



Is there another 'Da Vinci Code' coming to the big screen?

Dan Brown, author of 'The Da Vinci Code', is rumored to make another film based off another one of his best-selling books. Check out what all the fuss is about on Page 5

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The SHIELD

University of Southern Indiana's Student Newspaper

Thursday, April 3, 2008

The Shield is a designated public forum.

Volume 38, Issue #23

Ringing in the spring

Dashboard Confessional to headline 2008 SpringFest

By ANDREW FOSTER
The Shield staff

Tim Buecher, director of Career Counseling, has been at USI a long time, long enough to know when something special is happening.

"I've been here at the university since 1975 and there has never been anything that even approaches what this has the potential to be. Never," Buecher said.

Buecher is talking about SpringFest, the annual festival that has received a lot of attention after Dashboard Confessional was announced as the headliner. In its first week of ticket sales, Dashboard Confessional alone has sold over 1,200 general admission tickets.

Scott Miller, a junior studying computer science and a member of the committee that is organizing SpringFest, said that so far students have been very enthusiastic about Dashboard Confessional coming to USI.

"I've talked to several people that have said that Friday night they are camping outside the PAC and waiting for the doors to open," Miller said.

There is a lot to be enthusiastic about, with two battle of the bands competitions including local rock bands 4-Seamer, Slick Nicholas and Blind Image. Ho96 is attempting to break the "World's Largest Hug" record during the course of the event. A USIdol singing competition takes place over the two-day event with a first place prize of \$300. A variety of musicians and bands will be performing throughout each day of the event as well.

"We cover pretty much all the genres," Miller said.

The two-day festival has other attractions, such as a 14-ride carnival, face painting, clowns and a rock-climbing wall. All carnival rides and activities are free to students and alumni and their families, thanks to various organizations including SGA and APB, amongst others.

Miller and Buecher, from the very beginning of their planning, wanted SpringFest 2008 to be a historical event on campus.

"We have to go big, it has to be as big as possible," Miller said.

Miller was first inspired to hold an event on campus after witnessing a similar event at Depauw University. Seeing the event made Miller want to start a similar tradition at USI.

"You make an event huge one time, people will be expecting it again," Miller said.

Lisa Wanniger, a junior studying elementary education and a member of the SpringFest committee, hopes that SpringFest debunks student mentalities that nothing happens on campus. She hopes that this event becomes a tradition that is easily seen to students.

"After this weekend I don't think anyone on this campus can complain about nothing going on here. It's bringing a cultural to our campus that we haven't seen," Wanniger said.

SpringFest takes place on April 18th and 19th, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to help volunteer at the event should contact Tim Buecher at tbuecher@usi.edu.

FOREIGN POLICY

Obama's top political advisors hold forum at USI



Obama's foreign policy advisors open a question and answering forum. From left to right Dennis Donough, Greg Craig, Gen. James Smith and Sarah Sewall.

By SETH GRUNDHOEFER
News editor

In light of Hillary Clinton's visit to Indiana, Senator Barack Obama campaign is now setting its sights on Indiana, with political strategists and advisors leading the way.

In addition to their four-month tour, four top political advisors to Senator Barack Obama met at USI to discuss Obama's foreign policy on Tuesday.

Speaking of "change" and "conventional wisdom," the four panelists relayed the policies and platforms of Obama to over 100 people throughout the USI community.

Panelists included Sarah Sewall, General James Smith, Dennis Donough and Greg Craig.

Sarah Sewall, who served as first deputy assistant secretary of defense during the Clinton

administration and senior foreign policy advisor to Senate majority leader George Mitchell, said the event allows Obama to gauge how Indiana will choose in its next democratic nominee.

"Everyone in the room has the power to decide who has the judgment to handle the 21st century threat," Sewall said.

Sewall said that America's ability to ignore foreign policy and diplomacy is like ignoring "the big elephant in the room."

"It is no question 911 proved that insecurity in others nations effects our own," Sewall said in regards to Obama's diplomatic hopes.

"If we rely exclusively on military tools, we will oversee an instrument that will create more enemies than it will kill," Sewall said.

Sewall said that Obama has the courage to talk to countries we disagree with and has the courage to "become partners with other actors to

bring change to the world."

Panelists General James Smith, a member of the Airforce and active participant during the Cold War, said it's Obama objective to gain excitement in the young and old voters of America through his idea of "change."

"I could not be prouder of you people who want to be apart in this great nation," Smith said. While this was one of many lectures throughout the remaining primary states, none of the panelists said if Obama would follow their path.

"It was good to hear how Obama stands on everything. They were there to knock Clinton down," USI junior Amanda Ballard said.

Official Obama spokesman Nick Kimball said Evansville is a crucial part of the Indiana primary process and that though he cannot say when, he said Obama will definitely be visiting Evansville in the near future.

By Anthony Pate

USI grad moves to Ivy Leagues but returns for visit

By SABRIA DUGHAISH
The Shield staff

When Nathan Fry was only 10-years-old, he started keeping stats on sports games. He thought that was normal for a 10-year-old and even organized his own local wiffle ball league.

Fry spoke at the University of Southern Indiana Wednesday. He is a 2000 graduate of USI and also a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a master's degree in sports administration. He is now the assistant director of Athletics at Harvard University as well as the administrative liaison for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and chair of the Athletics Department's policy and hazing committees, and serves as a member of the college's Board of Freshman Advisers, freshman orientation committee and student advisory board.

Through high school Fry continued keeping stats on athletic games and also refereed.

When Fry was a freshman at USI he decided on an English major, but then changed to a business administration major. As a junior he realized he wasn't enjoying his classes.

"The classes didn't inspire me," Fry said.

He was ready to drop out, and then he remembered how much he enjoyed English classes and Fry ended up graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in English and a minor in business administration. Before graduating, Fry worked in the athletic department on campus. He kept stats for athletic games.

At Harvard Fry deals with issues of NCAA bylaws almost every day. On a daily basis he will talk with coaches, athletic students, parents, deans, alumni, professors and on occasion the media. He says a lot of what he learned at USI, he still uses today with his job. When he has to investigate violations within athletics he remembers what he learned in his investigation class with Professor Hart.

"I just thought it was really interesting for a former student to come back and to see where his degree has taken him," Adam Trinkel, a junior at USI said.

Fry left students with some tips to maximize their time here at USI. He said he wished he had lived on campus for more than just a year. He said for a student, resi-

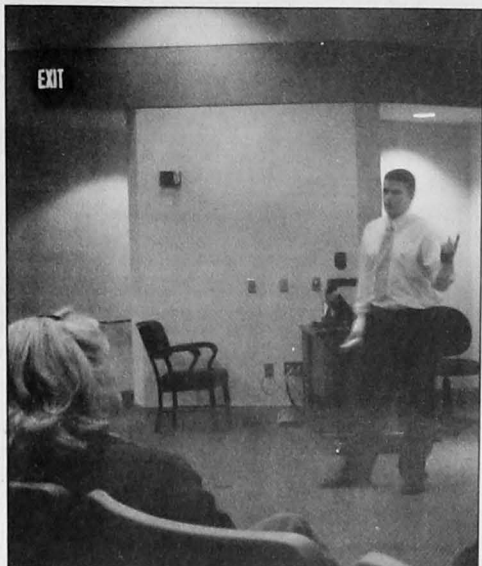
dential education and classroom education go hand-in-hand. He said that students need to take advantage of the office hours that professors provide and try to connect with at least one professor a semester. Lastly he wanted students to get involved with as many activities as possible.

Traci Johnson, a freshman at USI, said, "It made me feel good to know someone from USI can go that far in their career."

Fry said that college is so much more than getting a job. He wants to encourage students to find something they are passionate about. For students deciding on a major or career Fry said to ask themselves, "What class do you wake up and enjoy going to?"

