

By **NICK BURCHOLAZ**
The Shield staff

By no means am I an expert in the economic sense, but with so much talk being thrown about concerning how detrimental I feel people are formulating hasty opinion about Bush's decision to tack on some extra figures to tax refunds. Do these people know economic responsibilities rest not only with a bunch of old white guys making up less than .05 percent of our population? Believe it or not, our economy can be affected by all Americans rich or poor. It can be said that most of the national debt is not a cause of the average American citizen, and it doesn't seem printing off more money we don't have, decreasing the value of the dollar is a good idea.

Consider a family of six, the father unable to work for several months because of an injury or because he got laid off, he is unable to collect much in workman's compensation or unemployment but he then receives an extra \$1,200 on his tax return. This is money making up for his missed work. It is ultimately a godsend for him to make his house payment, car payment or pay on his children's education.

When one speaks to individuals such as this everyday in a line of work, such as my own, in sales, one can begin to slowly put together a puzzle of why hard-working people in this country need a little extra boost financially and in spirit.

Consider the 60 year-old woman still working who just lost her husband. Her income is laughable; she can barely pay for her medication much less her husband's funeral expenses. She looks in the mail and finds her tax return with an extra \$1,200 added onto it. She can make sure her loved one has a proper burial, she can buy gifts for her grandchildren and maybe even have a little left over to do something she enjoys. Is this not beneficial?

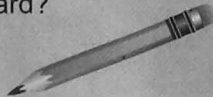
Pointing fingers at the government does no good ladies and gentlemen, when a large percent of people in this country can't control how they spent their own money. No matter how much money they have; they cannot keep within their own limits. Certain people are so bad; they have to hire someone to put a governor on how they utilize their money. To be realistic, an extra \$600 or \$1,200 on tax returns for an individual or a family in America is not likely to single-handedly save the economy, but it will be beneficial for a great number of people in our country.

Letter to the Editor

Want to have your voice heard?

Send us a letter!

Voice your opinion! Send us an e-mail at shield@usi.edu



To Whom It May Concern

I want to express my disappointment in the university's decision to insult me, and no doubt, numerous others, by not considering the travel hazards of all its students.

Certainly, once I get to the main thoroughfare, I will have no problems, however, playing pin-ball with my vehicle on the way down a 30 degree, ice covered gradient, flanked by both parked cars and fallen neighbors who failed to make it back up the hill, does not seem like a reasonable plan.

I don't live out in the sticks, either. I live in the heart of the West Side, on Reitz Hill above Barker and below Drier Blvd. I have two ways out: one is blocked by a downed tree, and the other is the slope I described above.

I have no doubt there are countless situations like this, as well as scores that are certainly much worse, but it seems that all of our safety as well as the safety of our vehicles, does not really matter to the decision makers at USI.

Sincerely,
Matt Meeler

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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GUEST COMMENTARIES

The Shield is a designated public forum. Signed opinions are published to provide diverse viewpoints and to encourage debate on issues important to the university community. Such commentaries represent the views of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper.

Oscars 2008: ...a horrific hypothetical

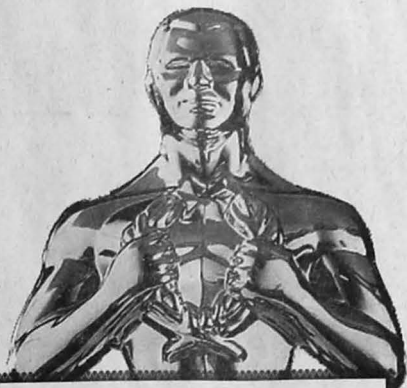
By JON WEBB
Et Cetera editor

Let's embark on a thought experiment. A true democracy actually exists. The whims of the general public rule supreme and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences derives its Oscar nominations solely from the top-grossing films of the year.

With only *Spiderman 3*, *Shrek 3*, *Transformers*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *300*, *Ratatouille*, *The Simpsons Movie* and *Wild Hogs* with which to work, the Academy hunkers-down and allows a select group of filmmakers to ascend to greatness.

Removed from consideration are the too-violent (*No Country For Old Men*), too-British (*Atonement*), too-emo (*Juno*), too-Clooney (*Michael Clayton*) and the too-fantastic (*There Will Be Blood*).

After careful considerations, the nominees are:



Best Picture

- Spiderman 3*
- Shrek 3*
- Transformers*
- Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*
- Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

Best Actor

- Tim Allen, *Wild Hogs*
- Martin Lawrence, *Wild Hogs*
- John Travolta, *Wild Hogs*
- William H. Macy, *Wild Hogs*
- Ray Liotta, *Wild Hogs*

Best Actress

- Cameron Diaz, *Shrek 3*
- Kirsten Dunst, *Spiderman 3*
- ...that one girl in that one shot, *300*
- Nancy Cartwright (Bart Simpson), *The Simpsons Movie*
- Julia Stiles, *The Bourne Ultimatum*

Best Director

- Michael Bay, *Transformers* (uncontested)

The Hollywood Elite descends upon Los Angeles' Kodak Theatre, dressed comfortably in semi-formal wear.

Ron Weasley rubs freckled elbows with presenter Lindsey Lohan. Host Larry the Cable Guy hilariously laments the exclusion of his film *Witless Protection* from the nominees, and demands the Academy do their best next time to just "finish it."

(Editor's note: quote altered due to grammar)

Later in his monologue, Mr. Cable Guy wonders how a funny movie with an environmental theme (*The Simpsons Movie*) snuck into the ceremony.

"Now, I didn't know 'dat Al Gore fella' voted on these pictures," he says, adding, "finish it."

(Editor's note: quote partly made up due to its garbled delivery)

The lights dim, and delighted television audiences sink into their sofa, finally free of the old Oscar format, which rewarded the critically acclaimed, artistically excellent, good films.

Newsweek.com columnist Marc Peyster can no longer gripe about the Academy nominating films no one "cares about."

