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University of Southern Indiana student newspaper

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New apartment complex builds competition for USI

By **Randy Hawkins**
Editor-In-Chief

A brand new apartment complex neither owned by nor associated with USI is slated to open on the corner of the Lloyd Expressway and Schutte Road in time for the upcoming fall semester.

Robert Pope, project manager for Morley and Associates, said he is excited about the complex to be named Eagle Village.

"We're going to have 16 buildings in all with eight apartments in each building," said Pope.

The entire area is undergoing massive development as, the landscape needs leveling and utilities put in.

Pope said he still expects everything to be ready on time despite complications due to weather.

"The weather set us back a little bit, but it's been cooperative lately," said Pope.

In fact, Pope expects the first frames to be up by the end of the week.

The land had set undeveloped for sometime before being pur-

chased and developed by the current owners.

As far as USI is concerned, university housing is looking forward to the competition.

"It's a good example of positive growth and prosperity from what USI brings to the region," said Dr. Robert Parrent, vice president for Student Affairs.

Despite the proximity to campus, Julie Payne, director of Residence Life, said there are still advantages to living in campus housing that will hopefully persuade students to continue living at USI.

"Studies have shown that students do better living on campus than off because they become more involved," said Payne.

Parrent agreed, saying students who live off campus miss out on part of the college experience.

"I will always say that it's better to live on campus because students get more out of living on campus.

"We provide more for

them such as programs and services," said Payne.

With Eagle Village being built so close to campus, living off campus will become less of a decision about convenience, and more of a decision about preference.

Living off campus comes

with the perks of not having to abide by university policies, however, students will then have to worry about purchasing furniture and making rent.

Staff reporter Anthony Pate contributed to this article.



USI campus housing can be seen across Schutte Road from the construction site of the new Eagle Village apartment complex. The new apartments are set to open in time for the 2005 fall semester (photo by Randy Hawkins).

Week sheds light on public records

By **Shyloh Karshner**
Managing editor

The workings of government are in the spotlight this week, the focus of "Sunshine Week: Your Right to Know."

The media campaign began March 13, Sunshine Sunday, and will highlight the public's right to information and the growing difficulty of accessing documents held by government offices.

"An observance like this is long overdue," said Dr. Dal Her-ring, professor and chair of the department of communication at USI.

"Getting a public record in Indiana is like trying to pull an alligator's teeth - a live alligator," he said.

To highlight the week nationally, newspapers, magazines, Web sites and radio and television stations are featuring editorials, cartoons and news and feature stories that address the threats to the public's right to know and why it is important to everyone, not just journalists, to have an open government.

Last fall, The Shield, working with an advanced reporting class, Access USI, WSWI-AM 820 radio station and the campus chapter

of The Society of Professional Journalists, checked to see how difficult it would be to get records on campus.

About 20 students participated in the open records "audit" and tried to get one specific document each by visiting campus offices.

Records included a list of who had unpaid parking tickets on campus, who had filed lawsuits against the university, how many accident claims had been filed involving university-owned vehicles and what "perks" are included in head coaches' contracts.

Only 15 percent of the offices where records were requested

complied on the first visit.

Sherrianne Standley, vice president for Advancement, said she recognizes the importance of complying with open access laws and knows which records can and should be given out and which records cannot be released.

"I have been given the responsibility for responding to requests on behalf of the institution," Standley said.

If she does not know the answer, she will do the research and make sure the request is answered, instead of having employees in each office be liable, she said.

See LIGHT on Page 3

'Top Cop' alumnus to lecture

By **Randy Hawkins**
Editor-In-Chief

Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth will give a lecture titled "From College Classroom to Top Cop" as part of USI's alumni-in-residence program.

"It invites successful grads back to campus to talk to students to encourage them that they can be successful as well," said Dr. Charles Petranek, professor of sociology and organizer of the event.

The 1981 graduate of USI plans to talk about USI's role in his career as well as current trends in law enforcement and crime.

Ellsworth said he stays connected with the university from activities as simple as jogging on the cross-country trails or as involved as giving guest lectures for classes at USI.

"It's awe-inspiring to see what campus has become from what it was when I was there—three buildings," said Ellsworth.

Although Ellsworth is the person chosen to represent a successful USI graduate, Petranek said that there are a number of detectives, officers and other high profile members of the community that are USI alumni.

Petranek said students should attend to see how they could use their degrees to be successful, even if they're not sociology or criminal justice majors.

"It shows how USI can elevate community standards and show the value of a higher education," said Petranek.

Ellsworth also said he will incorporate other topics into his lecture such as the use of basic management principles that all students can find useful.

The lecture begins at noon in Carter Hall in the UC Tuesday, March 22 and is open to the public.

Twista needs bouncers, 'big people' at Spring Fest

By Amelia Jeffers
News editor

To many students' excitement, Twista will be the nationally known artist at the Spring Fest concert this year.

The fourth annual Spring Fest, beginning Friday, April 15, will be drastically different from past years due to the location of the new library and a different allocation of funds.

Tim Buecher, director of Career Counseling and coordinator of Spring Fest, said warm-up bands for the Spring Fest concert will include The Loft, who has performed at USI previously, and August Christopher from Owensboro,

Ky. "I think students will really like August Christopher," said Buecher.

Twista, who formerly held the Guinness Book of World Records title for world's fastest rapper, will be the main act at the concert at 8 p.m. Friday, April 15 in the PAC.

Buecher said every student will be able to purchase a limit of two tickets for \$10 each, and those who are not from USI must pay \$25 per a ticket.

"I'd like to sell out to the student body and their friends, like having our own private party," said Buecher.

Buecher said there will not be a carnival or rows of food booths

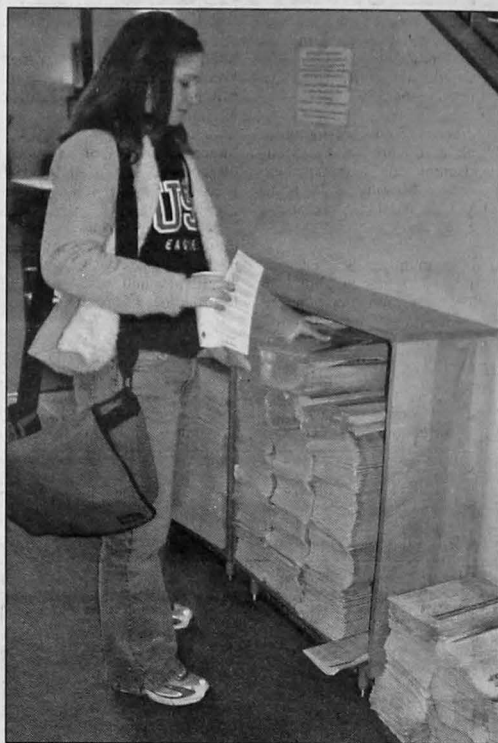
this year, but approximately 700 people in addition to students are expected to attend other events such as USIdols the annual car show.

Buecher said the Spring Fest Student Committee has fewer than a dozen members, and help is needed.

