

Shield

University of Southern Indiana

September 17, 1998

Volume 28, Issue 2

Editor's Line: 465-1645

News Lines: 465-1632

Advertising: 464-1870

Plastic ID's take you where you want to be on campus

Your Ticket to Ride

Safe Ride is one advantage for USI students. This program provides a taxi from River City Yellow Cab Co. to take students wherever they need to go and charges it to the student's school account.

A student must have a valid USI I.D. and a zero balance on the Safe Ride account. Students who reach \$100 on the Safe Ride account cannot get a cab until the Safe Ride bills are paid.

The Safe Ride is an advantage for students who do not have cars to get to where they need to go.

Reach out and Touch someone via email

Financially impossible to call your friends and family long-distance? Do not have a stamp to send a letter? Run to Computer Services in the Orr Center, lower level to get hooked up on e-mail. Electronic mail permits students to send and receive mail around the world on any computer that has the software for e-mail.

E-mail is offered to USI students free of charge. To get hooked up, report to the basement of the Orr Center to Computer Services between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Fill out an application and place the application in the appropriate spot when finished. The student will be instructed to come back in two days with a valid USI identification card.

In two days the student will receive a log in name and an instruction sheet and will be ready to jump on the computer and get in touch with anyone they choose.

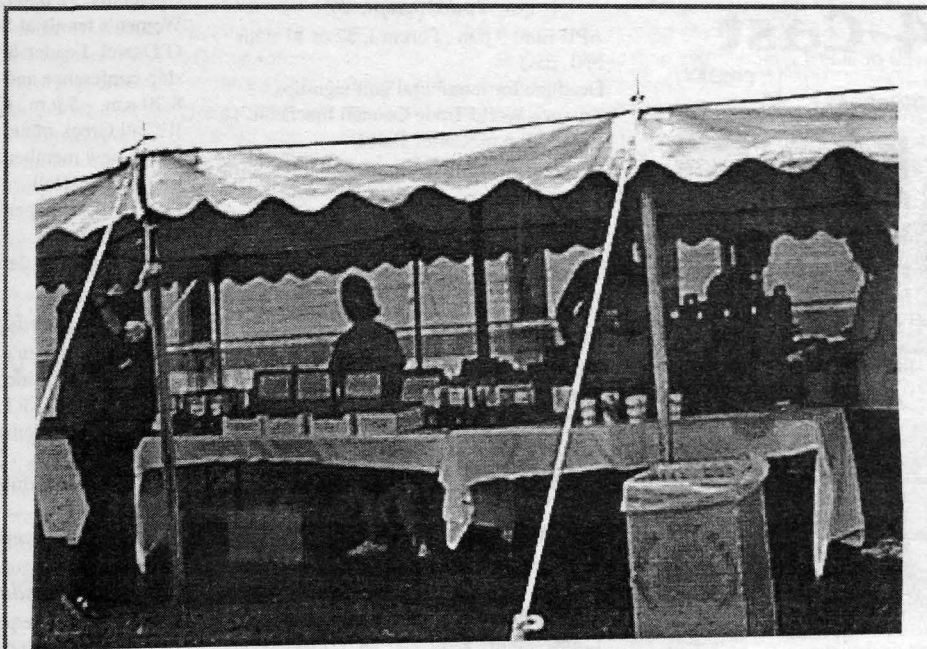
No more excuses, easy access to getting fit

If you are wanting to cheer the Screaming Eagles boys basketball team to victory for no charge, you have to know where the PAC, Physical Activities Center, is located.

The PAC is the farthest east main building on campus. It has a swimming pool, three courts, a weight room and a gym on the first floor. There is an additional court and a batting cage on the second floor.

The PAC counter is located in the middle of the building on the first floor. A valid picture school ID is required when signing in and the location of what facility that will be used.

please see Plastic Cards, page 7



Intermittent rain showers didn't keep crowds of students away from the food tents in an SGA-sponsored cookout Wednesday. Students were treated to hot dogs and soft drinks from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the tent near the Science Center. The previous day, nursing students had a cookout in front of the HP Center. (Digital photos by Esther Dunlap.)