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"The classes didn't inspire me," Nathan Fry said. Fry speaks about his thoughts about dropping out of school before switching his major from business administration major.

Photo by Sabria Dughais

'House that Rock Built' raises money to build houses for local habitat chapter

By AMANDA PARKHILL
The Shield Staff

People slowly trickled in and out of Carter Hall Saturday during USI's chapter of Habitat for Humanity fundraiser, "The House that Rock Built." Five bands performed from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Among the bands were Jeb, Seventh Avenue and Akacia. Each band performed for 45 minutes.

The show was kicked off by Seventh Avenue. Their show was an impressive display of classic rock talent from the band members. It was as if the audience was waiting for "Free Bird," which was the closing number for the band. Seventh Avenue performed for free, giving habitat the opportunity to raise more money for the cause.

Next on stage was Jeb, the only band in the early hours to play original music. In a folksy rock style the band

had the audience bobbing their heads. It was evident the band enjoyed playing in front of people.

And then there was Akacia. The band had members of one sorority on campus dancing in the aisles. They were energetic and extremely talented as were the members of the sorority. The songs ranged from classic rock to modern rock and each was played in a manner that had everyone tapping their feet or bobbing their heads.

Admission for the concert was \$3 per person and T-shirts were \$7 each. Drawings for door prizes were held between the acts. The door prizes consisted of items such as free movie rentals, free tanning sessions, T-shirts, and free bowling passes. The concert was originally scheduled to be held between the PAC and REC.

Unfortunately, attendance during the early hours of the show was low.



Local band Akacia performs for local habitat for humanity chapter at USI

Photo by Amanda Parkhill

USI students serve country in Iraq

Faith a big part of journey

By SABRIA DUGHAISS
The Shield Staff

Shannell Black a student at the University of Southern Indiana and a member of the Indiana National Guard has seen so much in his 27 years of life.

When he was in Iraq for his second tour, he turned to church and the Bible to get him through each day.

When they were able, some of the people in his unit would hold their own service. He said getting home to his daughter, Amira, helped him to stay strong. Black eventually went on to do a third tour in Iraq with about 300 others in 2005.

After returning home to Virginia, he continued working on the base, but worked at the clinic on the base as part of the EMT and Fire Department instead of working at the hospital.

Black later decided to take his military career in a different direction. For him to be closer to his family, he decided to come to USI to finish his schooling and also join the Indiana National Guard.

He wanted to have more time for his family, and this would help for him to be able to pay for college. He not only had one child to care for but two. His daughter is four years old now, and his son is only five months.

Black is now a sophomore and a nursing major at USI. He said he wants to be active again within the military and get about 20 years in the military.

Black's adjustment back to normal life has been hard for him. He says that he is still not fully adjusted yet. He has a hard time

sleeping and does not like to be around a lot of people at one time. He used to be an enthusiastic person, but now he tends to stay to himself more so than before. "I am not the same person I was before," Black said. Though, he said that if he had to, he would go back to Iraq. "I appreciate being an American," he said.

When he left Iraq, he said he had mixed emotions. He was happy to be going home, but at the same time he was upset by what he had seen. Black and a few people from his unit had bought a soccer ball for a community they had been to in Iraq. He said they were so happy and appreciative of this small gesture. He said that some people at home do not appreciate what they have and tend to care more about the materialistic things in life. His unit played soccer with the kids. They bought toys for kids and handed out candy as well.

Black had advice for anyone man or woman being deployed. He said, "Tell them to keep their faith, look out for their brothers, and don't take anything for granted."

The 163rd Field Artillery from Evansville's National Guard deployed to Iraq in February as well as about another 100 soldiers from other National Guards in Indiana. This is their second tour to Iraq. One soldier went is Chris Kelly, 24, from Mt. Vernon, Ind., and a senior at USI.

At the age of 20 Kelly decided he wanted to join the military. One reason that many people join the National Guard is for the financial help they receive for schooling. Kelly said this was not a reason for him. He did not specifically know why he wanted to join the military, for him it just felt right. He did not even tell his family until after he had already signed up. He also had family in the military. His father and uncle were part of the Marines and his grandfather was a member of the Navy. Kelly was also a member of USI's ROTC program for two semesters and is an Alpha Sigma

Phi alumnus.

Kelly had his basic training and AIT (advanced individual training) at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. He was there for 15 weeks. He became a part of Evansville's 163rd Field Artillery unit. However, that changed when he got his orders that he would be deploying to Iraq. Kelly received the information over the summer. For the deployment, he is a part of the 76th Infantry Brigade that is based in Indianapolis. He is in the 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment.

When Kelly found out that he was being deployed he knew there was always a chance that his orders could change. Though, as the date of the deployment got closer and with the training he was doing he knew this was really going to happen. He said it was the "army instinct" in him that knew he was going.

Kelly and the rest of the men and women that are deployed started their training in August at Camp Atterbury in Edinburgh, Ind. They were there for about three weeks. They also went back in October as well. Some of the training included warrior tasks, first aid, mount and dismount training and weapons training. The unit he is with for the deployment will also be training for two months at Ft. Stewart in Georgia before they leave for Iraq. The 163rd, however, will be doing their training at Ft. Campbell, Ky.

Kelly left on December 10 to go Indianapolis for ten days. The soldiers were able to spend the holidays with their friends and family because they will use their leave days. They left for training on January 2.

Kelly's job while in Iraq is to be on the front line with the infantry, but he said he isn't too nervous. He always knew this was a possibility when he joined the military. The only thing he hopes is that his family will stay strong throughout the time he is gone.

His family did not want him to go and wished it was not hap-

pening. Even before he left he and his family were already missing him and they felt there was not enough time to spend together before he left. It was especially difficult for Kelly and his family because he just got married on November 23.

"We sacrificed the fairy tale wedding we both wanted for a smaller wedding so that we could get married before he left," his wife Kelly said. "It was a decision that had to be well thought out whether to get married or not before he left. When it all came down to it though, we just listened to our hearts. It felt right."

His wife and him had been dating for about three years. His wife is an alumnus of Ivy Tech Community College and is planning on becoming a Registered Nurse. When they got engaged they had planned to have their wedding in May of 2008 after he would be graduating. Not only did his graduation date change, but the wedding date did as well. He was not able to attend classes last semester at USI because of the training and preparation for Iraq, but he plans to finish once he gets back. Also, when Kelly does get back from Iraq, he and his wife do plan on having something informal to celebrate their marriage.

Kelly and the other soldiers being deployed will be gone for about a year. He does not believe they will have any more leave time since it was used during the holidays. When he gets back from Iraq, he will have 10 months left in the National Guard and then he will be getting out.

His wife Kelly said, "Being in the military is a decision he made for himself before we met, and I respect and accept that part of him."

He said that he is not sure what to expect when he is in Iraq or how this may change him. He won't be able to really know until he is there. He is very close with his family and knows this is a difficult thing for them to deal with, but at the same time he knows this is what he has to do.

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Grant helps students teach fifth-grade girls

By DANI PALMER
The Shield Staff

Kristina Walker, a senior food and nutrition major, is currently working with students Amy Smith and Kristina Harris, who are nursing majors with nutrition minors, on a student project that first began in their community nutrition class.

"It started off as just a project in class. We had to write a grant for community nutrition and we decided we would take it an extra step further and go ahead and turn it into a RISC Grant. The three of us just came up with the idea in class," Walker said.

The students received a \$996 RISC Grant from USI to fund their equipment and start their project. The six-week project has been extended due to the weather.

However, for 45 minutes, three days a week the small group heads to Corpus Christie Elementary to work with fifth grade girls.

The project was originally planned as two days a week, but due to the students' involvement, schedules were changed.

Nutrition and exercise are the focus of the project. The fifth grade girls are taught how to implement exercise and good nutrition into their lives. They also learn about portion control and the food groups.