"I'm looking for big people to help with security and creative people to help with publicity," said Buecher.

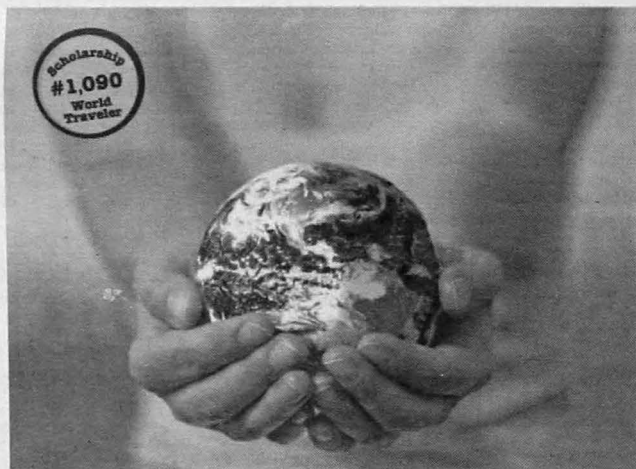
Buecher said anyone interested in helping with Spring Fest or joining the Spring Fest Student committee should contact Lucy Schenk in the Career Counseling Center.

Fall schedules available



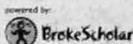
Sophomore Hannah Anderson picks up her copy of the Bulletin in preparation of early registration. Early registration for 2005 fall classes begins Monday, April 4 (photo by Randy Hawkins).

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CAMPUS CALENDAR

Friday, March 18

Last day to drop or withdraw with evaluation, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Registrar's Office, OC. Information: 464-1762.

Liberal Arts faculty colloquium: "Embodied Care" by Dr. Maurice Hamington, assistant professor of philosophy, 3:30 p.m., Kley Meyer Hall, LA. Information: 465-7053.

USI Community of Scholars celebrates its 20-year collaboration with New Harmony, open house 4-7 p.m., Rapp-Owen Granary, New Harmony, Indiana. Information: 682-4488.

International Club meeting and Mystery Dinner, 4:30 p.m., Ruston. Information: 465-7183.

Tuesday, March 22

Alumni-in-Residence program: "From College Classroom to Top Cop," by Sheriff Brad Ellsworth '81, noon, Carter Hall,

UC. Information: 464-1724.

School of Business Honors Week ceremony, 4 p.m., Mitchell Auditorium, HP. Information: 464-1930.

Success Series Workshop: Get Organized, 3 p.m., ED 1103. Free. Information: 464-1743.

Wednesday, March 23

Pott School of Science and Engineering Honors Week ceremony, 4 p.m., Mitchell Auditorium, HP. Information: 464-1930.

Success Series Workshop: Library Lotto, 3 p.m., ED 1103. Free. Information: 464-1743.

Global Community's Easter Egg Decorating, 7:30 p.m., Ruston. Information: 465-7183.

Massage Rewards, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Rec Center. Information: 461-5270.

LIGHT continued from Page 1

"It is unreasonable for every employee to know what records are public," she said.

During the November audit, Standley's office was one of the few that immediately complied with a student's request for a record.

Standley met with the journalism students a week after the audit and said then that the university is committed to complying with state open-records laws and the Freedom of Information Act. The students would have received the records if they had requested them from her office, she said.

But the students did not know the information was available at her office - and the employees in the offices the students visited did not refer them to Standley.

After the November audit, Standley said the university would be willing to consider offering FOIA instruction to employees in the future. Standley also said that people seeking documents usually get "bounced back" to her. That did not happen when the students requested information.

Since then, Standley met with the Administrative Council, and she told the members to direct records requests to her, she said.

However, during the first week of March, offices were visited again and not one referred the requests to Standley or her office.

When Standley was asked directly for the information, she immediately provided it. Those records included the university's equity-in-athletics report, contracts for USI President H. Ray Hoops, vice presidents and coaches, overview reports by department and funding for student organizations.

All had been denied in November.

This would have been a dead end for many people who would not have obtained the records they sought.

Students seeking records in November were told not to identify themselves as journalists because the state Open Records Act does not require records-seekers to identify themselves or tell why they want the documents. They were acting as regular citizens who wanted a public document.

The students, following a procedure recommended by the Society of Professional Journalists, responded to requests for their names by saying, "Do you need to know that before you can help me?"

Herring told his public affairs reporting class Monday that "85 percent of requests come from average citizens."

Dr. Gael Cooper, professor of public relations and faculty adviser to the campus SPJ chapter, said, "It's always difficult to get information processed throughout the ranks. My hope is for continual retraining. USI is a complexity of administration and staff and it is easy to understand how people don't know (how to handle requests for records)."

"It is not the intention of USI to not be forthcoming. It's just that people really don't know. It's very important to get this information out," Cooper said.

The Florida Society of Newspaper Editors sponsored the first Sunshine Sunday in 2002, according to www.sunshineweek.org, a Web site devoted to the project. Many other states have followed suit, but this is the first national effort.

Countless news organizations are helping to sponsor the first weeklong Sunshine effort, including the Associated Press, The Society of Professional Journalists and the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Former ASNE president Peter Bhatia said, "Never has freedom of information been under greater siege. The actions in our nation's capital are mimicked here and more on a state and local level."

"It is our fundamental responsibility as journalists to be agents for the public on these matters and to fight every day to keep access open and information flowing. It has never been more necessary than it is today," Bhatia said.

Andy Alexander, Freedom of Information chair for ASNE, said, "This is not just an issue for the press. It's an issue for the public."

"An alarming amount of public information is being kept secret from citizens and the problem is increasing by the month. Not only do citizens have a right to know, they have a need to know."

Standley and Herring both agreed that officials have an obligation to operate openly - in the "sunshine."

"Sunshine is the best antiseptic," Herring said.

When discussing its coverage of Sunshine Week, The Cleveland Plain Dealer wrote, "At its heart this campaign shares these beliefs: Knowledge is the key to freedom, transparency is the enemy of tyranny and an informed public will make intelligent decisions."

"Upon those concepts this nation has prospered. Each is now under assault. Their defense is our highest calling. This week, we'll tell you why."

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Math Problem of the week

Due March 17, 2005

The length of the outside 'oval' track at the PAC is 11 laps to a mile. The tracks are 18 in. wide and have four straight sections with circular corners.

How many laps to a mile are there for the innermost of the four tracks?

THE SHIELD

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Signed opinions are published to provide diverse viewpoints and to encourage debate on issues important to the University of Southern Indiana community. Such commentaries represent the views of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be no more than 250 words.

Letters must be signed and have a telephone number for verification.

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Noncompliance is big deal

Editorial: In the Michael Douglas movie "The American President," the president Andrew Shepard is attacked because of his membership in the American Civil Liberties Union.

Shepard attends a White House press briefing and goes in front of reporters to defend his position.

He says that his opponent who attacked him on his ACLU membership is the one who should have questions to answer, mainly why he's not a member.

The ACLU's one goal, he says, is to "protect the First Amendment rights of all Americans."

Part of being American is the right to speak freely without the fear of a government that inhibits your right to free speech.