Facilities set hours for help in study on campus

David L. Rice Library

By Andrea Maurer
correspondent

The David L. Rice Library across from the University Center is open to all USI students.

The library offers a variety of student benefits such as e-mail and internet terminals, CD-ROMS and Library User Information Services (LUIS) terminals.

Library hours for the fall semester are:

Monday-Thursday 7:45 a.m. to midnight.
Friday 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Academic Skills, CASH

By Nicole Minor
correspondent

Academic Skills provides tutoring for students who need help fulfilling their educational requirements with free academic support for students in writing, grammar and

usage, algebra/mathematics, reading and study skills.

Academic Skills has two offices, one in the lower level of the Orr Center, room 012, and the Center for Academic Skills, CASH, in student housing Wright Building 8114 A.

The Orr Center location is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CASH is open Sunday through Thursday 2:30 p.m.-10 p.m. For more information call 464-1743 or 465-1237.

The Harris Excite POLL

Should Clinton Face Impeachment Hearings?

yes -- Starr's report details perjury and abuses of power.
57% = 12866 votes

no -- lying about an illicit affair is not a "high crime."
39% - 8,800 votes

unsure-- language surrounding impeachment is too vague
4% = 537

**Shield
4-Day
4-Cast**

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY



Cloudy with a shower

H 87 / L 67

SATURDAY



Rain in the morning

H 88 / L 67

<http://www.accuweather.com/>

FRIDAY



A shower in the morning

H 87 / L 66

SUNDAY



Rain, then showers

H 86 / L 65

Today, Sept. 17

APB film, 9 p.m., Forum I, \$2 or \$1 with FNL pass
Deadline for intramural golf sign-ups
Tri-state World Trade Council luncheon, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Carter Hall C
Diversity Workshop, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Carter Hall A
Women's tennis vs. Bellarmine College, (H), 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 18

End 70 percent refund

Volleyball vs. Quincy University 7 p.m., PAC
Student Government Association (SGA) fall retreat, 5-9 p.m.
Phi Delta Theta "September Smash", 9 p.m.-midnight, Carter Hall
Rape aggression defensive training

Saturday, Sept. 19

Volleyball vs. University of Missouri, St. Louis, 2 p.m., PAC

Men's and women's soccer at Lewis University, 12 p.m./3 p.m.
Women's tennis at St. Joseph's
O'Daniel Leadership Academy fall leadership conference and executive board retreat, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Carter Hall
IFC all Greek mixer
Greek new member conference 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m., Carter Hall
Greek risk management workshop, 5 p.m., Carter Hall
Rape aggression defense training

Sunday, Sept. 20

Men's and women's soccer at University of Wisconsin-Parkside, 12 p.m.- 3p.m.
Women's tennis at Lewis College
Intramural golf tournament, Hamilton Golf Course
ASIA IN U.S. exhibit, UC gallery (through Oct.19)
ASIA IN U.S. reception, 2 p.m.- 4 p.m., Carter Hall

Tuesday, Sept. 22

IFC USI Greek letter days

Volleyball vs. Bellarmine College, 7 p.m., PAC
IFC/SDP, Joseph Weinburg, "Sexual Ethics", Carter Hall 7 p.m.- 11 p.m.
EXCEL Mentoring Program, 1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.,MCC

Wednesday, Sept. 23

Intramural staff meeting
Cholesterol education screening, USI Fitness Center
Black Student Union meeting 3 p.m., UC 214

If you have an event or activity that you would like to have placed in the upcoming calendar, please submit the information to The Shield, e-mail Shield.ucs@smta.usi.edu or bring the information to The Shield office in 003, UC by noon Mondays.

ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMING BOARD

Friday Night Live

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THIS WEEK'S EVENT (9/18)

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Board Positions Available

Call 464-1872 for info



College students with credit cards can be dangerous

by ESTHER DUNLAP
campus editor

Money.