It is important for the young girls to know not only what to eat, but how much of it they should eat. Various types of exercise are also discussed and Walker, Smith, and Harris actually spend some time exercising with the girls in the classroom.

"Dealing with fifth grade girls has been very, very interesting, very different. They're wonderful, fun girls and we decided to work with them because all the literature told us that when they begin middle school is really when they start seeing those unhealthy habits form. So we chose fifth grade girls before they got to sixth grade," Walker said.

Walker, Smith and Harris started the project because they wanted to make an impact in the girl's lives and they hope future USI students will continue with it.

Walker said that Corpus Christie also hopes that students from the University of Southern Indiana will continue to work with the fifth grade girls because they are very happy with the project and the progress being made.

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Credit crisis has familiar feel

By J.I. LUTZ
The Shield staff

The Federal Reserve has stepped in to provide loan guarantees that it hopes will keep troubled investment bank Bear Stearns afloat. The Fed is providing \$30 billion in taxpayer money by invoking a provision that dates back to the depression era.

Bear Stearns and other lending institutions are in trouble because they made poorly documented loans during the U.S. housing boom. I do not claim to be a financial analyst, but as nearly as I can ascertain, the housing boom was largely fueled by lax credit practices and the chickens have now come home to roost.

The Fed announced that it would provide up to \$200 billion in loans to cash strapped financial institutions. Apparently Bear is just the tip of the iceberg. Many lending institutions are currently at risk because of questionable credit practices.

President Bush praised the Fed's actions in bailing out financial institutions, but seems reluctant to offer direct help to affected homeowners. The Congress is working on a plan that would provide direct relief to homeowners by, among other things, easing bankruptcy rules and granting judges the power to reduce interest rates. The mortgage industry opposes the legislation and is destined for a partisan fight. The Republicans, you may recall, actually tightened bankruptcy rules when they controlled Congress.

According to many analysts, the credit crisis might have been avoided, had the Fed and SEC embraced recommendations made after the fall of Enron. You remember Enron. They're the company that provided Bush with a corporate jet to use during his 2000 Presidential campaign then went belly-up after it was discovered they were manipulating energy prices by creating artificial shortages and rolling blackouts. The Enron debacle was fueled by questionable lending practices on the part of institutions like Merrill Lynch. However, instead of following the recommendations to tighten controls in the wake of the scandal, the government adopted a hands-off approach that many believe has led to the current crisis.

The entire situation has an eerily familiar ring to it. A similar situation occurred during the Reagan/Bush era with savings and loan institutions. The government loosened the rules on S&L's in order to improve their profitability. This deregulation led to an avalanche of bad loans. The U.S. taxpayers, as usual, ended up having to step in and bail the industry out.

Then President G.H.W. Bush's sons were revealed to be beneficiaries of the S&L scandal. Jeb Bush used a building appraised at \$500,000 to obtain a \$4.6 million loan, which he defaulted on. Neil Bush served as director for an S&L called Silverado. As director, he approved over \$100 million in loans to friends who were investors in his oil exploration company. After less than three years of Bush's management, Silverado went belly-up. The taxpayers picked up the check. In fact, the Bush family has amassed a great fortune at the expense of the American taxpayer.

These events are worth keeping in mind when we hear politicians talking about the need for less regulation on business. Very often the reason these people are campaigning for less regulation of an industry is so their friends and families can step in and make large profits by unethical means. Less government regulation sounds good in principle. Propponents can always come up with examples of government incompetence to bolster their case, but often the result of deregulation is that unscrupulous people manipulate the system for their own gain.

Now, more than ever, we seem to have government of the wealthy, by the wealthy and for the wealthy. The U.S. government increasingly operates for the benefit of the lobbyists and contractors, rather than the ordinary people. Yet, as is the case with the current crisis, the ordinary American taxpayer ends up getting stuck with the tab.

Got Experience?

Don't worry. Neither do the Democrats

By KYLE KNIGHT
Shield staff

One of the burdens for some students graduating in May consists of beefing up your application because of a lack of experience in your field. You tend to accentuate your school activities or work in the classroom, but neither can really contend with real-world experience in the minds of some employers.

Don't worry you're not alone in this fight, in fact, the democratic primary currently finds itself in the midst of this same struggle. With Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton touting their resumes for the presidency, supporters everywhere claim one candidate has more experience than the other. So how much significance should voters give to the experience argument, especially with what Clinton has touted in the past few weeks?

First, she claimed in an interview with National Public Radio that she played an "instrumental" role in the Good Friday Peace process. This prompted Lord Trimble of Lisnagarvey, the Nobel Peace Prize winner for his involvement in the process, in an interview with the London Telegraph to state, "her recent statements about being deeply involved were merely the sort of thing people put in their canvassing leaflets." Trimble also said, "I don't want to rain on the thing for her but being a cheerleader for something is slightly different from being a principal player."

Some not as involved in the process came to her defense such as Ireland Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, but even Ahern concluded, "she was the first lady of the United States, not a party leader in Northern Ireland. No one would expect her to get into the nitty-gritty of the process."

Another example of her diplomatic efforts includes her March 1996 trip to Bosnia. Clinton traveled there to promote U.S. policy and when landing claimed to come under possible sniper fire.

Two reporters on the same trip as Clinton, CBS's Sharyl Attkisson and NBC's Andrea Mitchell, did not recall sniper fire on the trip, and did not find any exaggerated danger. CBS news even presented footage, which you can find on YouTube, of the actual landing with no danger at all present.

John Promfret, the former Associated Press reporter during the conflict, also stated Clinton's helicopter did not come under fire. Promfret said, "As a former AP wire service hack, I can safely say that it would have been in my lead had anything like that happened."

Probably the most amusing account of this gross exaggeration comes from comedian Sinbad, who also accompanied Clinton on the flight. In an interview with the Washington Post Sinbad said, "what kind of president would say, 'Hey, man, I can't go 'cause I might get shot so I'm going to send my wife...oh, and take a guitar player and a comedian with you.'" However, it's important to note, Sinbad also supports Obama.

In an article by Associated Press journalist Nancy

Bernac, she investigated Clinton's claim of negotiating "open borders to let fleeing refugees into safety from Kosovo." Bernac did find conflicting reports from Obama supporters and Clinton supporters involved in the event, but ultimately could not find any public records of Clinton negotiating to keep the border open.

Although Clinton served as one of the most active first ladies, why would she exaggerate her claims of experience? Shouldn't the record speak for itself if your experience remains that significant?

To put the experience argument in greater context, look at Presidential history. One of our greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln only served in the Illinois legislature from 1834-1840, and served in the U.S. House of Representatives for one term before losing because of his policy decisions. He then went on to win the presidential election after losing a campaign for the senate.

Some of the worst president in history, like Richard Nixon, had experienced political careers before entering the white house, and look how he handled the Vietnam war and his own reelection.

On the other side of the coin, inexperience has led to great American blunders. No one has to look further than the Bay of Pigs invasion President Kennedy instigated in his first 100 days.

In a recent article in Time magazine, a feature story focused on the validity of experience.

A leading researcher on professional experience, Anders Ericsson, said in the introduction to his book, *Cambridge Handbook of Expertise and Expert Performance* (2006), "the number of years of experience in a domain is a poor predictor of attained performance."

One of Ericsson's primary findings led him to believe repeatedly performing highly difficult tasks creates a first class performer. One must continue to express dedication and a solitary drive to achieve more complicated tasks.

This finding presents an interesting perspective when looking at the conduct of the Clinton and Obama campaigns. When Obamagave his now famous speech on race,

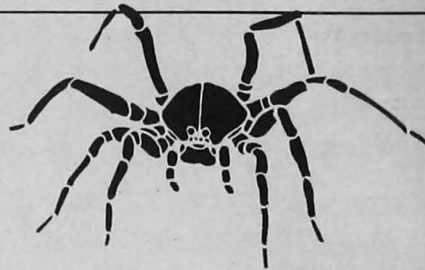
he did not follow the conventional path and offer a simple denial of Rev. Wright's statements.