There are other laws on the books that are less important to some, but yet some laws are so vital to the flow of information in this country and the free media that they can't afford to be overlooked.

These are the very types of laws that the ACLU was created to

protect and help uphold.

Such is the Freedom of Information Act, which is often referred to in conjunction with "Sunshine Laws." Essentially, these are laws that require certain government documents to be open to the public.

Professors' salaries, crime reports and reports listing the funding for student organizations should be readily available to anyone who has the curiosity to see them.

This is not the case on USI's campus. The results from an audit performed by members of The Shield staff, an advanced reporting class and WSWI/AM820 proved USI is not up-to-par with their FOIA knowledge.

Of all the records requested, 62 percent were denied. For all of you math impaired folks, this is over half. Over half of the records student reporters asked for were denied.

Sherianne Standley says there would have been better results if the student reporters went straight to her, instead of going to the logical office where records

would be held.

Here, we run into a problem. In most of the offices visited, the staff didn't know to direct people to Standley.

This means, that while this rule is in place, no one knows to follow it. How is anyone supposed to know where to get the information needed if the university doesn't even know where to send you?

I would think if I wanted to see a report for how much each student organization gets, I could go to the Student Development office, it only seems logical. In reality if I wanted to find this out, I'd have to go to Standley in WA 103. The average person doesn't even know who Sherianne Standley is.

A section of the FOIA states that in order to get a record, you do not have to give your name or any other personal information.

Once again, this was not the case for the student reporters--44 percent were asked their full names and 46 percent were asked why they needed the information.

Apparently, the university staff isn't in the know on this part

of the act either. The law says anyone wanting the information has the right to it...no questions asked.

The FOIA audit on campus failed with flying colors.

This isn't surprising considering the state of Indiana didn't do too well last year either.

Perhaps a refresher course is needed for people to learn about FOIA and how open records should be, in fact, open. Or, each office could just put up a sign directing everyone to WA 103.

The Editorial Board voted unanimously in favor of this editorial.

The Editorial Board is comprised of **Randy Hawkins**, Editor-In-Chief; **Shyloh Karshner**, Managing editor; **Amelia Jeffers**, News editor; and **Jeff Walker**, Opinion editor.

'ROID rage taking over Congress



By **Jeff Walker**
Opinion Editor

When you're a kid, you're always taught not to cheat.

If you do it in school, and you get caught, there are SERIOUS consequences.

If you do it at USI, the consequences are even more serious.

Cheating as an adult is not accepted on any level. Ask the IRS about cheating.

Cheating is not accepted in anywhere you go in life.

Cheating is usually not accepted in sports, either.

Ask the Kentucky Wesleyan Panthers about what kind of trouble you get into if you get caught cheating.

Did you see them in the conference basketball tournament? I didn't think so. Even in college sports, cheating is simply not accepted.

Unless, that is, you play professional baseball.

Then, you can pretty much do what you want. That's the message that's being sent by Major League Baseball.

If, somehow, you've managed to miss what's going on, here's a brief synopsis:

Jose Canseco, a former major league player, wrote about how a bunch of baseball players are now on or have been on steroids.

As a result of Canseco's book, Congress decided to look into the use of steroids in sports.

Now, keep in mind that the use of steroids is not against the rules of baseball, but it is very much against most applicable state and federal laws.

Steroids are considered a controlled substance, and if you're caught with them, you can spend time in jail. It's that simple.

So it was that Congress decided to round up some of the biggest names in baseball and have them sit in a room under oath and testify about their use of experience with steroids.

I favor this move. I think that even though it's being done like a three-ring circus instead of some

folks testifying in front of a Congressional Committee, I support Congress's attempt to bring some integrity into the national pastime.

Several years ago, Major League Baseball went on strike and they lost a ton of fans because people couldn't figure out why a bunch of overpaid athletes wanted more money.

A lot of those people are fans again, but they're still a little hesitant to trust MLB again.

It turns out, those people are right not to trust MLB. Baseball, headed by commissioner Bud Selig, is moving to prevent players from testifying before Congress.

They're challenging the subpoena.

Basically, it works out this way: Baseball doesn't want it out for that so many of their players are on steroids.

Some estimates of steroid use among baseball players puts the number at somewhere near 50 percent. This seems a little high, but it's possible.

Here's how I see it. With baseball's popularity at its current level, I think it's a good idea for

baseball players to be setting a good example for the kids who follow the sport.

Given the dangers involved with steroid use, including a risk of sudden death or the chance that limbs may have to be amputated because of complications from steroids, it's clear that using 'roids is a dangerous proposition.

It's also a bad example to set for kids.

Baseball needs to step up and take responsibility for its players and the actions of the league.

It may have been basically allowing its players to take steroids, but it's not too late for them to change course.

Admit that you have been out of line with your policy and move forward. Set a good example for the sporting community, for the kids that follow sports, and for the whole country.

Do the right thing, no matter what the cost, and implement a tough new policy against steroids. It's your responsibility, baseball.

Wouldn't want to lose all those fans again, would you?

Does it feel like it's getting 'drafty' in here?

By **Randy Hawkins**
Editor-in-Chief



March madness indeed-- we leave school for one week and pandemonium breaks loose.

Situations domestic and foreign have arisen to the

top of the headlines.

While I want to discuss such lighthearted issues as the NCAA brackets or the Michael Jackson trial, there are more serious issues to throw out for discussion.

Quickly and with little fuss, our military is being spread thin beyond all logic.

I normally try to shy away from "real" issues, but this one has me shaking my head in disbelief.

As it stands now, we already have civilian security personnel guarding our nation's military bases.

I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it for myself while out in Las Vegas for spring break.

Nellis Air Force Base, basically the country's fighter plane

headquarters, had privatized security working its gates.

That would be fine if it weren't for the fact that this is a base for our nation's defense.

When George W. Bush initially ran for president in 2000, he ran under the premise of reducing the size of our country's military.

That was fine before he started these two wars.

Should I repeat that? HE STARTED TWO WARS.

Warranted or not, two wars is a heavy burden for a reduced military.

Now, before we're finished with either "war," there are threats being made to both Syria and China (not to mention we've already allocated troops to help out in the southeast Asia tsunami relief effort).

It's not even like both wars are going smoothly and it would be nothing to just hop over and intervene somewhere else.

American troops have been dying in mass quantities since we invaded Iraq all those months ago.

Things have been mighty rough for a while.

The Republican Party has tra-

ditionally been against acting as the world's policeman and supported putting domestic policies first.

Of course, the Republican party has also traditionally been less overt in their "pro-big business anti-everyone else" methods of governing.

While I can appreciate the change of heart to recognizing the global community's impact on our nation, basic logic would suggest only working within our means.

While I would be quick to point out that the situation in Lebanon more closely resembles a public outcry for action than Iraq did prior to the current war, we can only do so much.

All this is to say nothing of the growing situation on the Korean Peninsula. Suffice to say, there won't be anywhere that's a demilitarized zone much longer.

It'd be like lending the neighbors your watchdog and security system.

There's nothing left to guard your own home.