It is something that college students value because we rarely have it. One opportunity to get more money is to get a credit card. Watch out. What you spend now will have to be paid for later.

Mike Meyers, an education specialist with consumer credit counseling in Seattle states: "Young people are getting credit sooner and thus getting into trouble sooner. Without a doubt, credit card companies target students while they are

in college because they are well-educated and will most likely be clients for years to come, but they don't really tell the whole story and a lot of students end up with mountains of debt."

The staff opinion from the University of Southern Alabama's The Vanguard offers advice in their "Keep credit cards in check."

There are advantages (to having a credit card)—students establish buying power; credit card companies build future customers and merchants sell more goods and services.

But if students cannot pay their bills tomorrow, they could lose more than a good credit history. Some students have

dropped out of school in order to pay off their mounting credit card bills.

College administrators say credit card debt is becoming a big issue on campus and it can become a major reason why students have problems getting loans.

In the end, a free T-shirt or 5-minute phone card might not seem like a fair trade for a bill with an attached monthly interest rate of up to 22 percent.

Some tips to follow from The Vanguard if you choose to get a piece of plastic.

—If you carry a balance, you might want to pay an annual fee, especially if the interest rate is lower.

—Keep two cards ONLY—one for regular use, the other for large purchases or emergencies. The more you have, the greater your chances of using them.

—Beware of benefits such as frequent flyer miles or cash back. You might spend more than you normally would to reap the advantages.

—Pay off as much of your balance as possible each month. You will owe and pay more in interest if you only send in the minimum payment.

—Get help if you cannot get out of credit card debt, or if you find yourself relying on credit cards to meet living expenses.

What the PAC can do for you

by ESTHER DUNLAP
campus editor

The PAC has long had a work out room open to students at certain hours.

Not long ago, the University acquired the building which formerly housed Olympus Gym on the westside. Now students can come and go at the USI Fitness Center which offers an area for students to work out at their leisure.

Along with student friendly hours, the Center offers other advantages. They currently have free fitness consultations, equipment orientations, nutritional assessments, fitness evaluations and personal training.

To help prevent health problems the Center offers stress management programming, blood pressure screening and a Diabetes Alert Day.

There are group exercise classes, specialty classes and incentive programs for those looking for a new way to get in

shape and stay there.

The classes are available to students, but this is not all the Fitness Center offers. There are weight machines, stairmaster, stationary bikes, treadmills and many other devices which allow people to work out at their own pace.

For those who need to lift weights and then books, shower facilities are available.

There are also career opportunities for those in the athletic field. The center offers an intern program and an instructor training course.

Hours of Operation

Fall Semester


Monday-Thursday 6 am -11 pm

Friday 6 am -7 pm

Saturday 10 am -6 pm

Sunday 12 pm - 5 pm

Hours subject to change




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GAMMA PHI BETA

Gamma Phi Beta would like to thank all Sororities and Fraternities at USI for all their support during our fall rush!

ΓΦΒ ΓΦΒ ΓΦΒ ΓΦΒ ΓΦΒ ΓΦΒ ΓΦΒ ΓΦΒ

Publications work yields more than experience and education

By SHAWNA PIERSON
transitions editor



Mark McGwire has breathed new life into baseball with the race of the record breaking home run race. Could someone please breathe new life into USI's print journalism students?

USI should be a challenge for me, but after transferring from a two-year community college, I see no competition.

It hurts my feelings to see a handful of people working in the publications department most of whom are not journalism majors!

Where's the love?

The experience

It would appear the experience of working for a student publication should be the ultimate goal for journalism majors. Resumes with no work experience are not very appealing to future employers. Unless you want to write obituaries for the rest of your career, you must roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty.

Don't look at it as a low paying job, but as an opportunity. The money is minimal, but the experience is priceless.

