

The SHIELD

University of Southern Indiana Student Newspaper

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Thursday, May 7, 2009

Vol. 39, Issue 29

The Shield is a designated public forum.

Use it or lose it

Students struggle to spend extra 'Munch Money'

By **SETH GRUNDHOEFER**
Managing editor

Though it may seem implausible, for some students, the end of the school year often prompts a spending frenzy.

On Saturday, all remaining Munch Money will be appropriated by USI Food Services.

In attempts to clear all excess munch money from their food service account before it is deleted on Saturday, some students are scrambling to spend, and spend fast.

But between spending obligatory munch money on a \$6-quart of Ben & Jerry's ice cream at USI's Convenience Store or offering to buy meals for friends, getting rid of remaining munch money can be a tough process, said sophomore Amanda Yochum.

"My roommate just spent

— See **MUNCH** on Pg. 3

Student employment steady despite poor economy

By **DANI PALMER**
News editor

Despite the U.S.'s recent economic woes, there are currently hundreds of jobs for students seeking employment without every stepping foot off campus.

Donna Evinger, director of human resources, said student employment numbers seem to be doing well at the moment.

"As of March, 2009, we had about 870 student workers listed as active on payroll," she said.

Director of Career Services and Placement Phil Parker said there are currently a wide variety of jobs on campus.

According to Parker, there are office jobs for students in each college. Their tasks include answering phones, filing paperwork and assisting anyone who comes into the office.

The fitness center and auxiliary areas — also known as business areas — offer many job opportunities as well, Parker said.

Distribution services has students sorting and delivering mail while Sodexo also has a large number of students providing food services.

Parker said Sodexo hires food service workers separately from the university.

— See **STUDENT** on Pg. 3

Graduation speech to bring 'life lessons'

More than 700 students to walk in Sunday commencement ceremony, 1,500 to graduate

By **LANA KUNZ**
Shield staff

During his 15-year tenure as the president of USI, President H. Ray Hoops has done just about everything, that is, aside from delivering a commencement speech.

Sunday, however, in his last public address as the president of the university, he gets his chance to address the near 700 graduates who will walk in the ceremony in Roberts Stadium.

"I think everyone will be able to identify with his words of wisdom," said Cindy Brinker, vice president for gov-

ernment and university relations.

Brinker described Hoops' speech as containing "life lessons" and "a lot of common sense things."

Unlike many graduation ceremonies, USI's will grant everyone a view.

A new large projection screen just off the side of the stage at Roberts Stadium will ensure that all of the audience can see the students proudly strut or trip and stumble in their final steps for a degree.

In total, slightly more than 1,500 will

graduate on May 10.

Other differences between this spring graduation and the last are: longer entrance and exit ramps approaching the stage, new gowns for the marshals and an additional cord identifying retired instructors.

Although the ramps already met prior standards they were lengthened to ensure compliance with the American with Disabilities Act.

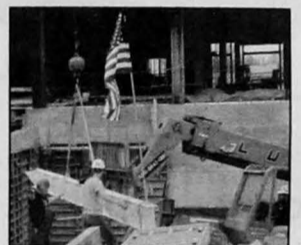
— See **LESSONS** on Pg. 3

Making their marks



USI student Logan Storrer and Chris Jines of career services sign the final beam of the Business and Engineering Center to be put in place. Members of the campus community signed the beam throughout the week in anticipation for last Thursday's topping off ceremony. The day's celebrations also included the groundbreaking for the University Center expansion, which will include a new UC bridge and a newly constructed tower.

Photo by Anna Gerhardt



USI celebrates next phase of business center and groundbreaking of UC expansion project

By **KELLY MONROE**
The Shield staff

Appause and cheering could be heard on the quad as two monumental events took place Thursday.

The first event was the raising and placement of the final beam for the Business and Engineering Center.

The white beam, bearing the red and blue USI logo, was on display in front of the building from Monday until just a few minutes before it was raised at 2 p.m. Tuesday. Students, faculty, staff, board of trustee members and others who wished to cement their place in history signed the beam throughout the week.