He chose to address the underlying issue of race which instigated Wright's comments, and Obama chose to include every American in his discussion. He could no more denounce Wright, than he could the resentment held by many white Americans.

Obama's speech presented a leader willing to take a risk and offer Americans an opportunity to discuss issues that impede our progress. Clinton, however, resorts to grossly exaggerated claims about a topic that will not guarantee success in the White House.

Who would you rather have working for you? A desperate candidate overstating their credentials, or one who has gone past claims of experience, and addresses what needs to be accomplished for you to succeed.

Spiders crawling up the wall...



By BROOKLYN SOLIS
Opinion editor

When the spider begins to spin its web, each lie becomes connected to the next, until his beautiful web is sewn.

Spiders don't just lurk in dark corners anymore. They are everywhere. You may be one yourself. In a world where the idea of compassion has been forgotten (unless there is a tragedy, hurricane, or mass casualty); it is every spider for himself. The best web spinners and easily the most dangerous of spiders are politicians.

It's always been difficult to trust a politician. Even if they are just the right height, with believable hand gestures, and a blood red tie. I don't care how many babies they kiss, or books they read to kindergarten classes. Every politician has lied.

During the Vietnam War, the American public

had been hanging on by a thread, waiting to hear that our troops were coming home. They were coming back in body bags. Even though the baby boomer generation fought that war, they seem to be quietly sitting back, watching their children fight this losing battle in Iraq. We all seem to be quietly sitting back.

He lost his balance several times, but he skillfully, reconnected the broken strands. The spider must protect the web; after all he is attached to it. He is a part of it.

The ugliest spider is the politician involved in embezzlement and sex scandals. Everyone has a price. Some politicians would not pass up an all inclusive trip to the Bahamas. Why not bring a hooker and a kilo of cocaine? If Americans aren't going to do anything, but vote these people in office for a second term, we should not complain about it. The younger generation's political ideals are skewed

and unimportant. All they want is a cell phone and a latte. It must be understood the only way to see through the web is to outsmart the spider. Until this idea has become universal, we can only consider ourselves to be a politician's dinner.

After quietly waiting for something to meet its doom in his web, the spider is overjoyed when a fly struggles for his life. The spider eats until he is full. It still is not enough to satisfy him. The spider must find another place to spin his web.

The only way to see through the deceit is to ask questions, and don't accept the wrong answers. Compassion may be a shrinking human emotion, but ignorance doesn't have to be. We have to decide to be the spider or the fly. Even if we are indecisive and don't like either choice we should find a broom handle and destroy the web. Then stomp on the spider. Twice even. Just to make sure that this spider's web spinning days are over.

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.

Film makes fans *Shutter* in more ways than one

By SAM SKROBOT
The Shield staff

The widely accepted notion that the kids from *Dawson's Creek* wouldn't make it past their successful six seasons in the small Massachusetts town on the CW has once again been proven wrong.

Katie Holmes stunned critics with her performances in movies such as the 2002 thriller, *Phone Booth* and *Abandon* as well as the 2005 remake of *Batman*.

Michelle Williams also utilized her appearance on the Teen Soap-opera to make a name for herself as an Academy Award nominee for her performance in *Brokeback Mountain*.

Joshua Jackson, who played Pacey Witter on *Dawson's Creek*, has proved to be triumphant in Hollywood as well, by starring in films that include *Bobby*, and the newly released thriller, *Shutter*.

The 28 year old Canadian born actor plays the starring role of Benjamin Shaw in the newest cinematic horror movie involving the mysterious and deadly events surrounding newly-wed Shaw and his wife in some eerie "spirit photos."

Shutter, in addition to supplying a fix for former *Creek* fans, has also allowed those moviegoers who truly appreciate a good scare to leave the cinema with some genuinely "creepy" afterthoughts.

The moderately anticipated film came from the hands of *The Ring* and *The Grudge*'s creators, and does justice to this novice theme of Asian Horror movie re-makes.

And that is about all the justice it does for film-making as a whole.

Shutter encompasses all that has become of American horror movies: a charming leading man, a sexy (and often quite naked) leading lady, and scenes designed to make you jump out of your seat.

The best way to summarize the new horror film is to watch the highly televised trailer for the film that as been running almost non-stop for 2 weeks now.

There is a "creepy" plot, with a minimal twist and an overall concept that has the potential to make viewers "shutter".

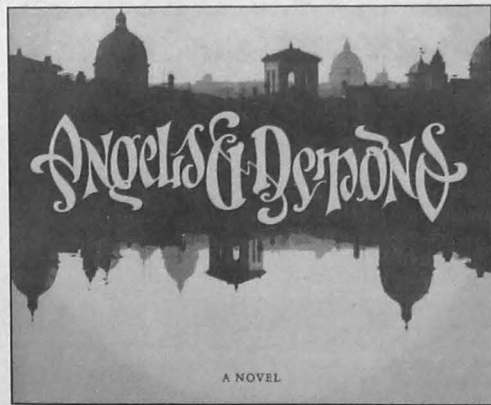
The movie has clearly NOT spawned from the horrifically genius minds like those of Rob Zombie, Alfred Hitchcock or even Tim Burton, however the film is all that it needs to be in order to make money at the box-office, and there is little shame to be had in that.

I am proud to say that part of the \$8 I paid to view the movie will be going to the relatively talented leading actors Rachael Taylor and Joshua Jackson.

And although there is little hope for Jackson to join his former co-star Michelle Williams in the category of "Academy Award nominee", there is always hope for the future.

Until then, the former *Dawson's Creek* star can safely say that he was part of a mildly successful horror movie, and most importantly, he is no longer living in the shadow of James Van Der Beek, who clearly peaked at *Varsity Blues*, and is now doing voice-overs for *Robot Chicken*.

Dan Brown brings his



Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons*, pictured above, introduces the character Robert Langdon who was made famous in *The Da Vinci Code*.

Picture courtesy of BoothBooks.com

to the screen

By KIMBERLY STURGILL
The Shield staff

Dan Brown—author of *The Da Vinci Code*, *Angels and Demons* and other thrillers—is set to have another of his works hit movie theaters.

The Da Vinci Code was put to film in 2006.

The book is a great read, inspiring the reader to find out "who was behind what" in the story.

The Da Vinci Code revealed—or made up—secrets about Mary Magdalene and the Knights Templar.

The movie tried to incorporate this information into a film worthy of the book; it is only a matter of opinion on whether or not it succeeded.

Critics oscillated. Some said the movie lacked the imagination of the book and contained poor production quality while yet others loved the film for its creativity.

Whether or not *The Da Vinci Code* succeeded as a movie, it inspired the production of *Angels*

and *Demons* as a film, rumored to be completed by 2009.

Filming is set to begin on June 5, 2008.

I hope this movie will equal the intensity of the book and maintain the viewers attention.

The screenplay was written by Akiva Goldsman (*The Da Vinci Code*, *I Am Legend*), and features the return of Tom Hanks as one of the lead characters, Robert Langdon, a Harvard professor up to his ears in mystery and riddles.

Naomi Watts joins the Dan Brown universe to play Vittoria Vetra, a scientist who becomes involved in the mystery of the Illuminati, a secret and dangerous brotherhood. Vetra seeks revenge for her fathers death at the hands of the Illuminati.

The production of *Angels and Demons* is still a little shaky, as controversy over the first movie caused hesitation in the filming of a second movie.

As of now, *Angels and Demons* is still in pre-production, but it remains to be seen if the movie will be finished.

To Barack: bring 'change' to Evansville

By JON WEBB
Et Cetera editor

With the cinnamon-smell of Hillary Clinton still fresh in the Evansville air, a visit from Barack Obama now seems imminent.