The future

How do you really know if you want to spend your career as a journalist? I have a friend, who came straight from high school devoting herself to studying journalism in college. She braved through two semesters of news reporting lab to find out she hated the long hours, deadlines and pressures of the newsroom. After a year in college, she changed her major and wasted time and money. So you see, working in a newsroom is the perfect way to tell if you like the work.

The education

If you think you can learn to be a journalist from a book or a few classes, you have another thought coming. Sure, you can learn from professors, but can you apply what you learn to working for a newspaper or a magazine?

Take for example, dealing with people. The pleasure of working with rude people takes skill to get what you want from them (i.e. information for a story).

Not working for the school paper or magazine is taking so much from your college education.

The equipment

Computers are the basis of the Information Age.

Unless you take specific classes providing certain machines, you must learn on your own how to operate Macintosh computers, scanners, digital cameras, the Internet, and other much needed equipment very quickly. Mastering the equipment takes time. Using these tools every week in the publications department gives you an edge on technology. We have lots of new equipment. You should come down to UC003 to check it out.

The people

When I worked for the Vincennes University's Trailblazer, the staff was like family. We all worked together. I became best friends with some of my fellow staffers. You can learn to work with people. Working as a team is very fulfilling and rewarding.

The accomplishments

Completing a newspaper gives a great sense of accomplishment. Once you have a publication you are proud to have your name associated with, you will appreciate what you have done to get the news out. Yes, it takes long hours, headaches and intelligence, but it is worth it.

You can see students on campus with your newspaper or magazine open. They read it! They smile at a great story. They get mad when they don't agree with the content. You make it all happen. You may even influence ideas on campus. Those are accomplishments that feel good. Try it.

The awards

Winning an award for your journalistic talents is almost spiritual. People look up to you. You have more credibility. It feels pretty good, too.

Someday before I graduate, I would like to see The Shield and Transitions up to competition quality. There are numerous competitions in this state. Wouldn't you like to be a part of a newspaper that was worthy of awards and praise?

It is not hard to try new things. I really don't see how journalism students are getting an education without practicing what they learn. It is a waste to me, but maybe I am just too passionate about the rest of my life.

I can see a day when the USI newsroom is full of students that work together to create something as a representation of their education and everyday lives, and that something is their pride and joy.

Shawna Pierson is a junior print journalism major from Vincennes, Ind.

HELP ME, HARLAN

Living a guessing game can tear relationship apart

Dear Harlan,

I was interested in your take on suspicion of your partner.

My boyfriend and I have been slowly drifting apart the past few months. He seems to have lost all interest in me (sex is very seldom) and seems agitated when I try and discuss my feelings of loneliness and concerns about our current relationship. He seems to think I'm constantly overreacting and that his behavior hasn't changed.

Classic story, I know. However, he has changed quite a bit. He was more attentive and loving in the beginning of our relationship. He was much more interested in what I was doing.

Do you think there are telltale attitudes or actions that can give a partner "away" if they have been unfaithful? If so, what are they?

A classic story

Dear Classic,

It's never a good sign when your partner spends a lot of time in the hallway leading to his private office with his personal intern, especially if his main office is oval.

If you were you to read the book, "What Men Don't Want Women to Know: The Secrets, the Lies, the Unspoken Truth," by Smith and Doe, you might never trust a man again. This inside look into the mind of men makes the claim that fewer than 4 percent of men are faithful.

While a little crude at times, Smith and Doe also offers a fidelity test that may or may not prove mildly helpful to you. But really, you don't need a test to see there are problems.

Ideally, it would be nice if you could trust your partner to speak with you if there is some kind of problem. Likewise, it would be nice if you could trust your partner to acknowledge your feelings when something is deeply bothering you.

Living this guessing game is only going to tear you apart and destroy all that's good. If your partner can't communicate and can't love you the way you need to be loved, it might be time to close the book on this classic story.

You can always find another story. Maybe this one will end with happily ever after.