"This is a tremendous addition to campus," said President H. Ray Hoops as he addressed the crowd of students, faculty, community members and the companies involved in the design and construction process.

A video camera was secured to the middle of the beam while it was raised into place. An American flag was also displayed on the end of the beam.

Construction on the building began about four to five months ago, said Mark Rozewski, vice president for business affairs.

Despite the ice storm and uncooperative weather over the past few months, the building is 100 percent on track, he said.

The \$31 million building is expected to be completed in the fall of 2010.

The new building will provide labs and classrooms for both the Department of Engineering and the College of Business.

"The next phase of the construction process will involve putting the 'skin' on," Rozewski said.

The "skin" refers to the exterior limestone and brick that will make up the outside walls.

— See **MARK** on Pg. 3

'I've never, ever made this about me'

An exit interview with President Howard Ray Hoops

By **JON WEBB**
Editor in chief

Your tenure's been marked by construction. More buildings have gone up under your presidency than anyone else's. Are there any projects you would have liked to see built

while you were here? Any missed opportunities?

I'm not sure there were missed opportunities. Of course we've always had a list. I'd very much like to see a theatre constructed because we're going to lose the other one (due to Lloyd Expressway construction). The



only project ... I guess, looking back, there's nothing we set out to do that we didn't get done. Maybe we weren't ambitious enough, but a lot of buildings have gone up.

Actually I'm very happy with what we've done in terms of building.

How many buildings have gone up since you've been here?

The Health Professions building was under construction but not finished when I came here. That was followed by Liberal Arts, before the Science and

Engineering Center went up.

I've been here a long time — 15 years.

Will this next wave of construction be the last for a while?

Well, it's not as if we don't have needs.

We still have the lowest assignable square footage per student of any institution in the state except for the two-year programs.

— See **HOOPS** on Pg. 6

"She asked and I said yes!"


Do You Ask?

USI Counseling Center 812-464-1867
 USI Security 812-464-1845
 emergency on campus X7777
 Albion Fellows Bacon Center
 Domestic Violence 812-422-5622
 or Sexual Assault 812/424-7273



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				3	8	7	
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8		9	5				
2	6					8	
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				5			

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ISSUES on the edge

The Job Market

Sunday, May 10
 7a.m.
 820 AM The Edge

Hosted by student journalists from Access USI, 820 AM The Edge and The Shield

Looking for a fun way to earn extra money and gain valuable work experience?

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The Shield is seeking:

- * managers
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 <p>\$5.55 DEAL 3 or more MED:UM 1-Topping Pizzas \$5.55 each plus tax Coupon Code #555 Additional Toppings only \$1.00 each per pizza. Deep Dish \$1 extra per pizza. Expires 6/30/09</p>	 <p>\$7.77 DEAL 3 or more LARGE 1-Topping Pizzas \$7.77 each plus tax Coupon Code #777 Additional Toppings only \$1.25 each per pizza. Deep Dish \$1 extra per pizza. Expires 6/30/09</p>
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Don't Delay!
 Application Deadline
 June 4, 2009

Pageant date June 20
 Entries will be capped at 30



June 18-21



Campus Briefs

USI Public Crime Log

April 28

3:35 p.m. - O'BANNON HALL - 1720 ROCHELLE LANE
Trespassing. Case was cleared.

5:13 p.m. - NEWMAN HALL 1600 RANKIN LANE
Theft. Case was suspended.

5:53 p.m. - LIBERAL ARTS CENTER
Theft. Case is pending.

April 29

10:13 a.m. - PARKING LOT E.
Property damage. Case was suspended.

2:17 p.m. - RUSTON HALL - 1818 ROCHELLE LANE
Battery. Case was cleared.

April 30

12:05 p.m. - PARKING LOT D
Criminal mischief. Case was suspended.

1:21 p.m. - PARKING LOT G
Hit and run. Case was suspended.

May 1

8:59 a.m. - PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES CENTER
Theft. Case is pending.

9:30 p.m. - UNIVERSITY CENTER
Theft. Case was suspended.

May 2

3:26 a.m. - 7932A O'DANIEL LANE - MCNUIT APARTMENT BUILDING
Criminal mischief. Case was suspended.

