

# THE SHIELD

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Women still in running for conference title

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The Shield is a designated public forum.

## Political Science Society seeks to help Haiti

ZACH EVANS  
 News editor

The Political Science Society at USI is organizing a fundraiser to benefit the victims of the massive earthquake that struck Haiti earlier this month. This was an idea that originated from the students in the Political Science Society themselves," said Oana Armeanu, assistant professor of political science and faculty adviser for the Political Science Society. The group had booths set up Wednesday on the second floor of the Liberal Arts Center and the University Center. There is also a booth set up from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the UC. Free lemonade is available

for those who visit the Liberal Arts building and a drawing for prizes is arranged for both days in the UC. The prizes are gift cards to businesses such as Walmart and Target. While free lemonade and prize drawings are available, those who visit are encouraged to donate to the Haiti Relief cause if possible. "Everyone is encouraged to donate," Armeanu said. "The money we receive from donations will then be given to the Red Cross." President of the Political Science Society John Siepinski believes that the USI community should "play our part in the national effort and help others when they are in desperate

need." On Jan. 12, a massive 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti, reducing its capital city, Port-au-Prince, to rubble. An estimated 2 million people live within the zone of heavy to moderate structural damage. Thousands of people were caught in buildings during the quake and became trapped in the rubble. Government buildings, hospitals, prisons, schools and homes were destroyed. Officials estimate that as many as 150,000 people are dead as a result of the quake. When Armeanu first heard about the devastation in Haiti she couldn't believe it. "I teach international politics



Photo by Zach Evans

Elliott Howard, a sophomore political science major, stands at the Political Science Society's table for Haiti relief at the information desk in the University Center.

See Relief on Pg. 3

## 'It wasn't like anything we had seen before'



Photos provided by Erin Cox

## Physical plant grows

By KATIE REINEKE  
 Staff writer

Currently, the Physical Plant includes a first story office space, a 5,000 sq. ft. lower level shop containing five chillers and four boilers and a vast network of underground tunnels to each university building, but soon it will see face lift. The plant, located between the Science and Education Center and the Liberal Arts building, is in the process of renovation and expansion. According to Miles Mann, assistant director of facility operations, chillers and boilers provide the cold and heat for the entire campus, excluding the dorms and apartments. These chillers and boilers maintain a temperature of 40 F and 300 F respectively. The wall of the shop facing Refection Lake consists of glass panels, purposefully made to fall out in case one of the boilers or chillers was to explode. Mike Jones, former student and now USI's staff engineer, said that the windows are also for expansion. "It was more logical to put in windows, instead of bricks or stone," Jones said. According to Jones, the physical plant's equipment costs around \$4.8 million. "Pretty expensive toys," Mann said, but

See Plant on Pg. 3

Top: The damage in Port-au-Prince is shown. Right: A Village to Village member provides help to a Haitian child in Port-au-Prince after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake.

## A USI student and her mission group see the Haiti earthquake firsthand, and provide the help they can

DANI PALMER  
 Editor in chief

It started off as a normal mission trip to provide routine clinic to those in Haiti, but a USI student would quickly be faced with the challenge of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake and a disaster that would be known worldwide. Erin Cox, a senior social work major, left Jan. 8 to head to Haiti on a trip that she's taken with her mission group Village for eight years now. The six member group that included Cox's sister, Jo Franklin, had just finished a clinic Jan. 12 - the day of the earthquake - when the truck they were driving back to their village started to shake like it had a flat tire, Cox said. So they pulled over, but still felt the movement. "People were running and screaming and that's when we saw a couple of the houses rattle and fall," Cox said. "That's when we knew, 'Oh my gosh, this is an earthquake.'" Cox and another person were lying in the bed of the truck and

could hear and feel the earthquake more than those sitting in the cab. Her group didn't immediately know the magnitude of the quake, but learned from the Haitians and what was being reported to them by family members and friends. Pastor Volner Alexandre, whom had worked with the group previously, and another Haitian dropped the group off at the river crossing near the village and then headed to Port-au-Prince to check on their families. According to Cox, the villagers are protective of Americans and were concerned when they hadn't immediately returned from their clinic. When they arrived back at their village, Cox said that some bricks had fallen from the cook house in the village, thankfully not harming anyone, and that their guest house had some cracks. "There wasn't really any damage. We were about 30 miles out of Port-au-Prince so to some degree we were protected a little bit more," Cox said.



The village didn't have the structures that the city did, and the houses were huts made out of mud, sticks, palm branches and other items. In Port-au-Prince, many of the concrete buildings fell. Cox texted her husband, Matt Cox, shortly after the earthquake to let him know that they were ok. He hadn't heard the news yet. Shortly after the quake, powerful aftershocks knocked out the cell service. Cox said the team didn't talk to their families for the next 26 hours. "Less than 12 hours after the quake, we were in Port-au-Prince treating," Cox said. On their way, the group stopped in another village and at a pharmacy there, Cox bought all of the IV fluids they had, and Valium because "people were going to be horrible from either what they saw or what they been through." They then set up clinic on the

Prince. Cox said they weren't prepared for such a disaster and couldn't get the supplies they needed. Their routine clinics included respiratory infections and malnourishment along with minor injuries. "Most of the injuries were either real severe like cuts and scrapes or they were like crushed wounds where someone had obviously been crushed from the falling debris or buildings," Cox said. Cox said they used a lot of sutures, stitches and gauze. Some of the cuts were so severe that they were down to the muscle, and some people had suffered open fractures. The team pulled skin back over exposed bones and wrapped the wounds so that bacteria wouldn't get in. It was all they could do with the tools they had. "It was serious trauma. It wasn't like anything we had seen before," Cox said. Cox knew the injured would