The film-going public can finally feel justified in their decisions. As the producers of the Best Picture saunter off stage at the end of the broadcast, and Larry waves his flannelled goodnight, America falls asleep, finally content.

Sure, under this scenario, creativity would be rendered useless and film critics everywhere would shove their teary heads into ovens, but so what?

At last, the average and amateurs would control the Oscars - like YouTube, Wikipedia and the Bush Administration before it.



- Oprah - ...and her brain-washing books

By BRANDI WEYER
Editor in Chief

Attention all housewives and soccer moms: *A New Earth, Awakening to Your Life's Purpose*, Oprah's newest book initiated to the cult (I mean club) involves more participation than a reservation on a scantily dusted bookshelf.

This time, trophy wives, the reading is required (no cheating) because Oprah and the author of *A New Earth* Eckhart Tolle, will join forces in the creation of weekly Monday night class starting March 3.

This ten-week "webinar" will change your life. Oprah allowed me to try out the webinar for myself for a free consultation.

Below is a sample of my private interaction with Oprah that I kept in my "exclusive workbook," which comes included with the class.

Strangely, virtual Oprah wears a gypsy ensemble, speaks with a Caribbean accent and wants to predict my future.

Oprah: What is your question, my dear?

Me: I wanted to ask you, what is true and complete self-happiness?

Oprah: True and complete happiness for any woman comes with-in tending the household chores, raising the children and doing what the husband tells you to do. Those are the ultimate goals every woman should desire.

Me: Hmm, okay...but you do not have any children or a husband. Are you telling me that you are not fulfilled, that you are not happy?

Oprah: I am fulfilled because unlike you, I have money.

Me: Because you have money... Let me get this straight, I can only achieve true happiness if I allow a male to dominate my life, and have children...

Oprah: (interrupted) and take the time to watch Oprah everyday at 4:30 p.m.

Me: This is not free advertising, this is an interview!

Oprah: I have money, remember? Now go to sleep child (while hypnotizing me). Let Oprah show you the true meaning of happiness.

Me: (into a deep sleep with no recall of what happened since that point) *

Since the days following my interview and some extensive counseling, I got back into the swing of everyday life: class, school newspaper and working for a bookstore.

It was February 7, and I started my workday off by working the information desk, which is something I tend to enjoy because I would categorize myself as a people person.

The first customer I had that day came in with her husband and asked me if we still had that "Secrets" book, the about New Earth?"

I asked her innocently, "Secrets book?"

She said "Yeah, you know the one from Oprah? The Secret, or something?"

I started to sweat and became nervous. Just a coincidence, I told myself.

About three minutes passed, and I noticed a woman with a con-founded look on her face. I approached her and asked, "Can I help you find something?"

She looked up and with tears welded in her eyes she asked,

"Do you have anymore copies of New Earth?" Are you going to be getting any more over in?

I ran rampantly over to the computer—pulled up the book title onto the server—and my worse nightmare occurred: giving the pampered-housewife the worse news she could receive, "No, ma'am, we are currently not in the process of ordering anymore New Earth books for the store."

She caught my eyes and stared down into my soul.

As she put one hand on her hip and tapped her foot, she stated, "I think you should because there is going to be a class, Oprah is teaching it."

Then, I realized they were everywhere.

About one out of every five customers at the bookstore demand "the one from Oprah. Do you know it?"

No, I don't know it.

So, here's to you Oprah (with my glass of Riesling held high) and your brainwashed f***ing viewers.

Writer's strike update: *Dance War* and the after effects

By JON WEBB
Et Cetera editor

The writer's strike - which began when members of the Writers Guild of America ceased work on November 5, crippling the production of new, scripted television material - has ended.

92 percent of the Guild voted on Tuesday to vacate the picket line and return to their jobs after negotiations with Hollywood studio executives yielded a three-year contract.

The new contract will provide increased earnings to writers for material airing on the Internet and through cell phones.

As with other disasters, the effects of the strike cannot be seen clearly through its own lens.

So, no longer burdened by the strike, let us finally take a clear look at the most hideous, smelliest

chunk of episodic-feces to gurgle to the surface during this flushed away television season:

ABC's *Dance War*: Bruno vs. Carrie Ann.

In this spin-off of *Dancing With the Stars* (a phrase which makes me doubt the Bible) two "famous" choreographers - Bruno Tonioli and Carrie-Ann Inaba - each pick a team of auditioning singers/dancers and compete against each other.

Viewers possessing truckloads of free time vote for their favorite team through text messages.

The losing team must go on sans a member, and the winning team glows with an unearned sense of accomplishment, trying to forget the fact their new sense of pride came courtesy of a dance competition.

"But," a bewildered, sane

human may ask, "how can the words 'dance' and 'war' make sense in the same sentence?"

They don't, and haven't made sense together since the heated 1938 dance-off between British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and Adolf Hitler, which Chamberlain ultimately lost, forcing him to concede Czechoslovakia to the well-groomed tyrant.

(Editor's note: a dance-off between Chamberlain and Hitler probably never happened. We do, however, stress the word probably, as we can't know what the two statesmen did or discussed behind closed doors.)

America's fixation on song-and-dance themed television doesn't make much sense, either.

Whether it be *Dance War*, *Dancing with the Stars* or the omnipresent *American Idol*, Americans can't shake their fasci-

nation with shows celebrating dance and karaoke, actions normally performed by your average drunkard.

Since November 5, reality TV became television executives' only medication for the wound left by the writer's strike.

During January, however, ratings for the four major networks - NBC, ABC, CBS and FOX - dropped 9 percent compared to the same period of time in 2007.