3:44 p.m. - O'BANNON HALL - 1720 ROCHELLE LANE
Fire alarm false alarm. Case was cleared.

4:08 p.m. - 903B ECKELS LANE - DURBIN APARTMENT BUILDING
Fire alarm false alarm. Case was cleared.

May 3

12:25 p.m. - PARKING LOT B
Theft from vehicle. Case is pending.

MARK continued from Pg. 1



Members of APB, USI Board of Trustee member Ted C. Ziemer and former board student representative Jaime Johnson take part in the UC Expansion ground-breaking on Thursday.

Photo by Anna Gerhardt

Once the stage is completed, the construction of the interior walls will begin.

Following the beam raising, ground-breaking for the new University Center expansion began.

Linda Bennett addressed the crowd before handing the microphone over to Amanda Beard, Former President of the SGA. Beard read a list of the various student organizations who took place in the ground-breaking. The student representatives and board of trustee members donned hard hats and held gold shovels as they broke ground outside of the old library.

The \$17.7 million expansion will include revamping the old library, demolishing the bridge connecting the old library to the University Center and construction of the new conical shaped entrance.

"It's absolutely a key moment for us," said Linda Bennett, president-designate. "I hope whenever students see (the new student organization offices), they are drawn to the excitement of the quality of the space and they'll want to get involved."

Construction on the University Center expansion is expected to be completed

in the spring Spring of 2011.

Rozewski assures students that there will not be any safety issues when the bridge comes down.

"We had some top notch professionals who solved all those problems," Rozewski said, "There will be no such issue."

As the university continues to grow, there are future construction plans to build a new theater, Rozewski said. The University has not yet confirmed the project as the future budget from the state is still pending.

LESSONS continued from Pg. 1

After a welcome statement and introductions by President-designate Linda Bennett, associate professor of physical education Jane Davis-Brezette will deliver the reflection focusing on how proud the parents in the crowd are of their children.

After Hoops's speech, two leaders in the community will receive honorary Doctor of Law degrees from the university.

Robert Kent, Sr., in addition to his success with the Kenny Kent automobile franchise in Evansville, was a member of USI's first basketball team and began USI's Kent Family Endowment for a Presidential Scholarship. James Murray, a former president of Oakland City University, served as a General Baptist pastor for more than 60 years and in the Marine Corps.

Kevin Joseph Valadares, associate professor of health services and administration, will be presented with the Integra Bank distinguished professor award. He has been instrumental in the adaptation of new technologies and service learning techniques in the health services program. Valadares will receive a grant from Integra, give a speech in the upcoming year, deliver the commencement at the fall graduation ceremony and choose a student to receive a scholarship in his name.

Jamie Johnson will be awarded with the highest honor available to a senior, the President's Medal. Johnson is graduating summa cum laude with a major in chemistry and plans on continuing her education at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

In the flurry of fabric at a graduation ceremony most of the traditions and symbolism is lost on the casual observer. At first wearing gowns were a practical application since most academic buildings in the medieval ages were cold and drafty.

Certain colors and cuts of gowns signify differences in level and type of education: a bachelor's gown has long open sleeves, master's closed and slitted and a doctorate holder's has full sleeves trimmed in velvet. The white cords indicate that a student has completed the Honors Program.

A cord with red, white and blue is given to all retired faculty who attend graduation. Although modern technology has made it's way into an ancient ceremony, the value of education is still the same.

STUDENT continued from Pg. 1

"(Campus jobs are) more flexible at working around student schedules than off campus jobs are," Parker said.

He said most departments are able to work with student schedules, while some office jobs are more structured. There are some restrictions as far as work hours per week as well.

According to Evinger, students on the payroll are exempt from Social Security and Medicare taxes. To meet IRS requirements for the tax exemption, USI has to limit students to 20 work hours per week because of the importance for students to focus on

school and its challenges.

Evinger said a large part of USI's operating budget is received through state appropriation.

"Once the Indiana General Assembly passes the 2009-2011 biennial budget, the University will be able to develop its operating budget for 2009-2010," she said.