Those are basic survival techniques. They teach you that as soon as you board an airplane.

Just to be safe, make sure you're okay before you assist others.

I have no doubts that our department of Homeland Security will stop any funny business within our borders before it starts, but call me crazy if I feel like having some military troops around would make me feel better.

It wouldn't be so bad if either "threat" didn't hold the potential for many more casualties.

The country can't handle too much more of this, even if it is for the sake of "freedom."

As of now, it is all just political talk.

We haven't assembled the troops at the borders yet, though that may only be due to the fact we're still trying to find some to round up.

I only shudder to think what would happen if our "bluff" was called.

Are we going to step forward and say, "We were only kidding, we don't really want another war"?

And that's hoping that this is all a bluff.

I don't see how it could be

anything but.

There is one obvious solution to our country's problems staffing its military for the war.

The draft could be reinstated in order to fill out the ranks.

There are obvious problems with that, one of course being that I don't want to be in the stupid military.

Another being that we wouldn't be in this predicament if the administration could keep their hand out of other countries' business.

So here we are in this predicament. We have no idea when or where our next war is coming from, but if this administration has their way, that war will be soon.

So basically all we can do here at home is to hope that we've taken the best care of ourselves that we possibly could have done.

Then, when we're headed off to a new war in a new theater, we'll be able to help out the best way we can.

You never know, maybe we'll have to return to the days of rations and Rosie the Riveter.

It could be worse, though. We could be an 8-year-old boy inside Neverland Ranch.

This week's question

How do you feel about steroids in baseball?

- It's shaming America's national pastime.
 - Baseball was never really about athletic competition anyway
 - Athletes on illegal substances?
- Surprise, surprise.

Vote online at www.usishield.com

** Due to a problem with the website, last week's poll question was not added to the site.



BEN CARGANT
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Unlabeled from "jokester"

www.sunshineweek.org

Sunshine Week: Y

Campus, state audits show common problems

By Ashley Schneider
Special to The Shield

A campus-wide audit performed at USI in November, proved public access to records is consistently denied, even if only because the record-seeker or school official does not know how to obtain the record.

Of the 20 students who participated, 62 percent never received the records they requested. Some students were bounced back and forth between offices in search of the records they requested. Others were denied access because school officials thought the request might violate the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA).

Vice President for Advancement Sherrienne Standley said if the students had asked her for the records they would have received "100 percent of those records."

Standley said, on a campus with more than 1,500 employees, it is "not reasonable to expect that if you walk up to someone at a desk that they will have the record" readily available.

Instead, Standley said a large organization has the ability to designate someone to handle all records.

Standley said should any student request a record, as long as that record is public and providing it would not violate any FERPA regulations, she or other workers in the Office of Advancement would gladly comply and hand over the information in a timely manner.

Because USI is a public university, it has to comply with the Indiana Public Records Law. According to the law, accessible public records must come from a public agency.

According to the Office of

Public Access, a public record is defined as "...any writing, photograph, book, card, tape recording, or other material that is created, received, retained, maintained, or filed by or with a public agency . . ."

Despite such a broad definition, an audit by eight Indiana newspapers, including the Evansville Courier & Press, found government officials often broke the public access law.

Journalists posing as regular citizens visited 92 counties, asking for four public records from government offices: crime logs and reports, a list of public employee salaries and court files of sex offenders.

According to computer-assisted reporting coordinator Mark Nichols of The Indianapolis Star, only 11 counties granted all four records within a 24-hour period. In all but five counties, reporters re-

ceived the court files of sex offenders, and about 66 percent of the counties turned over employee salary records.

The participating reporters encountered a number of reactions when they requested the information.

Some received their records with no incident.

Others were harassed by the records keepers or government officials. In one case, a sheriff poked a reporter in the chest and intimidated him until he left.

Paul McAuliffe, editor of the Evansville Courier & Press, said he was disappointed with some of the results of the statewide audit and feels fines should be enforced on agencies that repeatedly violate open records laws.

McAuliffe said journalists are trained to stand their ground when hassled by records keepers. However, a member of the public may

not be as knowledgeable as such laws and procedures. He/she may give up on their quest for public records if harassed records keeper.

"Too many public officials still have no respect for your right to see the records that document how they conduct the public business," he wrote in an editorial discussing the audit.

"Make no mistake, these are your records, not theirs. These officials work for you and other Indiana citizens, not the other around."

McAuliffe said he is pleased USI students took initiative in carrying out their own public records audit.

He said journalists "have a duty to the public and must ensure the public is being served."

Public records are a journalist's business, and are therefore a journalist's business, as well.

Indiana takes public access seriously

Public access counselor focuses on education

By Travis Tornatore
Special to The Shield

The Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) ensures that any information held by a public office, is available to the public.

Commonly it is members of the media, such as reporters, who exercise this right on a daily basis.

In fact, many people do not know what FOIA is, or how they can use it. However, when access to a public record is denied, many

reporters or citizens have to file lawsuits. This is where the Public Access Counselor steps in, to help avoid tying up the courts with legal issues.

In July 1999, the Indiana General Assembly created the Office of Public Access Counselor. According to the Public Access Handbook, which is available at www.in.gov/pac, the office serves as a resource on Indiana's laws governing access to meetings of public bodies and to the records of

public agencies.

The office also provides education on the Indiana Open Door law. It does not have a binding authority but intends to be used as a resource.

The current Public Access Counselor of the state of Indiana is Karen Davis. Under Indiana Code 5-14-4-10, she is given several powers and duties.

One duty is to establish and administer a program to train public officials and educate the public on public access laws.

"I would want to arrange targeted presentations to the groups that received poor marks for compliance [in regard to FOIA]," Davis said.

"Usually the lack of compliance is due to lack of basic knowledge of the requirements and importance of the law," Davis said.

When the USI campus-wide

audit was performed, the offices had 24 hours to respond to the request.

If the request was denied, then that was labeled as a lack of compliance.

On the first try only 15 percent of the students succeed in attaining the information they asked for. That figure rose greatly to 86 percent by the second try.

"My initial reaction to a 15 percent compliance rate is dismay," Davis said.

Sherrienne Standley, vice president for Advancement, said, "Not all of our 1,500 employees are trained [in regard to FOIA]."

"My office is committed to FOIA, we see it as good customer service."

"If we keep our records open then the public will have no reason to suspect we are hiding anything," Standley said.

Davis said, "It's perfectly fine to designate one office for record handling."

"Purdue University has a designated record keeper, and have constant contact with them. However, any person should have a request and, if necessary, a ward that request."

Davis said when she teaches about public access, usually stress the basics.

"I also emphasize the risk that an agency will have to pay attorney fees and costs of litigation if a person seeking records must resort to the courts," Davis said.

Davis suggested visiting the Public Access Counselor Web site at www.in.gov/pac for more information about the department. There is also a list of advisory opinions, or cases where the office has stated that an organization is in violation of FOIA.

If Security and a Sheriff's car were outside your apartment last night, and you saw someone being taken away in handcuffs, where would you go to find out what happened?



"I would ask other people in my building what happened."