See Haiti on Pg. 3

## New emphasis combines mechanics and electronics

By ZACH EVANS  
 News editor

Students interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree in engineering have another emphasis to choose from when deciding their career path. Mechatronics gives students the opportunity to combine two major fields of engineering into one. "The best example of mechatronics is a robot," said Paul Kuban, associate professor of engineering and coordinator of mechatronics. "Robots are everywhere, factory automated robots combine both mechanical apparatuses to grip and move items and electronic sensors to allow them to move around." The new program synthesizes the two popular engineering paths of mechanics and electronics into a single program. Kuban says that all engineering students take the same basic engineering core followed by ten elective courses allowing them to specialize in five different fields: civil, electrical, industrial, mechanical and mechatronics. "Students can expect to be taking electrical classes that cover computers, logic, design and micro-computers while also taking mechanical classes that include machine design, vibrations, and systems

See Mechatronics on Pg. 3

Sudoku sponsored by



To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

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

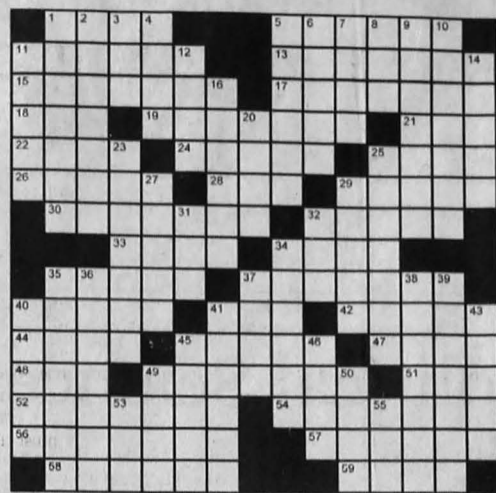
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See puzzle solution on Page 6.

Crossword

Across

- 1 Itemize
- 5 Consume
- 11 Boated
- 13 Avoided
- 15 Egypt. water lilies
- 17 Dizziness
- 18 Follower (Suffix)
- 19 Female aristocrat
- 21 Cat hangout
- 22 Intellect
- 24 Leg joints
- 25 Gall
- 26 More immoral
- 28 Idiot boxes, for short
- 29 Labyrinths
- 30 Clouds
- 32 Appointments
- 33 Brews
- 34 Direction
- 35 Hastened
- 37 Oil source
- 40 Head coverings
- 41 Father figures
- 42 Strayed
- 44 About (Abbr.)
- 45 Expenditures
- 47 Noel
- 48 Actor Kilmer
- 49 Maidens
- 51 Certain policeman (Abbr.)
- 52 Simulate
- 54 Get together again
- 56 Inhabitant
- 57 Damper



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- 58 Forsake
- 59 After water or tool
- 9 Employ
- 10 Supplies
- 11 Ascent
- 12 Workspace
- 14 Simpletons
- 16 Xmas collectors
- 20 Guns the motor
- 23 Fiasco
- 25 Car starter
- 27 Regulations
- 29 Billiards shot
- 31 Guided
- 32 Family room
- 34 Season
- 35 Made up a new title
- 36 Passenger carrier
- 37 Fewer
- 38 Scholarly
- 39 Erased
- 40 Graphic
- 41 Point in time
- 43 Dissuade
- 45 Supply food professionally
- 46 Murdered
- 49 Stupor
- 50 Litigates
- 53 Poetic contraction
- 55 Greatest degree

See puzzle solution on Page 6.

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# New changes for assessment day may bring problems

By CHANSE FORD  
Staff writer

With the recent changes in the procedures of Assessment Day, new complications have arisen.

One such complication is that now, seniors have to take both the ETS-Profile Proficiency and the Major Field Test. Formerly, the seniors only had to take the Major Field Test.

"We can't have seniors take the two tests in one day," said Jake Williams, research assistant for the office of research, planning and assessment.

In the past, USI gave the ETS-Profile Proficiency (formerly the MAPP-Measure of Proficiency and

Progress) to freshmen and juniors in the fall semester to test their knowledge increase of different areas such as humanities, math and science and social studies. Starting next fall, it will be the seniors and not juniors who will be taking the test, which is a problem due to the Major Field Test.

However, not all seniors have to take the Major Field Test. Only those studying certain areas such as psychology, political science and chemistry must take the test. Certain graduate studies programs must also take the test.

The Proficiency Profile is essentially the same test as the MAPP. Both are products of ETS, the Educational

Testing Service.

"I have mixed feelings. On one hand, it's cool to not have everything on the same day, but on the other hand, I've found for most people the spring is more stressful, especially for seniors," said junior English and psychology major Crystal Steltenpohl.

The final decision on whether or not the test will be moved ultimately comes out of the provost office. According to Williams, as of right now they have been talking about getting the test on the academic calendar for spring of 2011.

"Right now we're just tossing the idea around," Williams said.

## USI Security Incident Log

Jan. 19

9:30 pm - 7957A O'Daniel's Ln. Schrieker Theft. Case was cleared.

Jan. 20

7:32 pm - University Center Illness Report. Case was cleared.

Jan. 21

3:10 pm - Parking Lot J Property Damage. Case was cleared.

4:23 pm - 831B Moutoux Ln. - Orr Building Possession of Stolen Property. Case was cleared.

4:23 pm - 831B Moutoux Ln. - Orr Building Violation of University Policy. Case was cleared.

4:23 pm - 831B Moutoux Ln. - Orr Building Drug Law Violation. Case was cleared.

8:55 am - Education Center - 8600 Illness Report. Case was cleared.

9:30 pm - 817B Melton Ln. - McCray Building Violation of University Policy. Case was cleared.

Jan. 22

2:01 pm - Parking Lot G Theft from Vehicle. Case was suspended.