Considering Obama's consistent promise to bring about "change" wherever he goes, I offer the candidate the following list of five things that need changed in Evansville.

Mr. Obama, I hope you roll up your sleeves and get your shockingly small hands (watch a speech.

The man possesses the hands of a malnourished child) dirty cleaning up what ails our city.

1. **The Lloyd Expressway.**

There is nothing "express" about this horrific hell-scape of a road. Completely refiguring the streets, stoplights and exits in Evansville would cost millions, but maybe you could use your presidential authority (if you win) to change the name.

How about, The Lloyd, Cluster-***k? We can discuss a family-friendly alternative.

2. **The burgeoning "hard-core" music scene enabled by Boney Junes and other teenage clubs in Jasper, Hardinsburg and surrounding cities.**

Yes, these are obviously popular establishments, and yes, not all the bands playing these clubs are terrible, but have you heard some of this stuff?

It sounds like Civil War surgery with power chords.

Plus, the "scene kids" who love it possess bodies way too thin and frail to withstand a pounding bass.

Their hearts will simply give-out if we don't stop this madness.

Here's a suggestion: go to area High Schools and hand out Bob Dylan's *Highway 61 Revisited* in place of condoms.

On second thought, hand out the condoms, too.

Scene kid procreation will only supplement screamo.

3. **The scattershot arrival of limited-release and independent films in our movie theaters.**

Do you know how depressing it is to go to Stadium 16 and hear hordes of people exiting a theater discussing the spectacular effects in *10,000 B.C.* or the awesomeness of *Never Back Down*?

"I can't believe how easy it is, once you move to a new town, to get wrapped up in the seedy underworld of shirtless street fighting. Happened to my brother."

Last fall, several of the eventually Oscar-nominated films arrived well after their release.

Why should I have to weeks to see *There Will Be Blood*, but be afforded four opportunities throughout the day to see Tyler Perry in drag in *Meet the Browns*?

4. **All the rain.**

I assume you can't control weather patterns—at least, not yet—but honestly, all my shoes are saturated.

According to my aunt on my mother's side, that's a very good way to get pneumonia.

She thinks you're the antichrist, though, so you never know.

5. **The pollution.**

When I step outside my apartment some mornings and breathe in, the crisp morning air tastes a little like secondhand smoke.

No one likes cancer, Mr. Obama. Not even the Republicans.

USI and the United Nations

Experiencing the Model UN in New York City

By RICHIE KROCKER
The Shield staff

While many USI students were recovering from Spring Break last week, another group of USI students were working with 4,000 international college students representing 144 of the 192 countries and organizations in the United Nations to draft and pass resolutions to solve many of the world's pressing problems at the National Model United Nations conference in New York City.

Beginning at 6:00a.m. on Monday March 16th, 14 USI students (myself included) embarked on the long journey to represent Ukraine in the National Model United Nations conference.

Over six days we got to experience exactly how the United Nations works and also got to enjoy the surreal cityscape of New York City.

In two 18-passenger vans and on the road for 14 hours straight, USI's MUN students crammed several hundred pages of Ukrainian policy and history in preparation for the conference, while the organization's president and head delegate, Sanjeev Singh, went over what to expect both from the event itself and the city.

Being the only person to have previously visited New York City, it was Sanjeev's duty to keep us safe and organized in our political duties as both representatives of Ukraine in the NMUN and representatives of USI in New York.

Once we arrived in NYC and checked into the Sheraton hotel four blocks from Times Square, we raced out into the New York streets to begin our tourist migration.

Fortunately, the organizers of the NMUN took into consideration that this was the first time in New York City for the majority of the students and provided us with ample time to explore the city.

That's not to say that the conference wasn't extremely stressful and time consuming; committees and discussion last from eight to ten hours each day.

Committees, where topics of international interest are formally and informally discussed, were rarely shorter than eight hours because the NMUN only had five days to attempt to create and pass resolutions that typically take the United Nations several years to pass.

Although we got to enjoy the city and enjoy social networking with our international peers, the conference itself was certainly no walk-in-Central-Park.

The conference is broken down into committees concentrating on specific topics of interest. The second committee, for example, discussed international economic issues.

Students had to first identify the problems associated with their topic and then work with the other 100+ delegations to find workable solutions.

This created a realistic look into the bureaucracy of international politics and the difficulties in communicating with other countries and trying to cooperate to find solutions.

The NMUN was an incredible look into international politics, and an amazingly fun week spent in the middle of Manhattan exploring every major tourist site imaginable.

NMUN is a great experience for any student to experience—not just International Relations or Political Science Majors—since the conference focuses on the students' abilities to compromise and work toward a common goal.

When asked about why he joined the USI's MUN organization and why he decided to be a part of the Ukraine's delegation in New York City, Ryan Snyder, a senior engineering student, said that "I feel it is very important for students to get involved in organizations and clubs, not just be comfortable in their day-to-day school work, but to push themselves to try new things and seek new experiences."

I found myself living those exact same sentiments.

I would like to encourage every student to join a new club or organization because at the end of the day that student will get back a thousand times what they put in.

Potter goes to college

The popular children's books make the transformation to academic text

By JON WEBB
Et Cetera editor

Harry Potter books—once key decorative pieces in any *Dungeons and Dragons* lair—have somehow found their way onto academics' bookshelves.

According to a recent CNN article, Yale University now offers classes dedicated to the deconstruction of Potter.

Such undergraduate courses as "Christian Theology and Harry Potter" delve deeply into the books in which a be-speckled boy plays sports games on flying broomsticks.

Being an English major, this news thrills me and makes me hope USI takes after Yale and begins proposing Potter-themed courses.

How about English 593: "Voldemort and the Literature of Fear"?

Potter's sudden foray into academia could open the doors for other children's books as well.

USI could be the first univer-

sity in the country to offer Sociology 463: "The Three Bears and Family Hierarchy" or Psychology 562: "Jack, Jill and Food Addiction."

Even Political Science 397: "The Stinky Cheese Man and Geopolitics" becomes a possibility.

An entire college could be devoted to Harry Potter, hell, even the entire University.

Each book in the series could have a separate school.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire is like, 750 pages. Give it two colleges!

No one has written a good book in close to two hundred years, so why give non-witch related material any thought?

Modernist, Post-Modernist and Contemporary writers are all alcoholic sad sacks obsessed with the real-world and human emotion.

Screw them. While were at it, let's toss out the classical writers as well.

Shakespeare and Milton: take your quills and shove them up your syphilitic and blind (respectively) backsides.

Who needs *Hamlet* when you have *Hermione*?

USI, please take a page from *Yale* (*Editor's note: pun most definitely intended*) and begin educating your students the right way: the way Hogwarts would do it.

Have stuff? Graduate soon? Advertise in the Shield!

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Students register online via MyUSI (www.usieagles.org). Priority registration begins at 8 a.m. on Monday, April 7, and progresses according to the schedule found on page four of the class schedule and at www.usi.edu/reg/early.asp. Students register according to the total of their earned plus currently enrolled hours, and are encouraged to register on their first day of eligibility.

- All continuing and readmission students are eligible to register online, but are urged to first meet with their academic advisor to review their course selection prior to registering. Contact your advisor to schedule an appointment (subject to availability).

- Degree-seeking undergraduate students with less than 32 earned hours (freshmen) will have a registration hold placed on their record, and will be eligible for registration only after meeting with their academic advisor to review their course selection and remove the registration hold.

- Degree-seeking undergraduates who began at USI in summer 1995 or later should review their Degree Evaluation (through MyUSI) prior to registration to check their progress toward degree completion and verify acceptable course options.

Enroll now - pay later!

Students who sign up for classes during Priority Registration will not be billed until August 10, and expected to settle their account with the Bursar's Office by August 20.