-Alisa Kilpatrick, sophomore, Morton building



"Personally, I don't really care, don't think it's any of my business. I really don't think Security would tell me. I would probably call Sheriff's Department."

-Corbin Smith, sophomore Hendricks

Our Right to Know

Open records, closed doors



By Ashlee McCann and Emily Taylor
Special to The Shield

One student wanted to get President Hoops contract. She didn't.

Another students wanted to find what scholarships have been awarded to minority students. That request was denied.

Journalism students searching for records that should have been public, met mixed results.

"When I was being interrogated by four people about who I was, why I needed this information and who sent me, I became very nervous," Travis Tomatore, a journalism student, said.

"They made me feel like gaining this information would lead me to using it for evil."

Most of the students did not get the documents on the first try, however most got them the second try. Some had to wait several days

while some got them the next day.

"I was sent to the director who was nice, but asked me who I was and why I needed the information," Anna Becher, journalism student, said.

"He said he couldn't just give it to anyone. Once I answered some questions he said he would have the information for me the next day."

Under state access laws, members of the public do not have to give their name or reveal why they want to see an open record.

Yet, 44 percent of reporters were asked to give their full name when requesting a record and 46 percent were asked why they wanted the information.

"They didn't know what the record was that I asked for," journalism student Matt Hennessy said.

Sherianne Standley, vice president for Advancement, said coming into an office and asking to

see a specific document could cause employees to become suspicious.

Dr. Dal Herring, communications professor and chair, said he was not surprised that 62 percent of reporters did not get the public records they were seeking.

"Many employees in state agencies are not used to being asked for documents and records," he said.

"They consider them to be confidential, when legally they are not."

Herring said access laws are vital because the public needs to know how money is being spent. He also said such laws allow citizens to know when wrongdoing is taking place.

"Openness is the hallmark of democracy," he said.

Standley said USI strives for good media relations.

"We feel blessed by the media in Evansville and I hope we have established a reputation of being honest and forthright," she said.

FOIA, FERPA not spoken here

By Matt Hennessy
Special to The Shield

Only 14 percent of students on campus knew what FOIA means.

Only 2 percent knew that FERPA was the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Journalism students asked 44 people on campus if they thought they should be able to obtain specific documents. The results of the survey found:

- * 34 percent said your salary be able to see your professor's salary
- * 86 percent said you should be able to see the campus crime reports
- * 89 percent said you should be able to obtain copies of lawsuits filed against USI

* 27 percent said you should be able to obtain a copy of President Hoops' contract

* 75 percent said you should be able to obtain a list of all the scholarships awarded by USI and who received them

Art professor Brandon Gardner said, "I definitely think students should be able to see how much their professors make."

"Maybe they would have a little more respect for what we do when they see how little we actually make," Gardner said.

The survey was conducted after a campus-wide audit of records.

USI student Kim Walker said she isn't very interested in the documents available under the FOIA.

"I guess it's just like the old

saying goes, what you don't know can't hurt you," Walker said.

Walker said her views are common among college students.

"I think that the main problem is that college students just don't see how these records apply to them."

Walker said some open records, such as the pay rates for college professors or the contract for President Hoops, should not be public. The public does not need to see records that involve personal information, she said.

"I just don't know that that kind of information should be available."

"I know that if I were a professor I wouldn't want my students to know how much I was making," Walker said.

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"I would go to Security's Web site. I know I would find the info there. I was told everything that happens will be posted there."

-Jeanette Schafer, freshman, Ruston Hall



"I would probably run in my apartment and ask my roommate. If we were in there, we would probably be watching."

-Katie Hess, sophomore, Jennings

Answer: Campus Security would not identify the person who was arrested, in most cases, due to the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act. The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department would release the arrest report, a public record.

50 Cent's 'Massacre' off target

By Jason Goodwin
Music connoisseur

50 Cent's much anticipated release, "The Massacre," is full of more controversy than even what the title implies.

Although it sold over 1.1 million in the first four days, it still lacks a lot of luster.

50 fails to show true growth on the album, but still comes across as better than most of what has recently come out in the rap game.

The album, originally scheduled to come out on Valentine's Day as an ode to the St. Valentine's Day Massacre that was orchestrated by Al "Scarface" Capone in 1929, is filled with more guns and gun references than your local NRA meeting.

He continues the ode to the gun with multiple images throughout the liner notes and songs aptly named "Gatman and Robin" and "Gunz Come Out."

The single, "Candy Shop," might as well be named "The Magic Stick Remix."

The chorus is almost identical to the Lil' Kim song and even makes reference to his "magic stick" in one of the verses.

If you haven't heard it by now, you probably live in a cave somewhere because it is currently one of the most overplayed songs out there.

Unfortunately, it fails to keep you truly interested like his breakthrough hit "In Da Club" that also was permanently sketched in the brains of every avid music listener.

"The Massacre" attacks Nas, Fat Joe, and Jadakiss on "Piggy Bank."

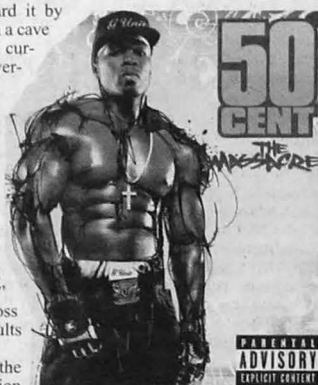
The song comes across as weak because the insults are very broad in nature.

50 mentioned in the song how he sold 11 million records and "Lean Back" was a dud, which is about as insulting as calling someone a "paste eater."

50 tried to diss too many rappers in one song and lacked a full-blown attack like "Takeover" by Jay-Z.

Maybe 50 should listen to his fellow New Yorker and learn to make one battle song per person.

Not everything in the album is negative. Dr. Dre and Eminem have their impression felt throughout by producing most of the beats



and elements that keep your head bumping.

It also is 22 tracks of music that lack the skits most common in the rap industry; the only skit present is the introduction.

Plus, The Massacre has a few club hits with songs like "Disco Inferno" and "Get in My Car."

Basically, if you expect this album to be like "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," you are bound to be disappointed.

If you want one of the better rap albums to come out so far this year, go ahead and pick this up.

As much hype that was involved, even moving the release date up a few days to curb downloading, one would expect greater things and not a potential career massacre.

Hot fashions for the not-so-rich

By Betsy Gentry
Fashion guru

I have been informed by friends and readers that not everyone is willing to spend her paycheck on the world's finest designer's clothing.

Therefore, I am going to try to find similar looks from the high-end brands that you can put together for less and still look great.

I will recommend only brands for less that are still of high quality and are worth the money.

1. **High-end:** Ellen Tracy Scalloped Silk Camisole (\$178).

This is found at Saks stores and is a cami with delicately-designed edges.

Alternative for less: French Connection Wrap Cami (\$48).

While I was in New Orleans for spring break, I tried this cami on, and it is very appealing.

This cami comes in as many gorgeous colors such as Atlantis and Paradise Pink.

French Connection is a great store to find cute items that fit your budget. Check online at www.frenchconnection.com.