2:14 am. - Campus Property Suspicious Circumstances. Case was cleared.

Jan. 23

2:05 pm - Rec and Fitness Center Theft. Case is pending.

4:11 am - 926B Eckels Ln. - Marshall Alcohol/Drug Overdose. Case was cleared.

4:11 am - 926B Eckels Ln. - Marshall Illness Report. Case was cleared.

8:00 am - Health Professions Center Illness Report. Case was cleared.

Jan. 25

12:50 am - Clarke Lane False Reporting. Case was cleared.

1:38 pm - 961 University Ct. - Hovey Building Property Damage. Case was cleared.

4:24 pm - Technology Center - 8600. Theft. Case is pending.

Information gathered from USI's Public Crime Log, provided by USI Safety and Security.

## PLANT continued from Pg. 1

added that they were necessary.

Originally, the new space added onto the back was for more office space Mann said, but now it will hold more chillers and boilers to heat and cool the new Science and Technology Center and the new UC.

The physical plant staff will also be moving the cooling towers to the top of the plant, surrounded by a fence that they hope will make the plant more aesthetically pleasing Jones said. It will also save on

ground space.

Jones and Mann hope for the projects to be completed by March, but Jones said that the \$3 million budget cut was cut from current projects, and that they need \$4 million to cover them.

He is still hopeful, though, that they will be able to find the money to complete them.

"We are seeing the pay cut, but at least no one is losing their jobs," Jones said.

## MECHATRONICS continued from Pg. 1

and controls," Kuban said.

The program will use labs in the new Science and Engineering Building including the Digital Systems lab and the Student Design Center to display student work.

Kuban believed that only four or five students had chosen mechatronics as their specialization.

"It's a perfect fit for those wishing to combine mechanical engineering with electronic engineering," Kuban said.

Graduates of the program will have a plethora of job choices in the region given the large number of manufacturing firms that require

automated robots to maintain their facilities.

Kuban believes this to be very beneficial to the USI community and that many of the manufacturing companies in the area are glad that USI is offering a mechatronics program.

"Several companies on the Engineering Advisory Board expressed interest, including Toyota. They were very interested," said Kuban, who acknowledged that companies are interested in having potential workers with an understanding of both mechanical engineering and electronic engineering.

## Haiti continued from Pg. 1

either have to go to a hospital, or the wounds would heal wrong and impair the person for the rest of his or her life. Most people couldn't get to the hospitals because they had collapsed and the UN headquarters weren't taking anyone either.

"To some degree, we were helpless. You couldn't do anything for them [the injured Haitians] other than try to treat their pain, and that was it," Cox said.

Village to Village taught the injured and their families how to bandage and keep the wounds clean.

No one stayed at their homes, Cox said, because most were destroyed. A little while later, the church contained multiple tents, and most of the injured were carried in by family members on homemade gurneys.

The group was supposed to stay in Port-au-Prince originally, but their guest house was full due to a con-

vention.

"The guest house we were originally supposed to be staying at we later found out collapsed," Cox said.

A Haitian preacher they worked with that ran the place and a Haitian man that helped died in the collapse.

"I think that's the closest I've ever been to death because had we been staying there, we would've been dead," Cox said. "No questions about it. That shook me the most."

Cox and her sister flew out of Haiti Jan. 14 after waiting for about six hours at the airport. Because of military connections, Cox and her sister were allowed out of Haiti sooner. Cox's brother-in-law is a commanding officer for the Miami Coast Guard.

The other four members of Village to Village had to stay, but they got out of the country the next day. Cox

said it was hard to leave them behind.

Despite now being in the U.S., Village to Village is still helping by working with a Haitian preacher and donating money.

"Some of these people are like our family," Cox said.

She said that they see some of the people every time they go to the country, and often communicate with them. Cox said that the trips have allowed her to get to know and care for the people there and added that the incident has made her appreciate people more.

Shortly after witnessing all of the devastation, Cox returned to USI. She said she is gradually getting back into the school flow and has one class on campus a week, an online course and an internship. She said her schedule is making the transition easier.

The devastation still affects Cox, her sister and

the rest of group. She said she has flashbacks of what they saw, did and the sounds of the quake.

"It's [Haiti] very much a part of my life. Not just when I go, I mean daily life. You think about them every day," Cox said.

Cox would like to go back to Haiti in about six months, but for now is just playing it by ear.

Currently, there aren't any commercial flights going in, just rescue and relief efforts.

"I think you have to get the awareness out there," Cox said. "If people can make a personal connection they're going to be more likely to be concerned and be more likely to want to help, whether it's giving money, fixing care packages, going there physically, you know, whatever the case may be. Just getting awareness out."

## RELIEF continued from Pg. 1

and I first thought of Katrina and how difficult it was for a strong economic country such as the US to aid the area, but a poor country such as Haiti is going to be very difficult to aid," Armeanu said.

"Without foreign aid they won't make it. Foreign aid will be the main source of recovery for Haiti."

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, according to the CIA World Factbook and

80 percent of the population lives below the poverty line while 54 percent live in abject poverty.

Haiti has a population of 8.7 million people, which is slightly smaller, geographically, than

Maryland, which has a population of 5.5 million.

There are many other organizations on campus contributing to the Haiti Relief effort, such as Encounter, that are accepting donations as well.

## Campus briefs

### Formal Application for Graduation Deadline

Jan. 29 is the deadline for those expecting to complete degree requirements and graduate at the end of the fall 2010 semester. Those eligible must file with the Office of the Registrar a formal application for graduation which is available at the office of the dean of the college of their major and a diploma form, which is submitted online.

For more information on the event contact the Registrars Office at 812-464-1762 or by email at registrar@usi.edu.