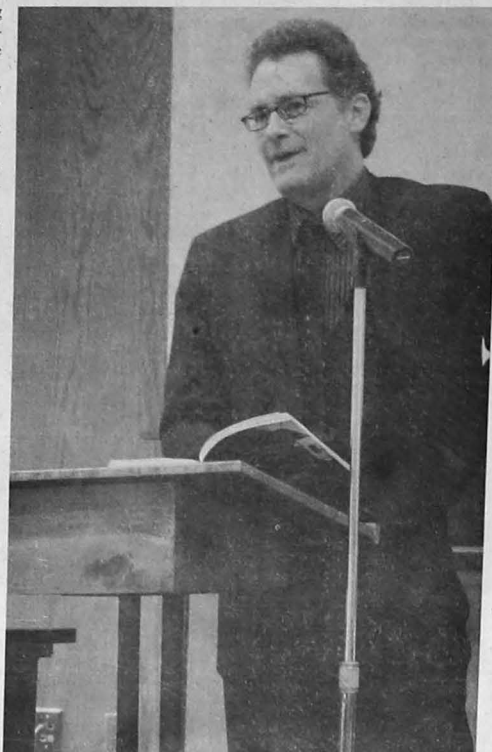
This dip in interest could maybe, just maybe, cause a return to dominance for scripted television.

If the 100 days of the writer's strike could possibly lead to the unceremonious death of trifle like *Dance War*, then it was totally worth it.

Ben Eagle by Mathew New



Ropewalk reading



English professor and director of the creative writing program Matthew Graham reads poems from his most recent book *A World Without End* on February 7 at the year's first Ropewalk Reading. During the reading, Graham also paid tribute to his late friend/poet Liam Rector.

Photo by Richie Krockner

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Please see next week's issue for the Sudoku answers!

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SHOWTIMES FOR FEBRUARY 14 - 21
FRI-MON EARLY MATINEES IN [BRACKETS]

DEFINITELY, MAYBE (PG-13)
[10:00am] 12:45 3:30 6:30 9:30

JUMPER (PG-13) [10:25am - 11:40am] 12:40 2:10 3:00
4:50 5:20 7:10 7:50 9:40 10:10

THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG) [10:20am 11:00am]
1:00 1:30 3:30 4:10 6:10 6:40 8:00 9:30

STEP UP 2: THE STREETS (PG-13)
[11:10am] 2:00 5:00 7:40

HANNAH MONTANA/MILEY CYRUS:
BEST OF BOTH WORLDS CONCERT (G) In Disney Digital 3-D
[11:50am] 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

FOOL'S GOLD (PG-13)
[10:00am] 12:45 2:30 6:30 9:45

WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG-13)
[10:50am] 1:50 4:30 7:20 10:05

STRANGE WILDERNESS (R) *8:00 10:35
*No 8:00 Thursday February 21

THE EYE (PG-13) [11:30am] 2:30 5:10 8:05 10:30

MEET THE SPARTANS (PG-13) [10:10am - 12:20] 12:40
*5:30 *No 10:10am 12:20 2:40 Saturday February 16;
*No 12:20 2:40 5:30 Sunday February 17;
*No 5:30 Thursday February 21

UNTRACEABLE (R) 7:45 10:25

27 DRESSES (PG-13) [10:30am] 1:10 3:45 6:45 10:00

THE BUCKET LIST (PG-13)
[11:20am] 1:45 4:45 7:15 10:15

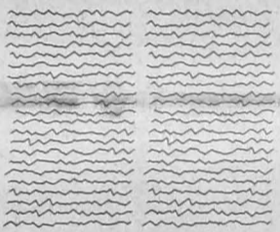
JUNO (PG-13) [11:15am] 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:10

NATIONAL TREASURE 2 (PG) 1:20 4:20 7:30 10:20

ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) [10:15am 12:30] 2:40 5:15

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9. Answers are located on the lower right-hand corner of this page.

9			7			4	1	5
6		4	9					
2			8	5			9	
						6	2	7
		6		2		9		
1	7	2						
	6				3	8		4
						5	1	9
4	3	1			9			8

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- College Publisher Network, May 2007



Thursday, February 14, 2008

Professors beat the winter blues

By LANA KUNZ
The Shield staff

Transfers from colder climates found a great way to cure boredom and stay fit in Evansville during the winter months.

Matthew Graham, associate professor of English, has been involved with the Tri-State Amateur Hockey Association for about two years. He plays with Steven Williams, associate professor of Sociology, on the gray team in the B league, which according to the association's website is the league for someone planning to go to work the next day.

The positions in hockey are similar to those in soccer, with three offensive players lead by a center that are backed up by two defenders and a goalie. Graham plays both right and left forward, but claims to prefer left since it matches his political leaning. Williams, as a more experienced player, plays all three positions. Unlike some hockey leagues the Tri-State Amateur Hockey Association prohibits body checking, fighting, tripping or any checking of another player's limbs.

Once Williams, known to the team as Captain Canada, moved to Evansville he was just happy to find that a hockey league existed and had good players. The league is a variety of ages, professions and genders. Ages of players range from 20 to 70 years-old, with the majority in their thirties and forties. Every-

when actually it's a sport of speed, agility, and beauty. Unfortunately, I'm slow and clumsy," said Graham.

Graham began playing Hockey at his high school in upstate New York, while Williams honed his skills while growing up in Canada.

The B league's game sched-

"The conception of hockey is that it is violent and thuggish when actually it's a sport of speed, agility, and beauty."

- Matthew Graham
associate professor of English

one from doctors to bricklayers are involved in the league. Frequently in intramural sports that are coed men avoid being rough with women players.

"Once in uniform I can't tell which players are females... there is a guy with a ponytail that I keep thinking is a woman," Graham said.

Both professors developed a fondness for the sport in their childhood.

"The conception of hockey is that it is violent and thuggish



USI professors Matthew Graham (left) and Steven Williams find time away from campus to compete in local intramural hockey league.

Photo by Richie Kroeger

Lady Eagles dominate Pumas

By MATTHEW STALLER
The Shield staff

The weather may be cold outside, but February 7 brought some hot shooting on USI's part. The Eagles (8-12, 3-9 GLVC) demolished St. Joseph's College (1-18, 0-12 GLVC) by a score of 72-24.