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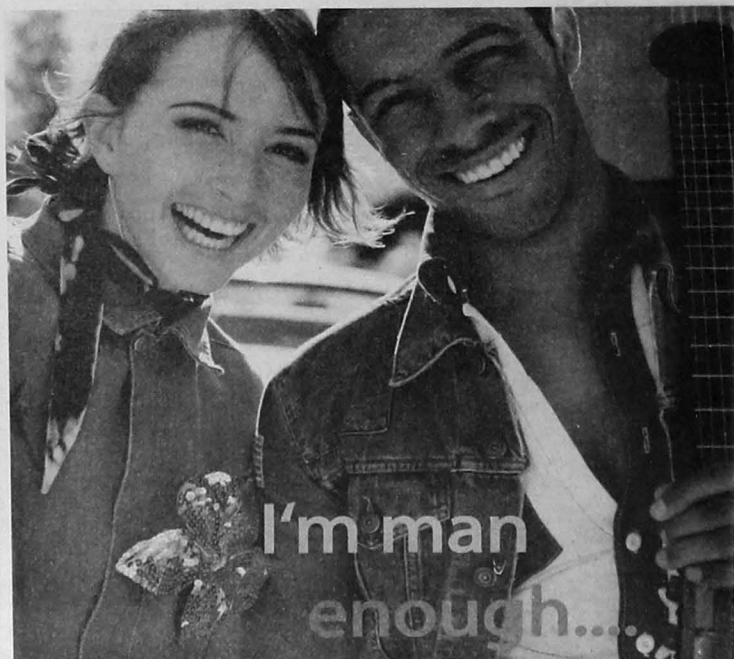
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Thursday, April 3, 2008

USI men's tennis team posts pair of GLVC victories

By RYAN DeLANEY
Sports editor

The University of Southern Indiana men's tennis team secured a pair of victories over the weekend as they defeated the University of Indianapolis 6-3 on Friday, March 28. USI fought hard on Saturday to gain a 5-4 victory over Northern Kentucky. The two matches gave the Eagles their first two GLVC wins of the season, creating a record of 5-7 overall and an even 2-2 in league play.

On Friday, the Eagles found initially found wins in two doubles matches, which gave them the upper hand over the Greyhounds, 2-1. USI then took four of the six singles matches over Indianapolis to secure the GLVC victory.

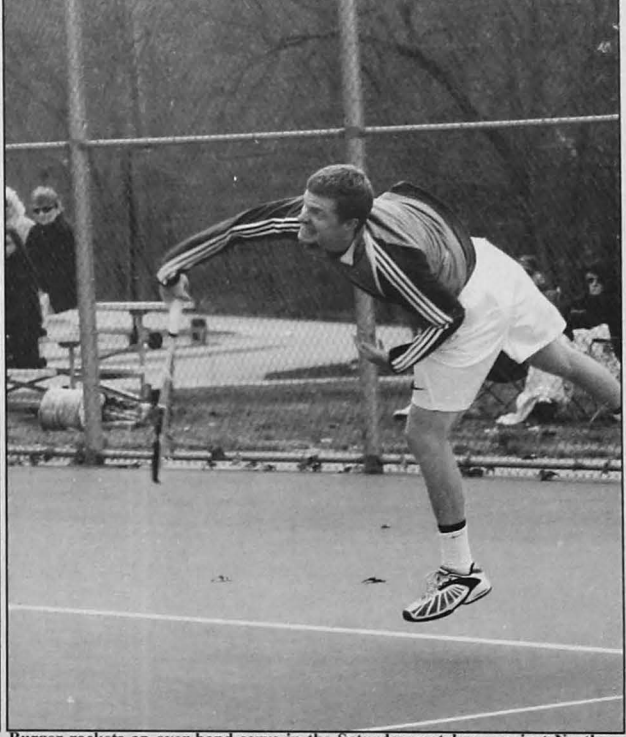
The Eagles slumped in doubles on Saturday morning as they fell in two of the three doubles match-ups. However, USI sprang into action in singles play, winning four of the six matches to pull them out of the 2-1 deficit.

Leading the Eagles this weekend were seniors Christoph Burger and Andrew McGuire who each brought in two wins in singles play. McGuire also brought in two doubles wins when pairing with Ben Hamm.

The Eagles take to the road on Friday when they travel to Quincy University for a conference doubleheader with the women's team. They continue on the road Saturday with a trip to the University of Missouri-St. Louis.



Senior Christoph Burger (right) shakes the hand of opponent from the University of Indianapolis. Burger won both of his singles matches over the weekend to help hoist the Eagles' GLVC record.



Burger rockets an over-hand serve in the Saturday match-up against Northern Kentucky University. The Eagles bounced back from a pair of doubles losses to defeat the Norse 5-4.

Photo courtesy of USI Photo Services

Photo courtesy of USI Photo Services

Contributions by Sports Information

Indiana guards Jamarcus Ellis, Armon Bassett dismissed from team

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) - Indiana guards Armon Bassett and Jamarcus Ellis have been dismissed from the team.

The players missed an appointment, then didn't show up to run laps as punishment, media relations director J.D. Campbell said Tuesday.

Bassett, who was at Assembly Hall Tuesday, declined to comment on his dismissal.

Each player was suspended during the season for violating team rules. Bassett missed three games and Ellis sat out the regular-season finale against Penn State.

Bassett was a third-team All-Big Ten selection, scoring 11.4 points per game. Ellis averaged 6.8 points.

The dismissals could mean Indiana would have no returning starters next season if freshman guard Eric Gordon turns pro. Gordon said he planned to announce his decision Monday.

The Hoosiers will have a new coach to replace Kelvin Sampson, who resigned amid NCAA accusations of recruiting violations.

Eagles baseball team takes four of five

By GUY SCOTT
The Shield staff

The University of Southern Indiana Men's baseball team was back in action last week. On Wednesday, March 26, they hosted Kentucky Wesleyan College in a doubleheader. The Eagles won both games, posting scores of 8-3 and 2-0. On Friday, the Eagles traveled to Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville where they topped the Cougars 5-1. On Saturday March 29, the Eagles fought SIUE in a doubleheader and split the games 1-0 and 0-5.

"We played pretty well this weekend. Corey Julian pitched extremely well for us," freshmen pitcher Trevor Leach said.

The Eagles are 17-9 and currently hold a strong 8-2 record in the GLVC. The Eagles spring back into action this week when they will play nine games over a seven-day period.

"Hopefully we can get some big wins in the next couple of days," Leach said.

The Eagles have three straight home meetings starting Saturday against Missouri Science & Technology.

Four No. 1 teams, and one good history lesson on tap at Final Four

HOUSTON (AP) - Bill Walton played what many agree was the best college game ever. Michael Jordan is universally praised as the best player ever. Years before either of them came along, the great Wilt Chamberlain redefined what a big, athletic center could accomplish.

These icons got their starts at UCLA, North Carolina and Kansas — three of college basketball's most storied programs, which are coming together on the sport's biggest stage, the Final Four.

March Madness? This might feel more like Hoops History 101 when the Bruins, Tar Heels and Jayhawks gather in the oversized classroom called the Alamodome, starting Saturday in San Antonio.

UCLA, the team that won most of its 11 titles in the '60s and '70s with star centers Walton and Lew Alcindor — later known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar — will play Memphis, a team that also has a colorful and successful history, though not nearly that of the other three.

Walton went 21-for-22 for 44 points in UCLA's 1973 title game — a win over none other than Memphis. This marks UCLA's record 18th Final Four. In Saturday's other semifinal, it will be Kansas against North Carolina, a perfect matchup with a perfect story line — that of North Carolina coach Roy Williams going against Kansas, the program he left in 2003 amid shouts that he was a traitor for leaving his adopted school to return to his alma mater.

Carolina is in its 17th Final

Four, and Kansas its 13th.