### Pott College of Science and Engineering Townhall

SGA will be sponsoring a townhall from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday in Carter Hall D. Students will get the opportunity to learn about developments within Pott college such as new programs, majors or minors that may be produced and insights into future plans for the college.

### Study Abroad Information Session

Students interested in studying abroad should come to a Study Abroad Information Session on Feb. 2 at 3:30 p.m. in room 205 of the University Center. Students will learn about opportunities, cost, scholarships, and other pertinent details regarding international studies. The session is sponsored by International Services.

For more information on the event or to learn more about studying abroad should contact Robin Banks at 812-465-1248 or by email at rabanks1@usi.edu

### Global Community Presentation: Japanese Setsubun

International students from Japan will be making a presentation on the ancient festival of Setsubun, which is a celebration of the end of winter and the beginning of spring. The students will be offering sample foods that are apart of the festival while explaining certain traditions done along with Setsubun.

The event will be taking place Feb. 3 at 7:30 pm at Ruston Hall and is free of charge. For more information contact Robin Banks at 812-465-1248 or by email at rabanks1@usi.edu

## Facebook, a fatal addiction

By ZACH EVANS  
News Editor

As I walk through the library desperately seeking to find a computer to do my homework, I can't help but notice the amount of students using the computer for non-academic purposes.

I try to avoid what's on other people's computer screens, but sometimes you can't help but notice that 90 percent of the time (a non-scientific statistic) students are on Facebook.

Yes Facebook, the beloved social-networking site that seems to be mandatory for every 16-30 year old. What was once created to be a networking site to link college students together has become the ultimate procrastination tool.

Facebook is no longer just a site for us to connect and talk with each other. Users are able to play an infinite amount of games and applications such as "Farmville" or "Mafia Wars" that require users to spend time everyday to progress forward.

People search and search

for that obscure thing to become a fan of and others do nothing more than take random surveys to find out "Who's your Twilight Character Crush?" or "What's your Zodiac Match?"

Then there's the group of people who consume their time by "stalking" other Facebook users by reading all the comments on their walls, browsing all their pictures or cross-checking that person's other friends.

Facebook has created an environment that feeds a user everything the other users have done in real time. Facebook is Twitter, AOL instant messenger, iPhone Applications and social networking combined into one solid package.

I can only imagine what high school reunions have become since the birth of Facebook, Myspace and Twitter.

No longer can people avoid knowing what their peers have done since graduation until 10 years down the line. I'm sure reunions are full of regurgitated information that everyone has

seen in their status feeds.

All the mystery of life after high school for your old friends is gone.

I don't believe anyone can fathom the hours wasted by students at USI, yet alone in America.

I realize that students will always find ways to procrastinate no matter what and that sometimes papers are best done eight hours before class.

However, if we all cut Facebook out of our lives for one hour everyday and filled that time with something academic, that would offset the other 50 hours people are on Facebook a week right?

Next time you're on a computer trying to get some studying done, try as hard as you possibly can to overcome the desire to get on Facebook and completely waste your time.

There are very few beneficial outcomes with Facebook, but that extra time studying can equate greatly for your academic career.

## Another night to forget

By JOSH PIETROWSKI  
Opinion editor

Last fall, a few of my friends and I sat on my front porch, jabbing at the thought of USI's Springfest being a bust again this year, just like the last.

When we found out that Brand New was in the running for an appearance in 2010, however, we became very optimistic, voting and telling people to vote for the Long Islanders.

Nonetheless, pessimism took back over as we began to discuss our vote on the two finalists: Brand New or Boys Like Girls.

We feared a showing of the band comprised of twenty-something males that looked like twenty-something women, and wrote songs that we're not only as cheesy as a Jerry Bruckheimer influenced script, but as trite as many of the lyrics found inside Creed's CD slip covers.

We also laughed at the

prospect of Brand New winning out, yet failing to reply to our invite with a "yes."

This, as many of you know, is what happened.

Without promising us anything, those in charge of Springfest, and local radio station 96.1 did a pretty damn good job of convincing us of their powers to reel in any act they wanted.

When the election was over, Brand New had declined our bid to play in April, as they will be heading back from an international tour at that time.

It truly makes one wonder, why did we ever vote on a band that we were not sure we could sign?

It seems kind of elementary, doesn't it?

At the end of the day, the Springfest gods had a shot at redemption.

Many names were mentioned in finding a replacement for Brand New.

Among them were New Found Glory, a band that has been around for more than a

decade and is nationally recognized by punks, pop-supporters and hardcore kids as one of the best live acts one could bring to their town.

Also in the mix was Manchester Orchestra, a band that I am currently convinced is the best thing to happen to music since the blast beat.

However, when I received the text this weekend that Motion City Soundtrack was selected, over the likes of Bayside, NFG and Hit the Lights, I hung my head in defeat.

Sad, sad, defeat.

And it seems like this year will in fact be a lot like the last. While I understand that signing bands is a very complicated process, and that the Springfest crew is working its hardest to give us a good time, I have great fear that this years show is going to look a lot like the Plain White T's. Not at all terrible, but certainly forgettable.

## A desperate economy, a heartless defense

By HEATH KLUEMPER  
Staff Writer

This is nothing but a simple rant. A rant I have that pertains to the current state of our nation's economy, and the way that today's companies and corporations are using it to their advantage to swiftly and carelessly "screw" over their lower level employees.

Sure, as far as the economy is concerned we're on the up and up, but that doesn't mean we're out of the darkness yet, and thus everyone is still being very cautious, very careful and unfortunately very heartless.

It's still every man for himself out there, and it's taking the good will towards our fellow men out of the concept for a healthy society.

I'm sure we all know someone who's lost a job in the past year.

Now aside from the liars, the thieves and the unruly, how many were actually let go for a sufficient reason?