USI had just recently gone through a large losing streak, but going into the game, USI had to feel somewhat confident knowing that their opponent had won only one game on the season.

A plethora of numbers sticks out immediately after a game like this. St. Joseph's shot a brisk, 16 percent on the night, along with only eight total field goals made compared to USI's 26 total field goals.

USI started the game off hot, led by standout freshman Amie Newhart who had 15 on the night along with Brittany Darden who led all scorers with 19. The highest scorer for St. Joseph's College only managed a total of seven points overall along with a couple of rebounds.

Though the score was staggered and not close for the most

part, it was not the lowest amount of points USI had given up in its history. St. Joseph's output of 24 points tied for the second lowest amount of points USI had ever given up since 1976, when Kentucky Wesleyan managed an even weaker total of 17 points overall.

USI's win marked their first since January 12 against Lewis University. The Eagles will have won big, but knew that St. Joseph's College did not compare in any way, shape or form to that of their upcoming opponent, Indianapolis. The University of Indianapolis, who at the time had 16 wins, looked to bring their winning ways to USI in hopes of ruining homecoming.

Saturday, February 9, yet another heartbreaker for a USI team that struggles to find itself late in the season. The Eagles (8-13, 3-10 GLVC), who had swapped leads with Indianapolis (17-4, 9-4 GLVC) 14 times in the game, eventually fell just short 63-56.

USI started the game off with great looking shots throughout from the rising freshman Amie

Newhart. Newhart, who scored over 1,000 points in high school, has really made herself known as a serious threat for years to come. Three players, including Newhart, earned 41 points between them on the evening.

USI seemed to falter late in the game, when shots became harder and harder to come by. USI made only four shots compared to the Greyhounds' nine in the second half. For the most part, no one on USI seemed to be able to hit any hot streak and it showed up in the statistics. USI shot only 30 percent overall compared to the Greyhounds' 36 percent on the evening.

Inconsistent shooting woes have really plagued the Eagles this season late in many of their games. With USI having a small break until Valentine's Day, look for there to be no love shown on the court, when the Eagles look to take it to Rockhurst University. USI's next game is set for February 14th, at 5:15pm in the PAC.



Junior guard Brittany Darden watches her lay-up fall in the Lady Eagles' commanding victory over the Saint Joseph University Pumas. Darden scored 19 in last week's bout.

Photo by Anthony Pate



Sophomore forward George Cunningham pulls up for the jumper while USI cheerleaders root for victory. The Eagles struggled against Saint Joseph's University but found a win against the University of Indianapolis, 81-76.

Photo by Anthony Pate

Eagles split weekend in return to PAC

By GUY SCOTT
The Shield staff

The University Of Southern Indiana Men's Basketball team was back in action last week. On Thursday they played host to Saint Joseph's University. Unfortunately they struggled as a team and lost 57-75 in a game in which their first half struggles came back to haunt them.

They seemed to play better as a team in the second half, but it still wasn't enough. That's not what the Eagles had in had just coming off a huge road win the weekend before. With this being homecoming weekend they planned to come out with two victories. "People didn't play hard at all on Thursday," junior forward Anthony Pimble said.

Saturday the Eagles provided a different outcome. Led by seniors Tyson Schnitker and Norman Plummer, the Eagles brought victory back to the Physical Activities Center. The Eagles celebrated homecoming with an 81-76 victory over the

University of Indianapolis. Plummer led the way with 25 points and nine rebounds. Schnitker was right behind him with 23 points and a season best five rebounds.

"Tyson played real well for us in the first half, and Norm played well in the second," sophomore guard Drew Glover said.

The seniors also received nice contributions from junior forward Anthony Pimble and sophomore guard Darren Cloud with 14 and 10 points respectively. Pimble also helped Plummer in the rebounding column with six.

"Everybody worked harder on Saturday. We played together more. It was a good team effort," Pimble said. The Eagles raised their record to 12-9 overall and 6-7 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. USI is back in action this weekend when they hosts Rockhurst University on February 14 and 11th ranked Drury University on February 16.

Women's track team race for third in DePauw Invitational

By COLLEEN BINKLEY
The Shield staff

The USI women's track team traveled north this weekend to compete in the 2008 DePauw Indoor Invitational. With three first place finishes by freshman, Allison Laird, sophomore, Heather Cooksey, and sophomore, Meagan Scheidler, the Screaming Eagles score 92 points, placing them in third place overall.

In the 5000-meter run, Laird crosses the finish line after only

19:29.77, beating second place by 2.7 seconds. In the women's one mile run, USI had the top three finishes with Cooksey in first with a time of 5:08.30. Mary Ballinger and Christy Dixon followed with second and third place with times of 5:13.70 and 5:16.50. Scheidler placed first in the 3000-meter run beating DePauw's second place runner by 15.28 seconds.

The USI men's track team came in sixth place this weekend at the 2008 DePauw Indoor Invitational. Led by senior, Tris-

tan Mannix, the team was able to put 52 points on the board placing them only two and a half points behind Danville's fifth place.

Mannix scored ten points for his team in the men's one-mile run with the incredible time of 4:19.01. Freshman David Goodman was able to keep up with Mannix coming in at second place with a time of 4:23.92.

Mannix also placed second in the men's 1000-meter run, with a time of 2:38.73, scoring another eight points for the men's

team. Freshman, Cole Schroer was also able to help out the team in the men's 600-meter run. Coming in at fourth place, with a time of 1:28.34, Schroer gained five points for his team.

The men and women's indoor track teams will compete again this weekend at the Tyson Invitational in Fayetteville, Arkansas on Friday, and Saturday at the DePauw Classic.