**Harlan is not a licensed psychologist, therapist or physician, but he is a licensed driver.*

Write Harlan and read more letters online at: www.helpmeharlan.com. Email letters to harlan@helpmeharlan.com or send c/o Help Me, Harlan! 2506 N. Clark, Suite #223, Chicago, IL 60614. All letters submitted become the property of the column.

The Shield

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The Shield is the official student newspaper of the University of Southern Indiana. Views expressed on the editorial pages do not necessarily reflect the views of the entire Shield staff, the USI faculty, administration or student body.

The Shield is published weekly and distributed on campus each Thursday morning during the fall and spring semesters.

Letters to the editor may be submitted in person or sent via e-mail to the Shield.usc@smtp.usi.edu. Letters must be signed.

Advertising rates and subscription information will be sent upon request.

'Antz, A Bug's Life' elevates insects from bothersome to blockbuster

Contrasting with last year's *Titanic*, the big screen takes a surprising turn toward smaller subjects this fall as two major movie studios each present audiences with their own animated ant adventure.

Dreamworks Pictures' *Antz* opens Oct. 2 featuring a colony of celebrity voices.

Big name players include Woody Allen, Dan Aykroyd, Anne Bancroft, Jane Curtin, Danny Glover, Gene Hackman, Jennifer Lopez, John Mahoney, Paul Mazursky, Grant Shaud, Sylvester Stallone, Sharon Stone and Christopher Walken.

Z-4195 (Woody Allen) is just a worker ant—one in a billion—and his odds of landing the beautiful Princess Bala (Sharon Stone) are about the same.

Z enlists the aid of his best friend, a soldier ant named Weaver (Sylvester Stallone), to get to the Princess. When a twist of fate turns Z from a common drone into an unlikely hero, he puts a bug in the plans of the ambitious General Mandible (Gene Hackman) to literally liquidate the colony and remake it in his own image.

Z finds himself leading a revolution that becomes a celebration of individuality in the face of overwhelming conformity.

Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Animation Studios have their own six-legged animated flic ready for release Nov. 20. *A Bug's Life* stars the celebrity voices of Dave Foley, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Hayden Panettiere, Phyllis Diller, Kevin Spacey, Richard Kind, John Ratzenberger, David Hyde Pierce, Joe Ranft, Denis Leary, Madeline Kahn, Johnathan Harris, Michael McShane, Bonnie Hunt, Brad Garrett, Roddy McDowall, Edie McClurg, Alex Rocco and David Ossman.

Academy Award-winning director John Lasseter (*Toy Story*) takes the storytelling art of computer animation to new heights with this film that follows the "antics" of a misfit young ant named Flick as he tries to save his colony from a greedy gang of grasshoppers and their evil leader Hopper.

Flick's attempts at heroism seem headed for disaster when the troop of bugs he enlists turns out to be a motley bunch of performers from a flea circus. As Hopper prepares to descend on the colony for another raid, Flick and the circus bugs rally to the occasion.

Once these two films scurry their collective 12 legs into theaters, one point becomes alarmingly clear: no picnic can ever be the same.



Z (Woody Allen) tries out some new dance steps on his partner, not realizing she's actually Princess Bala, in the romantic comedy adventure *Antz*, a co-production of Dreamworks Pictures and PDI. Photo courtesy of Dreamworks Pictures.

House of Blues New Media re-vamps web site

House of Blues New Media has been a leader in Internet entertainment since its formation in 1994.

Shortly after its inception, HOB.COM made history, producing the first-ever live music cybercast with a special concert event in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from the stage of the House of Blues Sunset Strip in Los Angeles.

Since then, HOB.COM has become a leading on-line music site, embracing the House of Blues philosophy of Unity in Diversity. The site features a weekly "Spotlight on the Blues," a comprehensive biography of yesterday's and today's greatest blues musicians.

In addition, HOB.COM also features an "Artist of the Month" which highlights today's rock, R&B, hip-hop and country acts.

There's also a CD Reviews section, where HOB/COM rates five for the latest or upcoming contemporary music releases, updated on a weekly basis.