Far too many times have I heard from friends on both ends of the spectrum how impersonal, irrational and irrelevant the encounter is between both the one giving and receiving the ax, and the reasoning for said canning is, in many cases, completely falsified.

Many companies are struggling, I understand, but why is it that they simply can't inform their peon employees, which consists of many of us college students, the full and truthful explanation for said expulsion?

Others, and this is much larger than I'd like to admit, use the recently failing economy as the favorite reason of all to let go of the highest paid and the worst performing, leaving room only for

mediocrity.

This is of course unacceptable, but when you choose the lowest outgoing cost versus the highest quality and efficiency, you get where we are now.

As we all see ourselves leading this nation into the future, let's take into account that we are all humans, we've all got stories, we've all got problems and cut each other a little slack.

Let's not focus so much on profit as much as we do on actually working towards a better future for everyone and letting our services and employees both be the best they possibly can be, as we always hear from said businesses, but never really see.

This might sound sappy, unrealistic, and blatant, impossible (which it probably is), but since when did being a good, respectable human being become a bad thing?

## The drawback of interacting with extraterrestrials

By NATALIE SCOTT  
Staff writer

Ever since the dawn of time, man has looked to the night sky. Millennia later mankind is still searching for answers in the stars.

I was reading an AP article titled "Scientist: Alien life could already be on Earth" on msnbc.com and it really got me to think about the possibility of extraterrestrials, or simply put, aliens.

NASA has been around since 1958, and has made HUGE progress in space exploration.

Thus far, no intelligent life has been discovered on any of the planets in our solar system and honestly, I find this incredibly disappointing.

I would love to meet a friendly alien. Imagine a world where we could peacefully discuss different worlds with our alien classmates.

Of course, there are several drawbacks to contacting

alien life from another planet (I have learned all of these by watching the television show "Doctor Who").

The first drawback is the aliens might not be friendly. In my experience (again from watching "Doctor Who"), 95 percent of the aliens in the universe are evil tyrants looking for new worlds to conquer and/or more slaves to populate their various other intergalactic empires.

That's a major issue. I'm a big fan of aliens, but I do not want to be sold into slavery by blue cat people.

The second drawback isn't really the alien's fault.

Some power hungry human might go crazy and take advantage of some kind-hearted alien race.

The aforementioned crazy human will then rally more crazy humans and set out on a mission for universal domination. If the crazy humans set out on a mission for universal domination, the other alien races

are going to defend their planets. If the aliens defend their planets, then both sides will incur massive amounts of casualties.

Hold on, was I retelling the beloved children's story "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie"?

Anyway, drawback three is that both worlds will never be the same.

I'm pretty satisfied with Earth the way it is, made up only of humans.

If a peaceful alien race were to land on Earth's soil, then numerous changes would occur, such as our basic biological makeup.

Our species would eventually mix, and the humans we are today would be a distant part of the Earth's history.

After taking into account all of the negative aspects of interacting with aliens, perhaps humans should just admire the stars from afar.

It seems that we are safer that way.

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# Springfest finally gets its band

By DAVID STRANGE  
Student Life editor

USI finally has a band for Springfest, and while Motion City Soundtrack wasn't the Springfest committee's first choice, they are certainly pleased with the outcome.

"We wanted a band with a decent following," Scott Miller, student Springfest director, said "but we wanted to stay in the whole pop-punk, alternative genre." Picking out a band, however, turned out to be more difficult than previously thought when the process took a few unexpected turns.

After online voting had ended near the end of the Fall semester, students were under the assumption that Brand New had won out over Boys Like Girls. However, upon returning for the new semester, the committee was given disappointing news, "After we got back together after Christmas break we were told Brand New wasn't able to play the show," Miller said "the reason being they are going to

be getting back from Australia a few days before and wanted to take their time off with family, which is understandable." Miller and

didn't end up being the band for Springfest the committee kept their fans in mind.

"We got a list of other possible bands and started ask-



Student Springfest Director Scott Miller describes the process of selecting the Springfest band while Tim Buecher, director of the Career Counseling Center looks on.

Photo by Jimmy Pyles

the committee then moved on to the runner up, Boys Like Girls, but were told that the band had already booked shows during the weekend of Springfest. "Basically we ended up having to start from scratch," Miller said.

Even though Brand New

ing students, especially those that showed interest in Brand New," Miller said, "and we kept getting Motion City Soundtrack as the preferred choice."

Bob Wolfley, the SGA president, as well as a member of the committee, admit-

ted that it was disappointing that Brand New turned the offer down but the committee didn't dwell on it for too long. "This is the earliest we have chosen a band," Wolfley said, "We wanted a band that was the similar genre and price range, as well the biggest following."

Another plus for bringing Motion City Soundtrack is that they are bringing in the band Fun. as an opener. "I have only listened to two of their songs," Director of the Career Counseling Center and committee member Tim Buecher said of Fun., "but they were upbeat songs and would seem to bring in fans."

Bringing in fans is the main goal for Miller, Wolfley and the committee, and with Motion City Soundtrack they seem to have a band that can do just that.

Country singer Luke Bryan starts the weekend off with a show on Friday April 9, while Motion City Soundtrack and opener Fun take the stage on April 10.

"Motion City Soundtrack wasn't my first choice but they have some solid tunes and I'm sure they have a good live show."



Photo by David Strange

-Adam Wadsworth,  
Junior Education  
major



Photo by David Strange

"I haven't heard much of Motion City Soundtrack's music but I'm glad USI is bringing in some bands with real musicians."

-Clark Osborne,  
Freshman German  
major

## Stuff to do in Evansville

By JOSH PIETROWSKI  
Opinion editor

I'm not going to lie to you. I am a foodie. I like good food, sometimes eat too much of it and am willing to spend way too much money on it. Italian, Asian, Hispanic and good ole' American comfort foods all whet my appetite, often leaving me with a longing for more even after I've filled myself to the brim.