Despite the bleak outlook of the economy, campus employment hasn't taken a blow and the only thing that may affect the outlook is the university itself.

"If anything reflects upon student employment, it'd be budget issues for the university," Parker said. "Each

department has it's own budget."

The second wave of increased minimum wage will go into effect this summer, Parker said, and it has the slight chance of decreasing some student jobs since wages will be increasing.

Parker said the choice is up to each department.

According to Evinger, the university will continue to offer jobs to students despite the economy.

"As for the (future) outlook," Evinger said, "the university is committed to providing employment opportunities for students."

USI commencement to be held on May 10

The University of Southern Indiana Commencement will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 10, at Roberts Stadium in Evansville.

Over 1,500 students are eligible to graduate. President H. Ray Hoops, who is retiring at the end of June, will deliver the Commencement address. Jamie L. Johnson, a summa cum laude graduate and the outgoing student trustee on the USI Board of Trustees, will receive the President's Medal, the highest honor given to a graduating senior for academic work and service to the university.

There is a dinner scheduled the day before commencement at 6:00 p.m. in the University Center for graduates and their families. The price is \$12.50 per person though graduates eat for free.

Roadway construction to begin May 11

Construction on campus roadways will begin May 11, if weather allows, in order to convert the entrance intersection at University Boulevard and Clarke Lane to a roundabout. Construction of the roundabout will be done in two phases.

For Phase One the east lanes of University Boulevard will be closed, and the west lanes will allow for two-way traffic. Clarke Lane east of the campus entrance intersection will be closed to the four-way stop sign and parking lot A will be closed. Traffic will be allowed to cross east lanes of University Boulevard at the entrance to the parking lots along the boulevard, beginning with lot B. Directional signs will mark the changes at the entrance and along the boulevard.

It is encouraged that students allow more time for the morning and evening commutes to help with traffic flow at peak hours.

CDC releases swine flu guidelines

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention have released a list of guidelines for students and staff to follow in order to make USI as safe and healthy as possible in face of the threat of Swine Flu. The CDC has prepared guidance on the everyday actions that students and faculty can take to stay healthy.

Maintaining good health and practicing common sense hygiene habits are ways to reduce risk of contracting the flu or spreading it. Among these guidelines are covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, washing your hands after coughing or sneezing, using anti-viral tissues, eating nutritiously and getting enough sleep.

Those feeling sick should stay home to prevent spreading viruses.

Students, faculty or staff who experience flu symptoms can visit USI's Student Health Center in the lower level of the Health Professions Center.

- Rick Hamilton

MUNCH continued from Pg. 1

\$70 at the Convenience Store last night," she said.

As a freshman, Yochum learned that it is difficult to budget munch money without prior experience.

As a result, coffee mugs purchased at Starbuck's with munch money took the form of Christmas presents, and when she would eat at the Loft, many of her friends would eat for free.

No, she wasn't playing Santa Claus, she was attempting to lower her munch money account to zero.

"And at the end of year, I was pretty much buying people's breakfast daily," she said.

Sophomore Katie Meth said she also under budgeted her money as a freshman, and once the final weeks of the school rolled around, she was left with option of spending the money fast or losing it.

In light of the two options, Meth said the solution is simple: munch money should carry over into the following school year.

"I mean, you pay for it. I don't think you have to spend it (in a year's time)," she said.

Currently, the excess munch money does not carry over into the next school year, but goes into the general operating fund for food services and is prospectively budgeted for the next year, said Chris Briggs, director of food services.

Each year, food services appropriates about 1 percent of all munch money at the end of the year, an overall figure Briggs said is usually "pretty high."

Briggs said of the 2,394 students — a 20 percent increase from last year — who have munch money accounts, most of those accounts currently sit at zero or only contain a few dollars.

Over the past few weeks, Briggs said cashiers have informed students who have large amounts of munch money on their accounts in advance.

"Some of the comments we get really just blow us away. Some students will say, 'Well, my mom and dad pay for it, so I really don't care,'" he said.

But despite the indifference of few, Briggs said students are spending more munch money this year than in the past, and the only accounts with large sums of money belong to students who have dropped out of school.