Upcoming Events

Men's Basketball	
Thu., Feb. 14 - Rockhurst	7:30pm
Sat., Feb. 16 - Drury	3:15pm
Women's Basketball	
Thu., Feb. 14 - Rockhurst	5:15pm
Sat., Feb. 16 - Drury	1:00pm
Baseball	
Sat., Feb. 16 - Henderson State	12:00pm
Sun., Feb. 17 - Henderson State	12:00pm

International students share cultures at Food Expo

18 countries represented at the annual event

By S. CHAD SHOULDERS
The Shield staff

USI international students will share native cultures and customs with food and entertainment at the International Food Expo in Carter Hall Friday, February 22.

The annual event, hosted by the International Club in conglomeration with International Programs and Services, will bring this year's international week to a close.

Delicacies from 18 different countries, including two new additions: Costa Rica and Azerbaijan, are prepared and served by the stu-

dents themselves, said Andrea Barnard, program coordinator for International Programs and Services.

At the time of the event — from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. — The Loft will be closed as the food is prepared under the aid and supervision of Sodexo Chefs.

Barnard, who is new to the event after replacing Kristine Murray as coordinator in August, said that Sodexo Chefs have also been helping the students with recipes and with ordering ingredients.

"The students keep coming in about their recipes," Barnard said.

"I'm really excited to try all the food."

Some native cuisines include: New Year's dumplings from China, Costa Rican Chifrijo, Bratwurst and Kaisershamren from Germany, Butter Chicken Curry and Samosas from India; Calderita and Cassava Cake from Philippines and Fried rice balls from Taiwan.

Recipe books will be sold for \$5 at the door and the Office of Religious Life will sell genuine artifacts from third world countries where almost all proceeds are sent back to each item's original country.

In addition, a fashion show with native attire is scheduled and artifacts, literature and photographs will accompany each country's food booth, said Heidi Gregori-Gahan, director of the International Programs and Services.

A booth will also be set up where participants can have their

names written in Arabic, Japanese or Chinese.

Fifth and Six grade students from three area schools are also expected and will arrive at 10:00 a.m.

"It's just a wonderful way for our international students to really showcase their country and culture," Gahan said.

Over the last few years the event has sold out, said Gahan, and with 600 tickets available she recommends getting them early.

Tickets are \$10 at the door or can be purchased in advance for \$8 at the International Programs and Services office, located downstairs in the UC.

The International club will also be selling tickets from 11:00am to 1:00pm in the UC next to the Multicultural center February 19 through February 21.

The event is open to the public and a portion of the proceeds will go to Food for the Poor.

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Nursing continued from page 2

gram are third-year mental health students who go to the Vanderburgh County Correctional Facility for four weeks out of an eight-week course.

Community health students are at the facility only two to six times per semester because they have other clinical sights they must go to. Community health students also coordinate a health fair every semester at the Community Corrections Complex. Graduate family nurse practitioners are also involved, along with occupational therapist assistants, nutrition students and respiratory care students. Graduate students may only sign up two times per semester to work with the inmates.

"As far as this project goes, the

main goal is to deliver primary care services and then this allows our students to deliver health care in alternate types of clinical environments," said Rowser.

Faculty members are at the Vanderburgh County Correctional Facility three days per week spending up to seven hours at the facility. This is currently USI's seventh year working at the facility leaving only three years left in their second grant. The College of Nursing and Health Professions hopes to continue participation in the future.

"We feel like we provide a valuable service to the inmates thereas well as a valuable opportunity for our students," said Rowser.

2008 International Week

Celebrate the World!

Monday, 2/18

International Week Kick-Off Celebration -- Featuring Bunraku Japanese Puppetry Troupe

UC Carter Hall at 6:00 p.m.

A marionette puppet performance in the traditional Japanese artistic style. A reception will be held immediately following the performance.

Study Abroad Information Session

UC 215 at 11:00 a.m.

Explore the World and Discover Yourself! Come to learn about the many exciting study abroad possibilities USI has to offer. Don't miss out on refreshments and prizes!

Tuesday, 2/19

One World Film Series -- Featuring Enemies of Happiness

Keymeyer Hall at 7:00 p.m.

This film focuses on women's rights in Afghanistan and the first democratic election to happen in 30 years. Discussion following the film moderated by Professor Patty Aakhus.

Friday, 2/22

International Food Expo hosted by International Club

UC Carter hall 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Come taste the cultures of the world! Enjoy food, entertainment, and prizes. Crafts by the Work of Human Hands will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Please call International Programs at 465-1248 for tickets.

Monday, 2/18 - Friday, 2/22

Where in the World is Archibald Eagle? Trivia Contest

Identify the mystery location each day from somewhere in the world and enter for the chance to win a \$50 gift card.

USI 'Graced' From Kenya

By AMANDA PARKHILL
The Shield staff

Grace Ngumi left her home in Kenya to study occupational therapy at USI in January.

Ngumi attended school at Birithia Girls High School in the Othaya district in Kenya. Her most memorable experience was receiving an award for best actress for her performance in a play about abortion.

Before coming to the United States, Ngumi was a unit coordinator in the children's ward of the Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya. She said she enjoyed her work and had no complaints. However, transportation to and from work was difficult for her. She said it was smarter to use public transportation, because personal vehicles could be burned, stolen or possibly even stoned.

Ngumi left her 8-year-old daughter in the care of her parents while she attending USI. She said she has daily contact with her family. She said her daughter, Tamia Nyambura, is an outgoing girl

who enjoys dancing, reading and watching cartoons. She said Nyambura will often wake up early in the morning to read a novel. Her brother, David, is attending a college in Nebraska. She said she hopes to see him while she is here.

Ngumi said times are becoming hard for young people in Kenya. She said there are young homeless people called "street kids," and many of them "sniff glue." Ngumi said when the homeless kids ask her for money she takes them to a restaurant and buys them food rather than giving them cash. She said she would rather see them eat a meal than buy glue with her money.