2. **High-end:** BCBG Charmeuse dress (\$280). This dress is found at BCBG stores, ties at the back of the neck, has an empire waist, and is longer in the back than in the front.

Alternative for less: Bebe Silk Chiffon dress (\$139).

The dress is halter-like, is asymmetrical, and flares at hips.

The dress is available in one of the favorable shades of blue for spring in Peacock. Available at Bebe stores or online.

3. **High-end:** Juicy Couture Windbreaker (\$220); exclusively at Saks. A great jacket to throw on to go anywhere.

Alternative for less: Abercrombie and Fitch Kerry Track jacket (\$59.50).

This is a great replacement for the Juicy jacket. It is lightweight but will still keep you warm. Available at Abercrombie stores.

4. **High-end:** Prada canvas tote (\$810). A beautifully detailed tote that has an array of sea creatures on the front. www.saks.com.

Alternative for less: Ralph Lauren "Island" tote (\$45); found at www.maycs.com.

This is the perfect tote for the beach or the pool! A definite must-have for spring and summer!

5. **High-end:** Stuart Weitzman sandal (\$198). A basic sandal that can be used with many outfits.

Alternative for less: White House Black Market sandal (\$18).

This store is great for everything you need in the colors black and white.

The sandals are comfortable and can be dressed up as well. Check online at www.whiteandblack.com or visit one of their stores.

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ICE PRINCESS (G)
[11:00am] 1:30 4:00 6:50 9:20
THE RING TWO (PG-13) [11:30am 12:00] 1:00
1:40 2:10 2:40 3:50 4:20 4:50 5:20 6:30
7:30 7:50 8:00 9:10 9:40 10:10 10:40
HOSTAGE (R) 1:20 4:30 7:20 10:00
ROBOTS (PG) [11:10am 11:40am 12:10] 12:50
1:45 2:20 2:50 3:20 4:10 4:40 5:10 6:10
6:40 7:10 7:40 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:20
BE COOL (PG-13)
[11:50am] 2:30 5:00 7:50 10:35
THE PACIFIER (PG)
[11:20am] 1:50 4:15 7:15 9:45
MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13)
[2:45 3:45 6:45 10:05
CONSTANTINE (R)
[11:15am] 2:00 4:45 7:45 10:30
HITCH (PG-13) 12:40 3:30 6:15 9:15

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'Hostage' a thriller worth its seven dollar ransom

By **Shane Todd**
Et. Cetera editor

It's been awhile since Bruce Willis has had himself a leading role in a film.

"Hostage" provides just that, though. It's a dark and bleak thriller centering around Willis and his uncanny ability to play cops with horribly bad luck.

Willis plays Jeff Talley, chief of police for a small town in California.

Talley was one of LAPD's finest negotiators, but a hostage situation gone wrong has him relocated to this quiet little town.

Quiet, that is, until three boys follow a beautiful young girl home to steal her daddy's Escalade.

But these boys are far from professional criminals, and their attempted car-jacking quickly gets

out of hand.

Kevin (Marshall Allman) is impatient, and quite against the hijacking to begin with.

Dennis (Jonathon Tucker), though something of a trouble maker back home, is a bit in over his head on this one.

And Mars (Ben Foster), well, Mars is the kind of guy you can just look at and tell he's a little off.

The three boys lock themselves in the house with Mr. Smith (Kevin Pollack), his daughter Jennifer (Michelle Horn), and his son Tommy (Jimmy Bennett).

The first cop on the scene is shot. So Talley arrives at the Smith residence, only to find himself in the one situation he'd left L.A. to avoid.

For any normal movie, this alone would be enough to sustain the two hour plot.

But "Hostage" has to add the required twist. Here it turns out that Mr. Smith happens to work for some bad men.

These bad men, (none of them are ever given names or even identities beyond Masked Guy #1 and Masked Guy #2), kidnap Talley's family.

They hold the Talley family hostage, threatening their lives if Talley himself cannot aid them in collecting a special DVD from the Smith residence.

Now as I mentioned before, this is a Bruce Willis movie. Most of the focus is put on Willis himself, and it is his job to carry this film. Which he does quite well.

There's no question that "Hostage" is a dark and oppressive type of film.

"Hostage" plays heavily on the expected emotions here. Al-

most too much, at times.

Everyone's scared, or angry, or both. Someone always has to be crying, or on the verge of.

And while the bad men really do play up to the evil persona forced upon them, it's Mars' slow descent into madness that actually proves to be the scariest thing about this film.

As I said before, Bruce Willis does an excellent job of playing on Talley's emotions without making the performance unbearable.

But for every great thing that Willis does here, Foster matches with his creepy and surprisingly calm portrayal of Mars.

To this film's credit, every member of the cast does exactly what they need to do to make the movie work.

But it's Willis, Foster, and some stand-out scenes from Tucker that keep things propelling toward the increasingly intense finish.

"Hostage" plays out on an incline. While something like a hostage scenario could easily play

itself out in two hours, this film continues to add enough tension to actually make things more interesting.

And there are enough surprises toward that the payoff seems worth the price of admission.

As always, there are a few problems. There are the usual cases of faulty movie logic and some standard cliches.

The movie relies so heavily on the emotional pull of its characters that it borders on becoming too much.

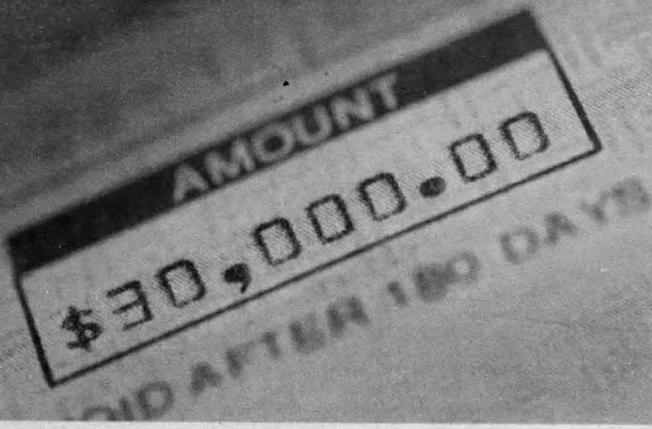
And the ramp at the end seems to lead straight into a brick wall. The movie quite suddenly just stops.

It's something of a logical ending, especially for a Bruce Willis movie, but "Hostage" set itself up as something a little more.

Despite some minor flaws, though, "Hostage" is a thriller worth its seven bucks.

Hopefully this film is a preview of things to come. Maybe now we can all look forward to "Sin City" on April 1.

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Sports

10 Thursday, March 17, 2005

Men's team wins its first GLVC title, loses in regional semi-final game

By Aaron Grider
Sports Reporter

The University of Southern Indiana's men's basketball team had its school record 17 game-winning streak ended at the hands of Ferris State on Sunday.

This loss came during the regional semi-finals of the NCAA Division II tournament in Findlay, Ohio.

Despite the loss, the Eagles still finished the season with an impressive 27-5 record and the first-ever GLVC tournament title in school history.