I've always thought that one of the best ways to experience a city's culture is to take part in their local fare. To immerse oneself in coffee shops and brickyard walks is definitely one way to discover a new place, but to me it's not nearly as much fun as straight up eating.

Evansville itself has quite a bit to offer. Unlike Louisville and Chicago, home to some of the great wonders of the Midwestern culinary world (see the Oak Room and Fogo De Chao), Evansville makes up for the chasm with small business owned secrets and dives.

The Deerhead Tavern's Double Decker Pizza, the Peephole's Fried Tenderloin and Fuji Yama's sushi creations, like the Indiana Roll or their famous Dragon Roll, are all dishes that have yet to catch the attention of Food Network, but give me more reason to be thankful to live in this city.

This Saturday, at the Centre downtown on Locust St., you will find the 30<sup>th</sup> annual taste of Evansville convention. Tickets to this are twenty dollars a , but you will leave stuffed. Businesses from all over the city will set up booths, providing ample opportunities for everyone to find a new favorite.

All proceeds from this event are given to coalitions responsible for reducing alcohol and drug abuse within Evansville's community.

Don't miss this. And if you can't afford it, grab a nice dinner out on the town yourself this weekend, and find your new favorite part of Evansville.

## Under the radar: 'Wristcutters: A Love Story'

By CLARE PRATT  
Staff writer

"Wristcutters" is the most sweet, romantic, funniest movie about suicide ever made. Yes I know, sweet and romantic are normally not words you should think of when you think of suicides, but in this oddly surreal dark comedy, they definitely apply.

The story focuses on a young guy named Zia, who kills himself after being dumped by his longtime girlfriend. That would normally be the end of the movie, but that's just in the opening scene. The rest of the film takes place in this weird afterlife for people who commit suicide.

This afterlife is just like the real world, except everything is just a bit worse. Everything is sort of run down or broken, the colors are

muted and no one is allowed to smile, ever. One day while working at his dead end (bad joke) job, Zia finds out that his girlfriend who broke up with him has also committed suicide.

From there, the movie becomes a road trip, as he and his friend Eugene, a Russian musician who killed himself in the middle of a bad show, and a girl they pick up hitchhiking named Mikal, whose convinced someone put her in the wrong afterlife, take a broken down car and journey across the afterlife to find her again.

The whole movie is both surreal, and yet grounded in reality. Most of the people he meets are just like other people, accept with visible signs of how they killed themselves (like a cop with a bullet hole through the head).

The characters are so bizarre, and yet so believable in the context of this world. In addition to the three main characters, there is a throat singing mute Alaskan, a crazy undead cult leader and a weird messiah played by Tom Waits.

The movie's tone is unexpectedly uplifting, considering the subject matter, and there is something honestly heartwarming about people who literally gave up on life finding something to live for again.

It's funny and heartfelt, but still keeps a very dark edge to it, especially in the flashback scenes that show how the various characters killed themselves.

The acting is great, the writing is sharp and the music is that perfect blend of quirky indie comedy and quiet thoughtful drama.

I find the whole idea of this

Dante-esc ironic hell very interesting; where people kill themselves to escape from everyday life, and their punishment for this is having to live in a lousy version of everyday life forever.

It should be noted, however, that religion is dealt with in a very distant way, implying a lot but not really laying down a moral stance, which I think is a good thing.

This atmosphere is very interesting, with visuals that are almost striking in their subtlety. It's also filled with surreal touches, like the literal black hole in the bottom seat of Zia's car, and the mysterious People In Charge.

This movie is funny, symbolic, quirky, thoughtful, and incredibly thought provoking. And, not to give away the ending, but the last shot was worth the whole thing.

## Does 'Jersey Shore' deserve our praise?

By HEATH KLUEMPER  
Staff writer

At the time I am writing this exposition, I am just wrapping up viewing an episode of the acclaimed MTV reality show "Jersey Shore" for the first time, and I have to say, I think I threw up in my mouth at what I just suffered through.

This is what countless friends of mine have become perplexed by and find to be entertainment.

The filming of shallow, pretentious fools has become the new big thing to our society.

Not caring enough to remember names, the men of the series are complete meathheads who focus on nothing but booze, girls and beefing up their bodies.

Seems simple, right?

It probably would be, except for a few small things (no, I'm not going to talk about how their \$80 Affliction shirt was probably cheaper than their faux hawk haircut).

For one, these men are about as ignorant as one could ever possibly imagine (and arrogant to boot), and are more likely to punch you in the face than shake your hand. I wish

I had a pen and scratch paper to record how many

times I heard derivatives of "bro," but I'm sure it was brotastically huge, brah.

Throw in the lamest tattoos you've ever seen on top of some of the sleaziest and creepiest behavior, and you're one rooie away from a party.

The women, I'm sad to say, are about as pathetic as the men on this trash of a television show.

Baked enough to be your Thanksgiving dinner and dressed for the next "Girls Gone Wild" video, the shallowness is top notch.

Scouring the beach for steroid-injected gorillas aptly named "juiceheads", these women seem ready to sleep their way to the middle, and probably a fairly bad case of syphilis.

I'd love to see a parent's reaction to seeing their daughter hook up with as many men as the high number of screwdrivers they had that evening at the club.

Popularizing a new acronym as annoying as the ever-preposterous "FML," "GTL" (meaning Gym, Tan, Laundry from what I've been able to decipher) has given rise to a plethora of irritating tweets and Facebook statuses over the past several months as well, only giving rise to the success of this show.

So now I ask, why in the world do we succumb to this nonsense?

I know for a fact that many of you despise this aforementioned stereotype, and yet you're allowing yourself to be entertained by the moronic antics of them.