"We don't want the money to drop, we want them to spend it," he said.

Currently, Briggs said only 1.28 percent of all munch money remains unspent, which is the first year he's seen such a low figure.

"This year is the best I've seen. It works out better for everybody this way," he said. "If a student goes to school here, and they drop 100 bucks, they're probably not going to have another plan with food services. We don't want that. We want them to pick up another plan the following year."

Briggs estimates that food services will only appropriate half of one percent of all munch money this year.

SGA collaborates with food services

By DANI PALMER
News editor

A misprint in the 2009 Housing Food Service Booklet stating students enrolled in the Blue Eagle Meal Plan would receive eight buffet meals per week instead of the correct six meals per week will be honored by food services. Former SGA Vice President Letitia Brooks and

other members of SGA's Food Services Committee found the misprint during Christmas break, but contracts within the booklets had already been sent to students.

According to Brooks, many of the contracts had already been filled out and returned to food services as well.

SGA decided that it would be unfair to those stu-

dents not to honor the misprint.

After a period of discussion with food services, it was determined that the contract would be upheld.

Controller and Director of USI's Business office Steve Bridges was involved in making the final decision to honor the misprint, and blamed the mistake on lack of time to proofread. "We hope to avoid

(future incidents) by paying attention to closer editing," Bridges said. "We'll make sure a proof copy is made before anything goes to print."

According to Bridges, because of the error, there is a "shared approach" of a cost penalty between Sodexo - the company which runs USI's food services - and the university. Bridges said working

with the SGA was good for everyone involved.

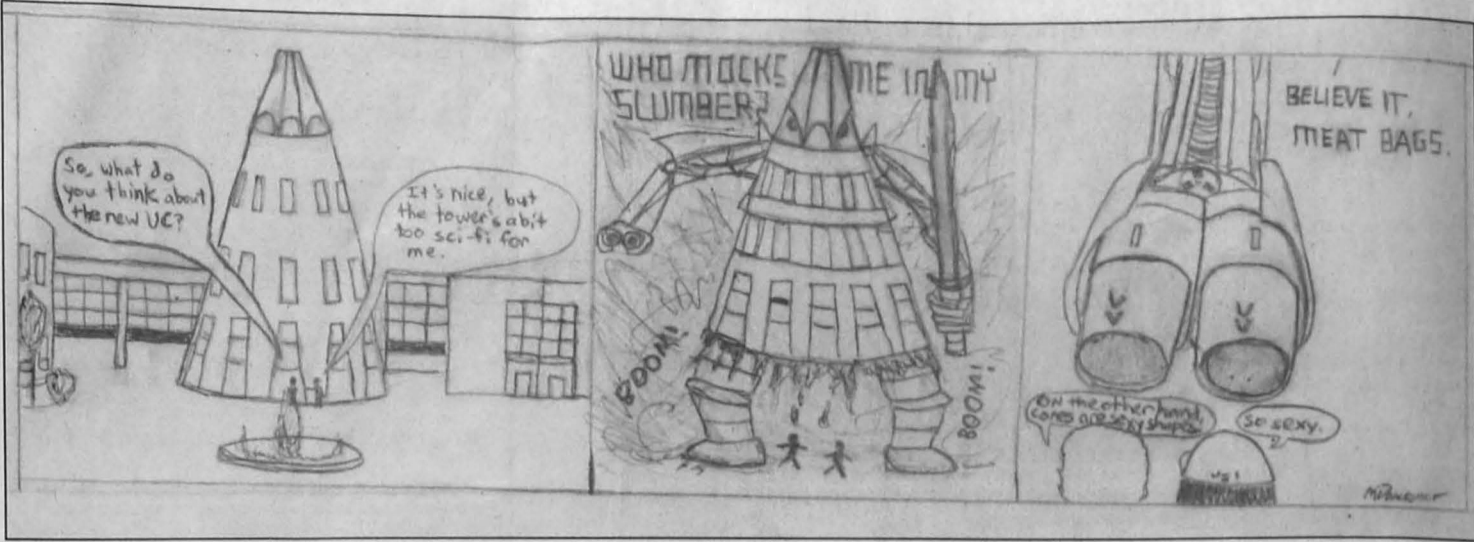
"It was excellent," he said. "We're often looking for student input."