In addition to incorporating all of the elements of the existing site, the new HOB.COM has added features to

keep you informed and up to date on House of Blues events across the nation.

With the redesign in place, music schedules at all locations can be accessed in a monthly layout.

On the main page a House of Blues New Update section has been added, which not only includes a scrolling list of headlines reporting the latest developments and activities happening nationwide, but also weekly briefs on relevant music news items.

Also included on the new site are profiles on House of Blues businesses that provide services for Internet users. Among them are House of Blues New Media (digital distribution, production, and promotion of live music on the Internet); the House of Blues Music Company (music of the American South, from gospel to blues); and the International House of Blues Foundation (a network that works with schools, community groups and businesses to increase awareness of the African American influence on southern culture and blues music).

Another new feature is the monthly food recipe in the restaurant section of HOB.COM which boasts a list of all the makings for a selected traditional Southern dish as well as the usual menu listing for each of their six locations.

For the users who sign up to become members, a personal updates section has been added. As a member, the user can select four of favorite HOB online sections. Upon visiting, a visual indicator will activate if new information has been posted in areas of interest.

In the future a feature called Biz to Biz will be operational. Designed to keep users thoroughly in the House of Blues loop, this section will include a comprehensive collection of corporate information, press releases, sales information, sponsorship, production information and job listings from all locations.

Finally, the House of Blues Store will be added to its Internet site, allowing electronic purchases of any House of Blues apparel item available at their non-virtual locations.

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LOCAL BANDS

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For Dr. Walter Hopkins Luncheon honors retired professor

By ROBIN ALDRICH
correspondent

The former chair of the Sociology Department was honored by colleagues at USI last week with a retirement luncheon in Carter Hall.

Faculty and former students were on hand to give good wishes to Dr. Walter Hopkins, who retired in June after teaching here since 1971.

Prior to this luncheon, Hopkins had been honored in the fall with receptions by Stephen Zehr, faculty in the Sociology Department, the Sociology Club and students.

"I liked the fact that everyone got involved. It (the luncheon) made it very special to me," he said.

His 36-year teaching career began in 1962 with a position at Mankato State College in Minnesota. From there he went to Central College in Pella, Iowa, in 1964, where he stayed until coming to USI.

Hopkins noted highlights of his teaching career as "sharing a platform with Martin Luther King in 1967 (at Central College) and hosting the appear-



At a luncheon in his honor, Dr. Walter Hopkins, retired sociology professor, gets a congratulatory handshake from President Ray Hoops. Other administrators attending the luncheon included Dr. Robert Reed, vice president of academic affairs. (Photo by Robin Aldrich)

ance of Ramsey Clark, U.S. Attorney General under President Lyndon Johnson in Evansville in 1974."

Dr. Charles Petranek praised Hopkins after the luncheon. "We thank Walt for establishing the criminal justice program (at USI), stabilizing the (sociology) department and bringing a social awareness to the community," he said.

Well known for his passionate lectures, Hopkins said he

found raising awareness in the classroom equally important. "I (taught) students to challenge their ideas, to try to see both sides of an issue. This was reflected in panel discussions and seminar papers. I insisted that students examine their most sacred beliefs," he said.

Hopkins was department chair from 1971 until 1982, when Petranek became chair, a position he held until last spring. Current chair is Zehr.

'Rocky' t-shirt sales will help finance New York trip

By Melody Puller
news editor

Alpha Kappa Psi and the Economics and Finance club members are promoting the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" by selling T-shirts that will fund their trip to New York.

The movie will be Saturday, Sept. 26, at Mesker Amphitheater at 7 p.m. T-shirts will be available there, at all Ticketmaster locations, Roberts Stadium box office and at USI.

"Ogden Entertainment has been generous enough to allow these students to profit from the T-

shirt sales," Michael Damm, president of Alpha Kappa Psi, said.

During their four-day trip to New York, members will visit the New York Stock Exchange, the Federal Reserve and the Port Authority. Members will sight see the Statue of Liberty, the Monument of Freedom, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Times Square.