The run to the tournament title began March 3 with a 93-63 victory over eighth-seeded Missouri-St. Louis.

The Eagles shot 77 percent from the field in the first half to build a commanding 43-27 lead at the break.

Early in the second half the Eagles used a 12-0 run to take full control of the game and increased the lead to as many as 35 points before coasting to a 93-63 win.

The Eagles had six players score in

double figures including freshman Carl Richburg who had 18 points.

In his last GLVC tournament, senior Randy Holbrook contributed 17 points while fellow seniors Cris Brunson and Reque Newsome had 14 and 11 points, respectively.

The Eagles then moved on to the second round and were able to roll past Saint Joseph's for a historic 102-71 victory.

This was a meaningful win because it was the 100th victory for head coach Rick Herdes since he became coach in 2001.

The game was also a revenge win of sorts as the Pumas were the last team to hand the Eagles a defeat before the winning streak began.

Just like the first game, six Eagles scored double figures including Holbrook, who led the way with 18 points while Richburg wasn't far behind with 16 points.

The Eagles shot 62 percent from the field.

Junior Chris Thompson also helped the cause with game high 12 rebounds.

The win also marked the ninth time in 13 seasons that the Eagles have won at least 25 games.

With two wins, the top seeded Eagles headed to the title game as a heavy favorite over six seed Northern Kentucky.

Holbrook who had 23 points and grabbed nine rebounds in a 79-49 route once again led the Eagles and the first GLVC tourney title in school history.

Holbrook's performance also earned him the Most Outstanding Player award for the tourney to lead the Eagles to their 17th straight win.

The Eagles jumped out early and went into the locker room with a 37-19 lead.

"This is very overwhelming because we made history and it is such a beautiful feeling that is hard to describe," said Holbrook.

After the break USI continued to pour on the pressure by

shooting 59 percent from the field and 70 percent from three-point range.

Richburg also added 16 points and was named to the all-tournament team.

USI also set two GLVC tournament records by shooting 62 percent from the field and 72 percent from three-point range during the tournament.

"I thought we played extremely well and took care of the basketball.

"We also executed well on offense and our defense was very tenacious.

"I am happy for our kids that we could win this," said Herdes

The Eagles entered the NCAA tournament with momentum and entered ranked fourth in the nation and were seeded second in the region behind Findlay.

This was the 12th appearance in 13 seasons for the Eagles in the NCAA tournament.

Holbrook also became the first Eagle to be named to the Daktronic All-Region team that was voted on by the region's sports information directors.

In the first round the Eagles squared off against the number seven seed Gannon and despite their poor shooting, the Eagles were able to hold on for a 67-61 victory.

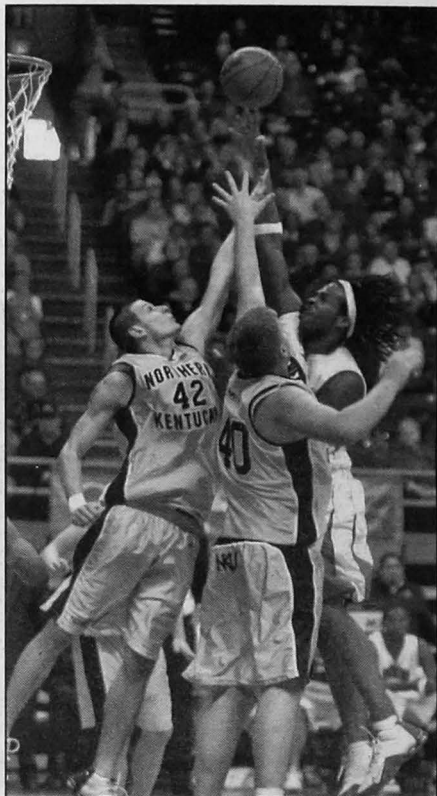
USI was never able to bust the game open despite leading by 13 points early in the second half and with eight minutes to go.

Gannon fought back and cut the lead to four with two and a half minutes left in the game.

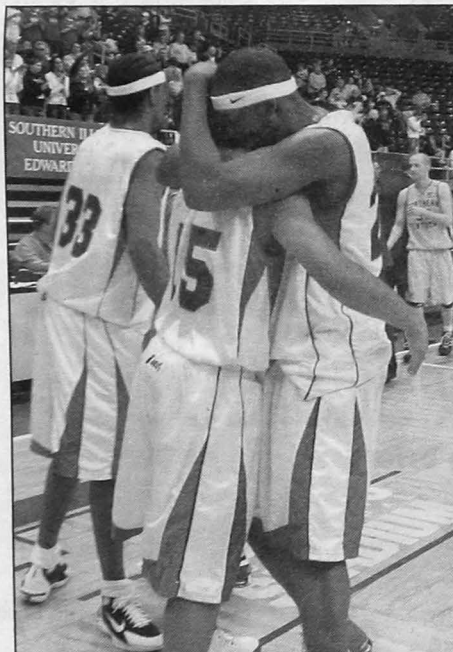
Brunson responded with a three pointer with 50 seconds left to push the lead to seven.

The Eagles were led by Holbrook who had 16 points while sophomore Geoff Van Winkle had 15 points and a team high eight rebounds.

In what would prove to be the Eagles final game, USI faced off with third seed



Senior Reque Newsome drives to the basket during the GLVC title game on March 6. USI defeated Northern Kentucky 79-49 to earn its first tourney title (photo by Elizabeth Courtney Randolph).



USI players embrace after their GLVC championship win. The Eagles averaged a 30-point victory margin in the three wins (photo by Elizabeth Courtney Randolph).

Ferris State a team that already held one victory over USI.

The Eagles trailed by only two points at halftime despite going nearly seven minutes without a field goal.

Ferris State came out quick in the second half and built a 13 point lead.

USI fought back for the rest of the half but got no closer than four points before falling 93-87.

Once again Holbrook led the Eagles with 15 points and 10 rebounds, while Junior David Bryant had 13 points and Richburg had 12.

This loss was the first loss for the Eagles since Jan. 13 against Saint Joseph's.

USI Baseball snaps five game losing skid

By Aaron Grider
Sports Reporter

The University of Southern Indiana baseball team recently snapped a five game losing streak by splitting a double-header-last Saturday against Lincoln Memorial.

Despite winning the first time in five attempts, the Eagles did experience some heart break in the previous game against Lincoln.

USI took a 2-1 lead in the fourth off of two runs by Matt Keener and a sacrifice by Jed

Davis that brought in Noah Wetzel to take the lead.

The lead didn't last for long as Lincoln tied the game off of a one out double to left field by Brian Williams.

Keener, after starting in right field, was brought in to pitch in the fourth before giving up two runs in the sixth that gave LMU a 4-2 lead.

Freshman Matt Malone then started off the seventh with a lead-off double and then sophomore Justin Wolfe singled to left to bring in Malone and the Eagles within a run.

Despite having bases loaded with two outs Keener could not get the much needed single and grounded out to give LMU a 4-3 nail biter.

This marked the fifth game this season that USI has lost by five runs or less.

The Eagles won the first half of the double-header 9-5 led by a two run homer by senior center fielder Noah Wetzel to set the tone for the win.