"They gave me a chance when I was not exactly a household name. I was barely a name in my own house," Williams said of Kansas. "I have no idea what my emotions will be. I'm just ecstatic for this club right now."

"And speaking of perfect, this is the first time since the NCAA started seeding teams in 1979 that all four top teams — from the South, Midwest, East and West regionals — advanced to the Final Four.

"This is one of those years where it appears from the Day One, people said there are four teams that are a little bit better than everybody else," Memphis coach John Calipari said Sunday after his team's 85-67 win over Texas. "That's what they said. We happen to be one of those teams."

The early betting pick among these four power programs is North Carolina, listed as a 9-5 favorite at the Las Vegas Hilton Race and Sports Book. Memphis was the long shot at 3-1.

Those who can't get money down in Nevada certainly might have action in one of those millions of office pools around the country. Those who picked all the favorites in their brackets are looking good. But does anyone really do that anymore?

A big part of the uber-popularity of the NCAA tournament is the idea that the little guys really do have a chance to shock the world during these three magical weeks in March (and April). Two years ago, it was George Mason — the commuter school in northern Virginia —

coming from nowhere to crash the Final Four party.

This year's George Mason was nearly 10th-seeded Davidson, which might be about the 10th-best-known school in the state of North Carolina, but still gave Kansas a heck of a run Sunday before falling 59-57.

The Jayhawks held their breath while Davidson's Jason Richards launched a 3-pointer at the buzzer that would have won it. It missed and KU prevailed to officially make it a Final Four for big boys, only.

These are the programs that were established in the 1890s, 1910s, 1920s, the ones that sell great players on their schools not only because of gleaming gyms and awesome weight rooms, but because it gives them a chance to wear the same uniforms as Alcindor and Walton, Chamberlain and Manning, Jordan and Worthy.

Which new name might become household in the next week?

Maybe Tyler Hansbrough of North Carolina, the guy with the nickname "Psycho T," whose iconic picture is one of him bleeding with a broken nose after receiving a bone-rattling elbow in a game against archrival Duke last season.

Or Kevin Love, the sensational freshman who has fit into a veteran lineup at UCLA that is making its third straight trip to the Final Four.

Or Brandon Rush, the guard who has led Kansas in scoring all of his three years in college but has finally helped himself and his long-suffering coach, Bill Self, to the Final Four.

Or Derrick Rose, the Chicago kid who went to Memphis, chose jersey No. 23 and reminds many of Jordan, the Windy City's most famous No. 23.

"It's little ol' Memphis against all these prestigious programs," Tigers guard Chris Douglas-Roberts said. "That's what it is, just little ol' Memphis."

Not so little, though. The Tigers, at 37-1, need one more win to set the single-season record for victories by an NCAA Division I team.

They picked up most of those wins in Conference USA, a so-called "mid-major" conference that doesn't command the respect of the Big 12, Pac-10 or Atlantic Coast Conferences, where the other teams come from.

Indeed, this Final Four is as much about where they come from as where they're going.

These teams have history on their side — and a chance to make some more.

Eagles' softball steps up to fourth in the GLVC

By JAMARR HENDERSON
The Shield staff

The University of Southern Indiana's softball team currently holds the fourth position in the GLVC after wrapping up a double header Monday night against Rockhurst University. The Eagles are tied for fourth after winning eight of their last 12 games, coming off a week of going 6-2, including 4-2 in the Great Lake Valley Conference.

Senior leftfielder Kathy Wood has been playing remarkable, as she has recorded a phenomenal hitting streak in 11 straight contests. Wood is hitting at an astounding .595 percent, which raises her batting average by nearly 150 points.

Sophomore designated player Sara Loete leads the Eagles with a solid .412 batting average, seven doubles, seven homers, and 35 RBI's. Loete holds the second position in the GLVC for RBI's as she sits just 15 RBI's shy of the single-season record of 50 set by Pat Snell in 1978. Loete also broadcasts her resilience at the plate landing

her currently in fourth place in the GLVC for the most home-runs hit thus far.

USI will host Bellarmine University this Saturday and also Northern Kentucky University on Sunday before concluding its eight-game home stand stretch with Hillsdale College on April 9. Bellarmine (9-23, 2-6 GLVC) has lost three of its last four games after splitting a double-header with the University of Missouri-St. Louis this past Sunday.

Northern Kentucky (9-15, 3-5 GLVC) was 4-2 last weekend as they swept the University of Missouri-St. Louis in the GLVC. Saturday and Sunday's GLVC doubleheaders are set for noon starts, as the regional double-header with Hillsdale is set to begin at 11 a.m.

The Eagles are continuing to swing its way right into the history books hoping to append to the winning tradition that takes place here at Southern Indiana. Be sure to attend the games this Saturday and Sunday at noon here at USI.

Dynamite Dolls rock the Coliseum in their first ever roller derby bout at home

By LANA KUNZ
The Shield staff

The Demolition City Roller Derby Dynamite Dolls battle on their home turf for the first time on April 5. The DCRD girls face the NEO Rock'n'Roller girls from Canton, Ohio at the Memorial Coliseum in downtown Evansville.

The doors open at 6 p.m. and local performers will keep fans entertained until the bout starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and can be purchased at Get Wet on North Green River Rd, Prime Sports in Eastland Mall, Dan's Comp in Mt Vernon, any DCRD member and online at www.demolitioncityrollerderby.com. Tickets at the door are \$13. Children six- years- old and younger get in free. There will be a concession stand and beer is available for purchase by fans 21 and over.

Trackside seats, or suicide

seating, are available for those 18 and over.

"Sitting in suicide seating pretty much guarantees you have a rollergirl land in your lap sometime throughout the night! It lets our fans get as close to the action as possible without actually skating!" said co-captain Maudly Olly Oxenfree.

The Dynamite Dolls' first bout was against the Black N Bluegrass Rollergrills in Florence, Kentucky on March 15 and the 113-76 loss showed the girls which skills they need to hone.

"It was a really good bout and the other team was a lot more experienced than us and had bouted before, so we did very well considering it was our first bout ever," says Oxenfree.

For more information about this event feel free to contact the Dynamite Dolls at www.myspace.com/demolitioncity.

Upcoming Events

Baseball

Sat., April 5 - Missouri S&T	12:00pm
Sun., April 6 - Missouri S&T	12:00pm
Tue., April 8 - Bellarmine	1:00pm

Softball

Sat., April 5 - Bellarmine	12:00pm
Sun., April 6 - Northern Kentucky	12:00pm
Wed., April 9 - Hillsdale College	11:00am

Women's Golf

April 13-14 at Ball State Cardinal Classic (Muncie, IN)

Women's Tennis

Fri., April 4 - Quincy	2:00pm
Sat., April 5 - Missouri-St. Louis	10:00am

Men's Tennis

Fri., April 4 - Quincy	2:00pm
Sat., April 5 - Missouri-St. Louis	10:00am

Men's / Women's Outdoor Track & Field

April 13-14 at Gatorade Classic (Cape Girardeau, MO)

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

A look back in history

April 4 marks the 40th anniversary of King's assassination, Kennedy's speech

By BRANDI WEYER
Editor in Chief

Over sixty riots emerged within the days following the murder of Martin Luther King Jr. But all remained silent in Indianapolis.

Friday marks the 40th anniversary of the assassination of King. Robert F. Kennedy, New York Senator and 1968 democratic presidential candidate, campaigned in Indianapolis that night and broke the news to the Indianapolis public about Martin Luther King Jr.

"He calmed down Indianapolis. He asked how would Martin Luther King Jr. feel. He told us to keep a level head and try to overcome whatever it is," said Vechel Rhodes, who was in the crowd during Kennedy's speech.

Rhodes said Kennedy urged the crowd that King wanted them to remain peaceful.