"The field trip will provide students with a range of educational experiences relevant to today's rapidly changing global economy," Dr. Mohammad Khayum, adviser to Alpha Kappa Psi and the Economics and Finance Club, said.

Tri-State Alliance for Gays & Lesbians

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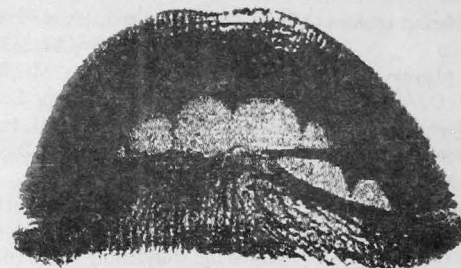
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NEWS IN BRIEF

September Smash set for Friday

By Dan Sisk
correspondent

Phi Delta Theta and Village Pointe will present the fourth annual September Smash Friday.

"So Right" will kick it off at 6 p.m. Friday followed by "Olive Lucy" at 8 p.m. and headliner "Flexx" at 10 p.m. behind the baseball fields at Eicher Barn.

The concert will cost \$3 at the entrance or a T-shirt may be purchased for \$10 ahead of

time and will allow free admission. Phi Delta Theta will donate a share of the proceeds to the Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center.

Library to sponsor Poetry at the Park

Willard Library will host the fifth annual "Poetry in the Park" Sunday Sept. 27 at 2 p.m.

Joining the reading this year will be local poets Bill Sovern, Paul Hoskins, Jan Ann Kizer, Tereesa Roy, Brandon

Croby and local musicians Brad Harris and Ben Davis.

Entitled "Poetry in American Language," this event is free to the public and will be held outdoors in Willard Park. There will be a question/answer period and refreshments afterward.

For more information, contact Brian Rhoden at 425-4309.

Financial aid offers emergency loans

By Andra Daniels
correspondent

Short on cash? Car troubles and no money to repair it? What

about the cost of those books?

The USI Financial Aid office can grant up to \$250 if your request for loan assistance is approved. Students can apply for a short-term, emergency loan by filling out an application in the financial aid office.

The application must be approved by a committee which determines if the reason for the loan is necessary.

Loans that are granted by the committee following a review of the application are usually awarded the following day, and individuals have about a month before the repayment date.

The office is located in the Orr Center, room 1095.

Organizational meeting for PRSSA

The PRSSA, Public Relations Student Society of America, will be holding their first meeting of the year.

Several topics are scheduled to be discussed such as the organizations goals for the year, the professional student mentorship program, their national conference in Boston, and philanthropy, to name a few.

The meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 3 p.m. in HP 214.

If you have questions, you can contact Dr. Robert Carroll, adviser and Public Relations sequence coordinator, or Mrs. Maggie Robinson, adviser.

Plastic Cards *continued from Page 1*

There is also a pass available for the use of the PAC facilities including the pool for non-students and non-alumni. This pass is \$40 per semester for the initial person plus \$5 for each additional family member. There is a \$2 charge for a visitor with a member.

The courts are available during open recreation time but not during class or USI activities.

With a USI ID, the PAC counter also has equipment available for no charge.

Make fitness part of your daily routine

The University of Southern Indiana Fitness Center in the northwest corner of the University Shopping Plaza is free to students who must show a

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John Murphy, Eileen McGinley, Nicole Minor compiled information for this story.

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GLVC play will put soccer team to vigorous test

By Ryan Revnolds
correspondent

One phrase whose philosophy has gained popularity lately is "to be the man, you have to beat the man."

The USI men's soccer team can't complain about the number of opportunities to knock off Division II's best they have this season.

The Eagles (1-4) had two such chances last weekend against Charleston University and West Virginia Wesleyan College, two teams ranked among the top 10 in Division II. And though the team fell by identical 3-0 scores Friday and Saturday, head coach Scott Westbrook (116-111-19 career coaching record, 12-28-1 at USI)

saw a silver lining in a weekend of dark clouds.