"It's not about politics, it's about tribal policies," Ngumi said. She said the new generation will marry people from a different tribe. She said the government does not want ethnic interaction between tribes. Since the election results were released December 30 declaring Mwai Kibaki president, more than 1,000 people have died in violent acts, mostly in the Nairobi, Rift Valley, Nyanza,

Western and Coast provinces of Kenya.

It was difficult to make it to the United States because most of the offices, including the travel

agencies, were closed. Ngumi had to use contacts at the airport in order to obtain tickets for a flight. She said by using the contacts her ticket cost twice what it would have normally.

Heidi Gregori-Gahan, director of international programs and services at USI, said she expected Ngumi to be shy and timid, based on conversations she had with Ngumi's brother, David, prior to Ngumi's arrival. Gregori-Gahan said Ngumi is a confident mature woman that seems to be doing well at USI.

'It's not about politics, it's about tribal policies.'

- Grace Ngumi occupational therapy major

Ngumi said she enjoys cooking time at USI. She said she has time to read now. In Kenya, she would go to work and return home but did not have time to read. Ngumi said Gregori-Gahan has been a great influence on her during her time at USI. Ngumi and Gregori-Gahan e-mailed one another before her arrival to the United States.

Ngumi said she chose USI because it offered the program she wanted. Upon graduation she would like to return home and work with children. She said occupational therapists are in great demand in Kenya.



International Student, Grace Ngumi.

Photo courtesy of Grace Ngumi

Students from around the world attend USI

By KYLE KNIGHT
Special to the Shield

For some students the adjustment of moving hours away from family and friends can feel daunting. But moving thousands of miles away and tackling language and cultural differences presents an even more challenging situation for students.

This year USI's enrollment for international students reached over 100 for the first time. Each year new students from as far as China and Nepal make the journey for various reasons. Some choose the educational opportunities, while others simply seek a great adventure. Whatever their reason, the journey presents an arduous task filled with several hurdles. "Most students have mom and dad, but international students have to deal with government," said Timothy Mahoney an instructor of economics.

Both general and specific requirements exist to obtain a student visa. First, you must present a clean bill of health and have a law-abiding background. Next, you must prove your ability to support yourself financially while in America, and prove that you intend to leave once you have finished.

"The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, or USCIS, instructs international students to take as much evidence as possible to show that you have ties to your home country." Such evidence includes immediate family living in your country, ownership of property or a letter from a future employer. For Paul Rocton, a 20-year old international student from France, the whole process took over nine months and resulted in a five-to six hour wait for a 20-second interview.

Another important element is the Test of English as a Foreign Language, or TOEFL. Each student takes a test, comprised of four sections testing their language skills. One section even includes a speaking part where students answer questions about student life.

For Rocton, the journey began once he chose to major in international business. "I took the exam to start a political sciences school but failed," he said. "That's when I decided quite randomly to

degrees in three cycles. The first year or cycle students attend school and must complete 120 ECTS or European Credit Transfer System for a Diploma d'Etude Universitaire General. Paul completed his DEUG, which no longer exists as of the 2007-2008 academic year. After the first year, the student completes the une licence degree consisting of 180 ECTS, which leads to 300 ECTS for a un master.

Each class you take belongs to "un bloc" or a group of classes.

'This process is really complicated and may vary from one college to another and from one country to another.'

- Paul Rocton international student

start a foreign languages and international business degree. Probably one of my best random choices."

Rocton came to the United States after studying in Rennes France for over two years. His major strongly recommends studying abroad which led to studying in the states. Under the European Union the education systems for several countries have changed and will continue to change. The reason for the current changes, involves the ERASMUC exchange program. The program allows students from any country within the EU to go abroad for a semester or two. "Each country that belongs to the EU slowly changes its national system so a student could theoretically complete a degree attending two or three different colleges within the EU," Rocton said.

In France, the schools award

The group falls into three categories, the UEF, UEM or UEL, and each of these counts for a semester grade, and you can only fail in one. If you fail in more than two you can go on to your second year, but you must retake the exams. "This process is really complicated and may vary from one college to another and from one country to another," said Rocton.

While here, Rocton hopes to earn 60 ECTS. Since the credit systems differ, Rocton had to sign an education contract on a one-on-one basis to count for his degree. Once Rocton returns, a jury composed of instructors will judge his grades to decide whether the year he spent in the United States meets the expectations they have of the average student in France. "I took as a personal goal only getting As and Bs but it's not going to

improve significantly my existing French average," Rocton said.

In France, the range of the grading scale goes from 0 to 20. Generally 15 stands as a good, or even a very good grade. "The grading (here) is overall easier even though instructors do not have the same expectations as in France," Rocton said. Often classes in French universities only consist of a final exam and no chapter tests or midterms.

In other countries, even more striking educational differences exist. More than 22 students from Saudi Arabia attend USI. One of the students, 26-year-old

Faisal Aljaizani, came to the United States to study mechanical engineering. In Saudi Arabia, to earn a bachelor's or master's you must have mastered a foreign language; otherwise you simply earn a "diploma" or "high diploma." After earning his high diploma in a graduating class of 33, Aljaizani entered the workforce until the government sent him a letter offering a scholarship to study abroad. "After the government sent me the letter I quit my job because I wanted to earn a bachelor's degree," Aljaizani said.

Before coming here, Faisal received a "high diploma" in engineering after attending a technical institute for four years. During secondary school, Aljaizani, like other Saudi students, had to choose an education path in either science, Islamic studies or management studies. "A lot of students chose science because there are more options," Aljaizani said.

Education in Saudi Arabia highlights several special facets. Islam remains a dominant influence and part of the curriculum. Almost every class emphasizes the Koran and its application to each subject. Classes in Arabic

and Islam remain important areas of study. "Students take lighter classes focusing on Islam," Aljaizani said. The classes on Islam serve as a break from classes in your major. Another important distinction is the separation of men and women. Women only have 11 colleges to choose from across the country.