Italian Americans, I know that the word "Guido" is in fact a derogatory term, so why allow it to be an accepted vernacular for a pathetic representation of your heritage?

Those in the Ed Hardy apparel that doesn't give much guessing to what your personal parts look like are probably already a little offended, as you should be.

All I'm trying to say is that it's odd for someone to want to surround himself or herself with something they detest.

For example, I hate the Dave Matthews Band, so if you were to find his poster on my wall or his music on my iPod, it would be a little awkward, no?

I understand that some things are just entertaining, and that the mass-media will feed us riveting things sometimes, but come on, let's be just a little more intelligent.

We are better than this.

Do you think Motion City Soundtrack is a good pick for USI's Springfest?

-Absolutely, I love Motion City Soundtrack

-Yes, they weren't my first choice, but they'll do a good job

-No, I'd much rather listen to someone else

-No preference

Vote online at [www.usishield.com](http://www.usishield.com)

## The Wonder Years show the upside to life

By HEATH KLUEMPER  
Staff writer

"The Upsides"  
Rating-9.5/10

There are some bands who just take themselves too seriously, especially in the pop-punk genre. It's supposed to be simple, fun, and carefree, yet these days there are far too many who take that concept way too far, whether it be by throwing neon colors over everything they associate with or the ridiculous amount of hair product they use. Others go the stern and sullen route, wanting nothing more than to be the second coming of Morrissey. Luckily, there are some fresh and light-hearted dudes from Pennsylvania who know that life, looks and

most importantly their music are much easier without all that excess, The Wonder Years.

For the past several years, these guys have continuously toured the world with their fast and hard pop-punk tunes, slowly building up a very solid fan base and making a name for themselves everywhere. They've been overly positive in their actions and lyrics, writing silly songs about pirates, ninjas, Captain Crunch, and the Kool-Aid man. It may sound like this content is a bit immature and far-fetched, but why can't it be? This band is full of character and, unlike so many droll artists in the business today, these guys focus on anything but the negative.

"The Upsides," the band's latest release,

is a perfect punk rock album about being on the road, wanting to be on the road, being back at home after being on the road, and old friends who have moved on after dreams of being on the road. Of course there are also some tracks about girls, but this only adds for more fun.

It's a record about understanding that sometimes you're going to be beaten down, you're going to feel defeated, and there's going to be some people who are going to try to take everything you've got, but you can stand up for yourself and your beliefs, and that you can control your own happiness. When you strip away all the technical aspects and party-time themes, this is a brilliant album about coming to terms with your life and the world around you.

Every track on this album stands out, as this band so eloquently does on a consistent basis. Songs like "New Years with Carl Weathers" and "Washington Square Park" drive the record from start to finish, making it one of the freshest pop-punk albums in recent history.

The closing track, "All My Friends Are in Bar Bands," is the perfect way to cap the album.

Instrumentally driving, lyrically captivating, and featuring the vocal talents of Valencia and Fireworks, the song leaves a clear message for the entire album: you might get tired, you might get down, and you might at times feel alone, but all it takes is a change in your mentality and a firm will, and you'll see the upsides.



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puzzles

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Solutions to this week's puzzles

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## Women take on new challenge



Photo by Jimmy Pyles

Junior Amie Newhart looks down the court for a teammate to hand the ball off. The women's team has a record of 15-4, 6-2 GLVC.

By **KELLY MONROE**  
Sports editor

Despite losing to the No. 3 University of Indianapolis Greyhounds, the Screaming Eagles women's basketball team is still in the running for a conference championship.

The team (15-4, 6-2 Great Lakes Valley Conference) lost by a narrow margin of 64-74 to the undefeated Greyhounds (19-0, 9-0 GLVC).

The Screaming Eagles never led during the game, even though they were only one point behind the Greyhounds in second quarter scoring.

Although they were never ahead, the team outshot the Greyhounds from the three-point line by 22.7 percent.

The Screaming Eagles also finished with a lower

number of turnovers. It gave up 16 compared to the Greyhounds' 20.

Unfortunately those high-points were not enough to secure a win as the Greyhounds outshot the Screaming Eagles by 10.6 percent from the field and 16.2 percent from the free throw line.

Lauren Meneghetti led the Screaming Eagles with 17 points and Ashton Mertens finished with 10 points.

The women will hit the road with the men's team today and Saturday to take on the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers and the Lewis University Flyers.

Due to changes in the GLVC Divisions, each team in its respective division must play the others twice, once on the road and once at

home.

Although the next two games will count toward the conference record, this is the first time this season the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and Lewis University have played the Screaming Eagles.

Despite never playing the Screaming Eagles, the three teams all have similar GLVC rankings.

The Rangers are leading the North Division with a record of 17-3, 9-2 GLVC. It is also on a three game winning streak.

The Flyers follow closely behind the Rangers in second place with a record of 10-9, 6-4 GLVC.

Both games will count toward the conference tournament as the women finish their final 10 regular season games.

## Men overcome road blocks

By **KELLY MONROE**  
Sports editor

A perfect season, tying a school record and setting a new one is cause for celebration. However the men's basketball team is busy focusing on the next game.

The No. 4 Screaming Eagles tied the record for the longest winning streak on Thursday by defeating the University of Indianapolis.

The record of 17 straight wins was set by the 2004-05 team.

The men's team currently has a record of 17-0 and 8-0 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC). It is the best starting record of any men's basketball team in school history.

As if those accomplishments were not big enough, the team remains one of five undefeated teams in the entire National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II.

"There are no words to describe how hard the team works," Senior Marvin Gray said.

Even with all the hard work, he said this has been his favorite season ever at any high school, college or national level.

First Year Head Coach Rodney Watson is not too quick to celebrate the tie as he stressed the streak is not the most important thing.