Sophomore Hunter Slade also contributed two doubles and two RBI's along with senior Matt Keener who also had two doubles

and two RBI's.

Senior Jae Fadda scored his first save of the year recording one strikeout and getting the Eagles out of a bases loaded situation in the fifth.

The Eagles were not so fortunate in game two as they fell to Lincoln 10-6 to start another losing skid. The Eagles pitching gave up six runs in the first two innings and were never able to get back in the game.

USI returned to action Tuesday night against cross-town rival the University of Evansville.

As of deadline, the results of

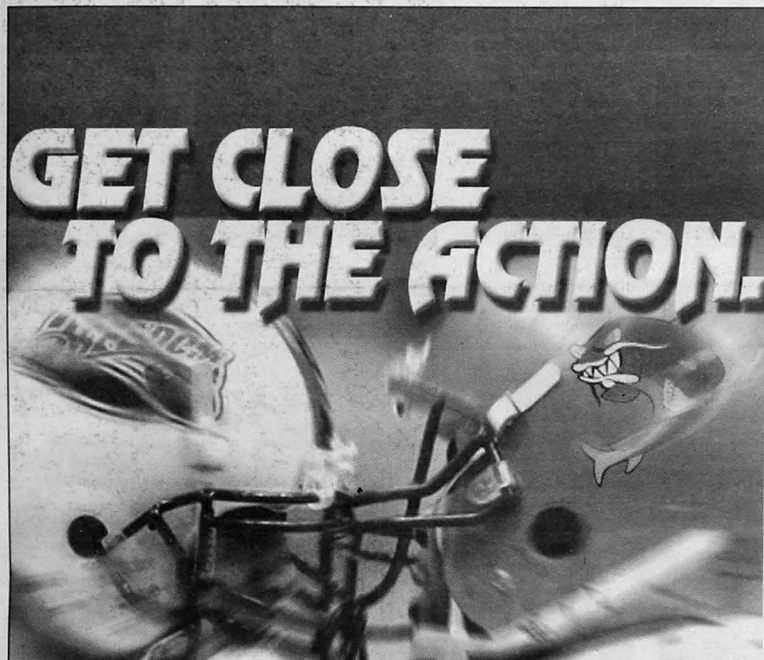
that game were not available.

USI had not defeated UE since the 1988 season despite having a 5-1 lead last year before falling 18-8.

USI trails 25-18 in the all-time series and has lost five of the last six meetings between the two schools.

Fadda will get the start and is 1-0 with a 3.60 ERA for the Screaming Eagles.

USI will travel to Oakland City Saturday for a double-header before returning to Evansville another double-header against the Mighty Oaks on Sunday.



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3/26 Bye	6/11 @ Dayton
4/2 Lexington	6/18 @ Sioux City
4/8 @ Tupelo	6/24 @ Tupelo
4/16 @ Omaha	7/2 Tupelo
4/23 Rapid City	7/9 @ Lexington
4/30 Omaha	
5/7 Bye	All Home Games are at 7:05 PM at Roberts Stadium. Dates are subject to change.
5/14 Tennessee Valley	
5/21 @ Sioux Falls	
5/28 Dayton	© 2005 Team Evansville, LLC



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1-Topping Pizzas
\$7 each plus tax
when you buy 3 or more

* Ask for Offer #135 *
Additional Toppings only \$1.25 each per pizza.
Deep Dish \$1 extra per pizza. Expires 6/30/05

Track sets school record

By Aaron Grider
Sports Reporter

The University of Southern Indiana women's track team finished its outdoor season last week at the NCAA national Championships in Boston, Mass.

USI had a school record six All-Americans for the meet including sophomore Candace Perry.

Perry had the squad's top finish with a third place finish in the long jump by jumping 19 feet and 9.5 inches.

Third place was just one spot off of her second place finish at last year's National Championships.

Junior Heather Cooksey received two All-American honors with her fourth place run in the 5,000 meters and the DMR team's

fifth place finish.

The DMR team also includes senior Crystal Stock and sophomores Natalie Clark and Missy Burgin.

To get All-American honors, a runner must finish in the top eight of their event.

"I feel like we performed extremely well because if you can go to national's and perform the same way that you did at conference, then that is saying a lot.

"Our kids were able to handle the pressure and they did it with a lot of class and confidence," said USI men's and women's track coach Mike Hillyard.

All of the Eagles runners will have had about three weeks off before their next meet on March 26 in Carbondale, Ill.

The Spring Classic will officially begin the outdoor track sea-

son for the men's and women's teams.

"I think that nationals was a very motivating factor for our kids because even though we had runners go and compete well.

"They didn't win so that motivates them to work harder and it also gives incentive to the kids that didn't qualify at all to see their teammates go to national's," Hillyard said.

The track team will have eight warm-up competitions before the GLVC championships on May 6 in Romeoville, Ill.

Some of the warm-up meets will include two trips to Butler University in Indianapolis.

The NCAA Division II Outdoor National Championships will be held in Abilene, Texas beginning on May 26.

Softball rolls on

By Aaron Grider
Sports Reporter

After starting the season 0-8 the USI softball team has rebounded with seven straight victories including the two most recent wins last Saturday. The Eagles defeated St. Cloud State 1-0 and then followed that up with a 9-3 win over C.W. Post.

Junior pitcher Missy Glover got her fifth straight win against St. Cloud by pitching a four-hit shutout before only giving up one hit and no runs in a four-inning relief effort against C.W. Post.

During the victory against Post the Lady Eagles had a season high 14 hits en route to going 7-2 during their recent trip to Florida.

The Lady Eagles began their winning streak on March 8 with two victories in a double-header.

The first win of the streak came in a 5-0 victory over New Haven. Sophomore second baseman Kerrie Burton provided all the offense the Eagles needed with a three-run homer, which was the first of her career.

Glover then cruised on strik-

ing out eight batters and allowing only three hits in a complete game shutout.

The second part of the double-header saw the Lady Eagle come from behind to defeat head coach Sue Kunkle's alma mate California-Pennsylvania 3-2.

Sophomore catcher Krist Groves drove in the winning run in the top of the sixth to give the Eagles the lead for good.

The bulk of the offense was credited to sophomore catcher Lisa Anderson who had two solo homers including one that tied the game at two.

Junior pitcher Lindsay McNaughton scored the complete game by giving up two runs off eight hits and also struck out six batters.

USI then poured on the offense against East Stroudsburg University 11-2 in five innings.

The Eagles racked up four runs in the fourth and five runs in the fifth to pull away and cruise to victory.

McNaughton had an inside the park home run in the third inning.

The Eagles earned the fourth and fifth straight victories in double-header wins over Lock Haven and Dowling.

The win over Lock Haven was fueled by Oelling's game winning triple in the seventh to give USI the 2-1 come from behind win.

In the second game USI used another game winning triple this time by Kristy Groves to get the 4-1 win over Dowling.

The Lady Eagles hope to continue their winning streak on Saturday when they host Division school Moorehead State University for a double-header beginning at 2 p.m.

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