Aljaizani currently takes classes in the English as Second Language program at USI. Students entering the program must take a placement test, which places them in either a first, second, or third level. The classes consist of over 25 hours each week, and last for an entire semester. "I am really excited about finishing my ESLI classes," Aljaizani said.

Gwen Gou, an 18-year old finance major from China, came for an education but other reasons as well. "I have always been a little bit adventurous and I wanted to obtain a different experience," Gou said.

While in secondary school Gou attended a private institution, where like many provinces in China, she had to choose between a sciences based or liberal arts based curriculum. Students can choose between physics, chemistry and biology in the science curriculum or history, geography or political science for the liberal arts.

Before entering college students must take an entrance exam to determine which schools they can attend and which major they can choose. Before the student receives their score, the province gives the student a form to list three choices for a major. Schools do not hide their cut off scores so students know the obstacles they face.

Not only does your score fac-

tor into your choice, but the number of people applying for the same choice affects your placement as well. After the test, a computer system takes your score and first major choice and matches them with a school. "Universities want a set amount and if you don't get your first choice then you're admitted into your second major," Gou said. Each year a national plan sets the quotas for each institution. Gou chose a finance school in China as her first choice but lacked two points to gain admission. "The scores change dramatically every year, some scores are so high others avoid and vice versa," Gou said.

Once international students enter the classroom, they face other hurdles. "Some professors accents are hard to understand, but there are willing to repeat information," Aljaizani said.

Tim Mahoney, who advises international student and teaches economics at USI, has had a lot of experience interacting with students. On one occasion, Mahoney began discussing the building of a new plant in Greensburg, Ind. Some of the international students thought Mahoney meant a greenhouse and not a factory. "Language can be interpreted in so many ways," Mahoney said.

Despite all the hurdles, international students seek to look at the result of achieving their challenging goals. "A couple of years remaining and I'll be up for some intellectually and financially rewarding jobs," Rocton said.

And some of their biggest supporters include USI professors like Mahoney. "The students we get are conscience, hardworking and industrious. Each has an interest in the states and a desire to succeed in a global market."

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Clemens vs. McNamee: who's telling the truth?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Roger Clemens stuck out his fambus right arm, the one that earned 354 major league wins, seven Cy Young Awards, \$160 million, and pointed in the direction of his accuser.

Without looking at Brian McNamee, Clemens told Congress, "I have strong disagreements with what this man says about me."

Separated by only a few feet at a wooden witness table Wednesday, Clemens and McNamee were never further apart.

There they sat, the star pitcher and his former personal trainer, under oath and facing blistering questions. For 4½ hours, both men held to their versions of the he-said, he-said disagreement over whether McNamee injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone.

Clemens insisted it never happened. McNamee insisted it did. His reputation and Hall of Fame candidacy potentially at stake — not to mention the possibility of criminal charges, should he lie — Clemens said: "I have never taken steroids or HGH. No matter what we discuss here today, I am never going to have my name restored."

For some members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Clemens' denials rang hollow, particularly in light of a new account of his discussion of HGH use, revealed by his friend and former teammate Andy Pettitte in a sworn affidavit.

"It's hard to believe you, sir," Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., told Clemens. "I hate to say that. You're one of my heroes. But it's hard to believe."

Clemens and McNamee, by all accounts once good friends, rarely

glanced at one another. When Clemens did turn to his right, it was with the Rocket's mound glare. Seated between them was the day's third witness, Charles Scheeler, a lawyer who helped compile the report on drug use in baseball headed by former Senate majority leader George Mitchell.

"Someone is lying in spectacular fashion," said Rep. Tom Davis of Virginia, the committee's ranking Republican.

Just like their stories, Clemens' Texas drawl was in strong contrast to the clipped cadences of McNamee, a former New York police officer.

"I told the investigators I injected three people — two of whom I know confirmed my account," McNamee said. "The third is sitting at this table."

Ultimately, the matter could wind up with the Justice Department if prosecutors believe either man made false statements. The Justice Department is also reviewing used needles and bloody gauze pads McNamee turned over. His side says the items contained performance-enhancing drugs and Clemens' DNA.

"We found conflicts and inconsistencies in Mr. Clemens' accounts," said Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., the committee's chairman. "During his deposition, he made statements we know are untrue."

Eventually, the committee split largely along party lines, with the Democrats reserving their most pointed queries for Clemens, and the Republicans giving McNamee a rougher time.

"You're here under oath, and yet we have lie after lie after lie after lie," Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., told McNamee.

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., repeatedly called

McNamee a "drug dealer." One of McNamee's lawyers, Earl Ward, called it a "public flogging."

Waxman said afterward he hadn't "reached any conclusions" as to whether a criminal investigation is warranted, although several congressmen said a referral from the committee isn't needed to trigger one.

The session, held on the same day pitchers and catchers started reporting for spring training in Florida and Arizona, came exactly two months following the release of the Mitchell Report.

That investigation was prompted by another hearing on steroids held by the same committee in the same wood-paneled room, on March 17, 2005. That is best remembered for having tarnished the reputations of Mark McGwire — who infamously repeated, "I'm not here to talk about the past" — and Rafael Palmeiro — who wagged his finger and declared he never had used steroids, then failed a drug test months later.

In a reference to that day, Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., cautioned Clemens and McNamee: "It's better not to talk about the past than to lie about the past."

Wednesday's hearing, which Waxman indicated would be his committee's last on the subject, was prompted by Clemens' various and vigorous denials of what McNamee told Mitchell. The Mitchell Report was the first public accounting of McNamee's allegations that he injected Clemens with HGH and steroids 16 to 21 times from 1998 to 2001. McNamee said Wednesday he now thinks those numbers are too low.

"They don't disagree on a phone call or one meeting," Waxman said. "If Mr. McNamee is

lying, he has acted inexcusably and he has made Mr. Clemens an innocent victim. If Mr. Clemens isn't telling the truth, then he is acting shamefully and has smeared Mr. McNamee. I don't think there is anything in between."