"Really it's insignificant frankly," Head Coach Rodney Watson said, "Streaks are a distraction, whether they're winning

streaks or losing streaks."

It is all about how the team finishes a game and prepares for the next one, according to Watson.

Although the team is focusing on the next game, Gray is also looking to the future as the GLVC Championships approach.

He said his goal is to win the championship and earn a ring for the late Jeron Lewis.

"The rest of the season is for (Jeron) Lewis," Gray said.

Lewis, a senior on the team, passed away on Jan. 14 after collapsing during the final minutes of the game at Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Prior to losing Lewis, the team was dealt another harsh blow in October.

The GLVC voted to place a post-season ban on the team after the university self-reported five violations, which occurred last year.

The violations included improper contact with a recruit prior to signing, homework production or modification and three transportation violations.

As a result of the violations, the university voluntarily deemed two players ineligible for the 2009-2010 season, forfeited its 2008-2009 season record of 27-7 and returned \$9,362 used to participate in the NCAA Division II tournament.

Even though the team has a perfect record, the ban will prevent it from competing in the national championship.

The team has held it

together despite these road-blocks due to the strength of the team, Watson and Gray said.

"Certainly our strength is that we have talented players," Watson said. Gray added the team has great leadership from its coaching staff, captains and upper-classmen.

Even though the team is ineligible for a national championship run, Gray said the team is making use of the time by preparing next year's team so it will be ready for the regular and post-seasons.

As the team continues to work toward preparing for next year, the final 10 games of this season will be a reminder of how far the team has come.

A lot of the upcoming teams will look familiar according to Watson.

"A lot of it is the second time around with guys in our division," Watson said.

Changes made to GLVC divisions means each team in its respective division must play the others twice, once on the road and once at home.

Although the next two games will count toward the conference record, this is the first time this season the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and Lewis University have played the Screaming Eagles.

The games will take place today and Saturday in Wisconsin and Illinois respectively.

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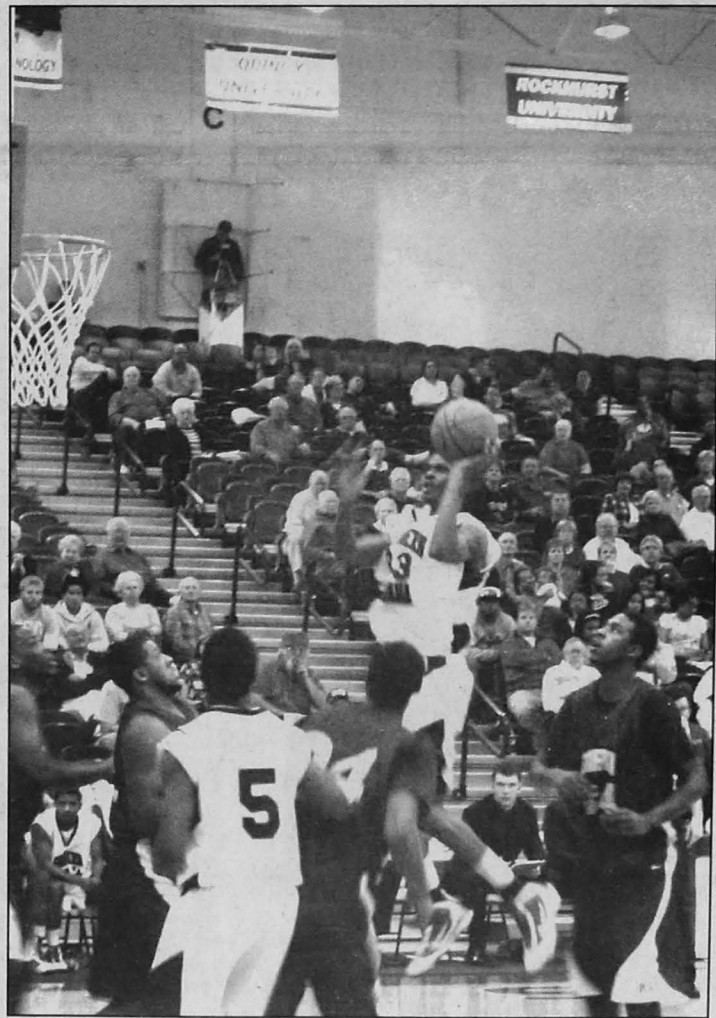


Photo by Jimmy Pyles

Junior C.J. Trotter soars above his opponents as he scores a basket. The men's basketball team is undefeated with a 17-0, 8-0 GLVC record.

## Fans show school spirit

By **KELLY MONROE**  
Sports editor

Since becoming part of the SGA, RedZone, the fan club for USI's athletic teams, has been working on creating promotional events in an attempt to draw more students to athletic events.

"Redzone is sponsored by both the student government and the athletic department here at USI," said Dylan Melling, administrative vice president of university affairs.

RedZone has already taken part in many events this year including cheering on the cross country teams during the national champi-

onship and organizing a fan bus for the men's basketball team's game at the University of Southern Illinois-Carbondale.

The group has also found a unique way of teaching students the school song, while getting them involved at basketball games.

"Bob Wolfley came up with the idea of putting the school song upside down on the shirt so you can just pull it out at the end of the game," Melling said.

RedZone will also be pairing with the Activities Programming Board to create theme nights for future games.

The first theme night will

be on Feb. 4 during the homecoming basketball games.

The theme will be superhero night. Fans should come dressed as their favorite superheroes.

RedZone is also making a positive impact following the death of men's basketball player Jeron Lewis.

"We're going to be working a lot more in the coming weeks with the Jamel Lewis Fund," Melling said.

RedZone is also accepting members year round according to Melling.

Meetings take place every other Tuesday at 3 p.m. in UC 206.


Screaming Eagle Standard

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