One of the main issues

Kennedy addressed in his campaign was racism, said Brian Posler, assistant vice president of academic affairs.

"Race became a bigger issue [after that night]," Posler said.

On March 31, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson announced he was dropping out of the race due to the negative reviews he received because of the Vietnam Conflict. Other democratic presidential candidates included Vice President Hubert Humphrey, who later on received the nomination, Minnesota Sen. Eugene McCarthy, Alabama Gov. George Wallace and Kennedy.

According to a May 9, 1968 article in the New York Times, Kennedy received 42 percent of the vote in Indiana by winning 51 of 92 counties. McCarthy won 27 percent.

Donald Boggs, director of the film "A Ripple of Hope, a documentary honoring King and



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Kennedy, said Kennedy's speech did not win him the primary solely.

"I would say probably across the state that it did not have much of an impact. But in Indianapolis in the black African American wards, that speech probably helped with the primary. Kennedy was all over the state. He hit Notre Dame, Ball State, IU. The young people came out heavily for the vote," Boggs said.

Two months later on June 4, 1968, Robert Kennedy won the South Dakota and the California primaries. Sirhan Sirhan fatally shot Kennedy at 12:16 a.m. the next day. He died 25 hours later.

"I think it is bad all the good guys have died and sacrificed for us. How much sacrifice they did, but we still have a long way to go," Rhodes said.

Today is Thursday, April 3, the 94th day of 2008. There are 272 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On April 3, 1968, the day before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "mountain-top" speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers.

On this date:
In 1783, author Washington Irving was born in New York.

In 1860, the legendary Pony Express began service between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif.

In 1865, Union forces occupied the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va.

In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Mo., by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.

In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, N.J., for the kidnap-murder of the Lindbergh child.

In 1946, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed by firing squad outside Manila.

In 1948, President Truman signed into law the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist Communism.

In 1968, North Vietnam agreed to meet with U.S. representatives to set up preliminary peace talks.

In 1974, deadly tornadoes struck wide parts of the South and Midwest before jumping across the border into Canada; more than 300 fatalities resulted.

In 1996, an Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.

Ten years ago: The Dow Jones industrial average climbed above 9,000 for the first time, but finished with a 3.23-point drop at 8,983.41. Douglas Fred Groat, a disgruntled spy fired by the CIA, was charged with espionage and extortion. (Groat later pleaded guilty to trying to extort \$1 million from the agency, and was sentenced to five years in prison.)

Five years ago: Moving with a sense of wartime urgency, the House and Senate separately agreed to give President Bush nearly \$80 billion to carry out the battle against Iraq and meet the threat of terrorism. Atlantic magazine editor Michael Kelly, 46, became the first American journalist to be killed while covering the Iraq war when his Army Humvee came under fire and rolled into a canal. Cuban security forces arrested the hijackers of a passenger ferry, rescuing nearly 50 hostages.

One year ago: President Bush denounced Democrats for going on spring break without approving money for the Iraq war; he also criticized House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Syria. An ex-con shot and killed his ex-girlfriend at the CNN headquarters complex in Atlanta before being wounded by a security guard. (Arthur Mann was later convicted of murdering Clara Riddles and sentenced to life without parole.) A high-speed French train broke the world speed record for conventional rail trains, surpassing 357.2 mph. After a nine-year title drought, Tennessee's Lady Vols captured a seventh national title, beating Rutgers 59-46.

Third-graders plot to attack teacher

WAYCROSS, Ga. (AP) - A group of third-graders plotted to attack their teacher, bringing a broken steak knife, handcuffs, duct tape and other items for the job and assigning children tasks including covering the windows and cleaning up afterward, police said Tuesday.

The plot involving as many as nine boys and girls at Center Elementary School in south Georgia was a serious threat, Waycross Police Chief Tony Tanner said.

School officials alerted police Friday after a pupil tipped off a teacher that a girl had brought a weapon to school. Tanner said the students apparently planned to knock the teacher unconscious with a crystal paperweight, bind her with the handcuffs and tape and then stab her with the knife.

"We did not hear anybody say they intended to kill her, but could they have accidentally killed her? Absolutely," Tanner said. "We feel like if they weren't interrupted, there would have been an attempt. Would they have been successful? We don't know."

The children, ages 8 to 10, were apparently mad at the teacher because she had scolded one of them for standing on a chair, Tanner said.

Two of the students were arrested on juvenile charges Tuesday and a third arrest was expected. District Attorney Rick Currie said other students told investigators

they didn't take the plot seriously or insisted they had decided not to participate.

"Some of the kids said, 'We thought they were just kidding,'" Currie said. "Another child was supposed to bring a toy pistol, and he told a detective he didn't bring it because he thought he would get in trouble."

Currie said the children are too young to be charged as adults, and probably too young to be sentenced to a youth detention center.

Police seized a steak knife with a broken handle, steel handcuffs, duct tape, electrical and transparent tape, ribbons and the paperweight from the students, Tanner said.

Currie said he decided to seek juvenile charges against two girls, ages 9 and 10, who brought the knife and paperweight and an 8-year-old boy who brought tape. He said all three students faced charges of conspiracy to commit aggravated assault, and both girls were being charged with bringing weapons to school.

Nine children have been given discipline up to and including long-term suspension, said Theresa Martin, spokeswoman for the Ware County school system. She would not be more specific but said none of the children had been back to school since the case came to light.

The purported target is a veteran educator who teaches third-

grade students with learning disabilities, including attention deficit disorder, delayed development and hyperactivity, friends and parents said.

The scheme involved a division of roles, Tanner said. One child's job was to cover windows so no one could see outside, he said. Another was supposed to clean up after the attack.

"We're not sure at this point in the investigation how many of the students actually knew the intent was to hurt the teacher," Tanner said.

He said the teacher told detectives the children involved weren't known as troublemakers.

"You can't dismiss it," Tanner said. "But because they are kids, they may have thought this was like a cartoon — we do whatever and then she stands up and she's OK. That's a hard call."

The parents of the students have cooperated with investigators, who aren't allowed to question the children without their parents' or guardians' consent, he said. Authorities have withheld the children's names.

Martin told The Florida Times-Union of Jacksonville, Fla., that administrators would follow school system policy and state law in disciplining the students.

"From what I understand, they were considered pretty good kids," Martin said. "But we have to take this seriously, whether they were

serious or not about carrying this through, and that's what we did."

Four mothers of other third-grade students at Center Elementary called for the immediate expulsion of the suspected plotters.

Stacy Carter and Deana Hiott both cited school system policy stating that any student who brings "anything reasonably considered to be a weapon" is to be expelled for at least the remainder of the school year.

"We don't want our children around them," Carter told the Times-Union. "The one with the knife could have stabbed my child or someone else's child at lunch or out on the playground."

"This is an isolated incident, an aberration. ... We have good kids," Center Principal Angie Coleman told the newspaper.

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SHOWTIMES FOR APRIL 4 - 10

FRI-SUN EARLY MATINEES IN [BRACKETS]

LEATHERHEADS (PG-13)
[10:20am] 12:40 3:30 6:40 9:40

NIKE'S ISLAND (PG) [10:40am] 1:20 3:50 6:20 9:00

THE RUINS (R) [11:30am] 1:50 4:30 7:00 10:00

21 (PG-13) [11:55am] 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:05

MAX PATTINGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG-13)
[11:20am] 2:10 5:20 7:50 10:10

STOPLOSS (R) [11:00am] 1:40 5:00 7:40 10:20

SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG-13)
[10:10am] 1:00 4:10 6:30 9:10

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13)
[10:45am] 1:15 3:45 6:15 9:20

SHUTTER (PG-13) [11:50am] 2:30 5:05 7:20 9:50

FOOL'S GOLD (PG-13) [10:50am] 1:45 4:50 7:30 10:15

VANTAGE POINT (PG-13)
[10:15am] 12:45 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:25

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