Waxman said he considered calling off the hearing, but said he was persuaded to go forth by Clemens' lawyers, an account they disputed. He also accused Clemens of possibly trying to influence statements to the committee by the pitcher's former nanny.

Congressmen noted that Pettitte and another former Yankees teammate of Clemens, Chuck Knoblauch, both acknowledged that McNamee was correct when he said they used performance enhancers.

At times, Clemens struggled to find the right words as he was pressed by lawmakers. Clemens said Pettitte "misremembers" things. He mispronounced McNamee's name at one point. Toward the end, Clemens raised his voice to interrupt Waxman's closing remarks. The chairman pounded his gavel and said, "Excuse me, but this is not your time to argue with me."

It seemed clear early the committee would not treat Clemens with kid gloves, despite face-to-face meetings he did with representatives in recent days — sometimes posing for photos or signing autographs for staff members.

There was one wide-eyed fan moment, when Rep. William Clay, D-Mo., relayed to Clemens that a colleague "wants to know what uniform will you wear into the Hall of Fame?"

When it was over, Clemens shook hands with Davis, then left through a back door.

Clemens later told reporters:

"I'm very thankful and very grateful for this day to come. I'm glad for the opportunity finally. And, you know, I hope I get — and I know I will have — the opportunity to come here to Washington again under different terms."

His wife, Debbie, sat in the front row behind him and listened as Waxman implicated her in HGH use, citing statements by Pettitte. Clemens testified his wife took HGH once, although according to the transcript of last week's sworn deposition, Clemens told committee lawyers he didn't know of family members taking HGH.

IRS Special Agent Jeff Novitzky, a key member of the team prosecuting Barry Bonds, watched from a second-row seat. Bonds, baseball's home run king, was indicted in November on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice stemming from his 2003 testimony to a grand jury in which he denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs.

Pettitte, who was excused Monday from testifying, said in a statement to the committee that Clemens told him nearly 10 years ago that he used HGH. Waxman read from affidavits by Pettitte and

his wife, Laura, supporting the accusations.

"Andy Pettitte is my friend. He was my friend before this. He will be my friend after this and again. I think Andy has misheard," Clemens said. "I think he misremembers."

In his deposition, Pettitte also said that in 2003 or 2004, McNamee told him Clemens had used steroids. Committee lawyers asked Pettitte how he decided what to say, given that he was caught between conflicting accounts from two friends.

"I have to live with myself. And one day, I have to give an account to God — and not to nobody else — of what I've done in my life," Pettitte replied. "And that's why I've said and shared the stuff with y'all that I've shared with y'all today — that I wouldn't like to share with y'all."

Portions of that transcript and others were shown on flat-panel TVs on walls in the room. It was jarring in black and white.

Committee says Craig acted 'improperly'

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Senate Ethics Committee said Wednesday that Idaho Sen. Larry Craig acted improperly in connection with a men's room sex sting last year and had brought discredit on the Senate.

In a letter to the Republican senator, the ethics panel said Craig's attempt to withdraw his guilty plea after his arrest at a Minneapolis airport was an effort to evade legal consequences of his own actions.

Craig's actions constitute "improper conduct which has reflected discreditably on the Senate," the letter said.

In an e-mailed statement, Craig told The Associated Press he disagreed with the ethics panel's action.

"While I am disappointed and strongly disagree with the conclusions reached by the Senate Ethics Committee, from the outset I have encouraged the committee to act in a timely fashion and they have done so. I will continue to serve the people of Idaho," he said.

The six members of the committee — three Democrats and three Republicans — told Craig they believed he "committed the offense to which you pled guilty" and that "you entered your plea knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently."

The panel said Craig only tried to remove his guilty plea after his attempts to avoid public disclosure had failed.

"Your claims to the court ... to the effect that your guilty plea resulted from improper pressure or coercion, or that you did not, as a legal matter, know what you were doing when you pled guilty do not appear credible," the letter said.

The panel also said Craig should have received permission from the ethics panel before using campaign funds to pay his legal bills. Craig, who is not running for re-election, has spent more than \$213,000 in campaign money for legal expense and public relations work in the wake of his arrest and conviction last summer.

The committee said it had reached no conclusion about whether use of campaign funds

was proper, but it said "it is clear that you never sought the committee's approval, as required," to use the money for legal expenses.

Any future use of campaign money for legal bills will be seen as "demonstrating your continuing disregard of ethics requirements," the ethics committee wrote in its three-page letter.

The panel also admonished Craig for showing the arresting officer a business card that identified him as a U.S. senator. Craig has been reported to have told the officer at the time, "What do you think about that?"

The committee wrote, "You knew or should have known that a reasonable person in the position of the arresting officer could view your action and statement as an improper attempt by you to use your position and status ... to receive special and favorable treatment."

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., chairwoman of the ethics panel, declined to comment. A spokeswoman said the panel's letter of admonition cannot be appealed.

The ethics panel took no further action against Craig. Craig, a three-term Republican, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct in August after he was accused of soliciting sex in a bathroom at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in June.

After the matter became public, Craig tried to withdraw his plea. A judge in Minnesota refused, saying Craig's plea "was accurate, voluntary and intelligent, and ... supported by the evidence." Craig

has appealed that ruling to the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Senate Republicans demanded the ethics investigation after news broke of Craig's conviction last August. Craig first promised to resign Sept. 30, then reversed his decision. He now says he will stay in office until his term expires in January.

Craig has said an undercover police officer misinterpreted his foot and hand movements as signals that he wanted sex.

Craig, who held several GOP leadership positions on Senate committees and subcommittees in the wake of the scandal, has been

working with Boxer and other members of the Senate's environment committee on a global warming bill and other matters.

Besides Boxer, the letter is signed by Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, the panel's vice chairman, and Sens. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., Ken Salazar, D-Colo., Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and Johnny Isakson, R-Ga.

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