"We played pretty decent soccer against teams that should have beaten us," the third-year coach said. "We put a solid group of players on the field, and we worked hard from the opening to closing whistles."

The hard work Westbrook saw his players put forth wasn't enough to pull out victories against the upper-echelon opponents, who tallied all six of their goals in the second halves of the matches.

"Where we're at right now is to be expected," Westbrook said. "We have seven or eight new faces in the starting lineup, but they're a very athletic group."

This week, the team opens

its Great Lakes Valley Conference schedule with a swing through the northern stretches of the league. Stops at Lewis (near Chicago) and Wisconsin-Parkside on Saturday and Sunday, respectively, will give the team a chance to put its athleticism to a vigorous test.

A recent tradition for both of this week's opponents has been defeating the Eagles. USI has lost five in a row to Parkside, coupled with consecutive 5-0 losses to Lewis the past two seasons.

What is different this year from last is that USI gets both teams early in the conference schedule. Westbrook already knows what his starting lineup is, while opponents still may not have such a grasp on theirs.

"Last year we had difficulties coming out of the starting gate," Westbrook said. "This year, I have a good idea who my top 11 or 12 guys are. This week, we get to send them out against two premier teams."

One of those top players is Derek Stull, a sophomore who is the youngest team captain Westbrook has ever designated.

"Derek provides a lot of leadership on the field," Westbrook said. "He's one of the younger guys on the team, but he's done a good job so far."

Ed Pieper has been the most productive offensive player for USI. Pieper, a freshman from St. Louis, has scored a goal and registered an assist on another to total three points in five starts.

The lineup also features Jamelle McCreary, a transfer from the University of Evansville who scored two goals in 18 matches for the Aces last year. McCreary and fellow senior Rich Curran lead the team with 12 shots each, though neither have scored.

Goaltender Nick Mirth is the only starting defenseman returning from last season and has saved 57 of 69 shots this season for a goals-against average of 2.57.

Win or lose, Westbrook feels his team has a lot to gain from this trip to visit two of the conference's best, including a preview of how his team reacts against a league playoff-quality opponent within the GLVC.

Media coverage of Sosa's accomplishment is on target

Congratulations to Sammy Sosa. There, I said it. I didn't like it, but I said it.

Instead of two sluggers chasing history, we have two players that are making history and there seems to be a problem. Not with either player but with the fans who are questioning the media's coverage.

You would think the media would have had a frenzy with Sammy Sosa's smacking home run 62 on Sunday tying Mark McGwire for the major league home run record. But you know what...they didn't. Meanwhile Mark McGwire has now edged one ahead of Sosa.

I have some late-breaking news for all those Slammin'

Sammy fans out there. Sosa didn't break a new record yet...McGwire is the one who first broke the record of Maris' 61 home runs and

Sammy finished second in the chase to make history.

Don't get me wrong, I tip my hat to Sammy. He has done a great deed for the game, and all sports fans should be grateful for two athletes with the sheer power and will to both exceed a record that has stood for nearly four decades.

Usually there isn't much glory in doing something second. I mean, does anybody know the name of the man that also invented a telephone and was standing behind Alexander Graham Bell in the

patent office when he received a patent for the telephone? Probably not. That just proves my point. Unless Sosa hits more home runs than McGwire this season, he will be vaguely remembered in baseball record books. However, if he does hit more than Big Mac, he will be rewarded handsomely as will all the Sosa fans.

Nick Nackery

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Besides finishing second in the race to 62, a look behind the numbers helps to show what the hype is all about.

Through 147 games Sosa had 593 appearances at the plate. Compare that to McGwire who through 143 games had only 469 at bats. Sosa has been walked 68 times as opposed to McGwire who

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has reached first 152 times by way of base on balls. I'm a communication major...you do the math.

Not to take anything away from Sammy Sosa he accomplished a feat that seemed out of reach for everybody, including McGwire. However, Sosa did finish second in the chase to 62 but the season isn't finished.

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