Brooks said SGA is also working with food services in setting up a Sodexo Blackboard account in which students could monitor the balance of their munch money.

"It'd be like online banking," Brooks said.

According to Brooks, SGA's close work with food services helped address one of the major concerns of the average student.

"Students have two main concerns: parking and food," she said. "We couldn't do anything about parking this year, but we thought we'd help improve food services."



Staff editorial

Hoops' example of accessibility and open dialogue should be followed by Bennett

For many of us, this week of finals marks our last week at USI.

Four years or more, and we can count our time left in days and not semesters or years.

But for President H. Ray Hoops, the weeks ahead will signal the end of a 20-year stay here at USI.

In this our final issue of the school year, we would like to join the long list of organizations that thank and commend Hoops for his time at the university.

Over his presidency, the university has grown in terms of enrollment, facilities and the

overall net worth of the USI Foundation.

While those are all commendable things, we would like to thank Hoops for something else.

Consistently, he has been the most open and most reachable official on campus.

The Shield remembers numerous times when Hoops would call us from his personal cell phone between different events, making sure we got the comment we needed for a story.

Hoops himself always said he never turned down an invitation to talk to students, and we believe him.

As the top university official, Hoops has more room to be candid than others, but his efforts to get back to students was admirable, often times costing him precious free time he had during the day.

His example, however, stands in stark contrast to some organizations on campus.

Without fail, these organizations have one person who is allowed to speak for them. All questions, including the most mundane, have to be asked of this lone representative.

This representative, however, hardly ever responds by e-mail and must be harassed via phone

to get a response.

Yes, there are several organizations out there, namely facility operations and security, that are quick to get back with us and seem straightforward.

But others, including some that are openly hostile that will remain unnamed, continue to dam the free flow of information.

The tight-lipped nature of these organizations isn't only The Shield's problem.

The next time you need a complicated question answered, prepare to make several phone calls and work your way through the bureaucratic quag-

mire, in the hopes of reaching the one person who is allowed to think independently and critically in that organization or department.

We don't blame the people who forward these calls or requests. We blame the people who instill policies and make people's livelihoods the balance for speaking out of turn.

We hope that as President-Designate Linda Bennett takes over, she will steer the university towards a freer and more open-minded campus, where people are allowed to think for themselves and make mistakes.

We've criticized Bennett in

previous issues for her involvement in past personnel decisions, and even had problems trying to get comments on certain issues, but hope her recent openness will continue during her tenure as president.

We hope Bennett will follow Hoops' example and become more accessible to students on a daily basis.

We wish you well, President Hoops, in your future role here at USI.

And, one last time, we thank you for what you've done for The Shield and for the university.

Rethinking homelessness

Seeking to understand the estimated 400 Evansville homeless

By ANDREW FOSTER
Opinion editor

As students of USI, we have all dealt with misunderstanding to some degree.

Our friends who go to other universities such as IU or Purdue may misunderstand our college experience and see it as easier than theirs.

After all, USI is just West Side High, and everyone can get in. Their classes must be a little easier than those of the big-boy state schools.

We must not understand the true college environment, as most of us commute and probably don't have that dorm life experience.

We don't have Division I athletics, so we probably miss out on the big-game atmosphere that is prevalent at Assembly Hall or Ross-Ade Stadium.

We can see how it could seem like we don't get the correct college experience. We can understand how we could be labeled as something, but realize it is not as simple as it seems.

We do have hard classes. We do have an involved campus and we have many of the college experiences as elsewhere.

Perhaps not the same exact ones or to the same degree, but they are there.

In this way and to a very small degree, we can come to somewhat understand how the estimated 400 people who are homeless this very night in Evansville feel.

As part of one of my English classes, several of my classmates have interviewed homeless persons in Evansville and asked them their stories.

One woman, 28, said she had been in and out of homelessness, even after working since she was 13.

Another man, between the ages of 18 and 23, had been homeless since he was 14, when his mother died.

He has worked since, at one point having an apartment and a car, before an accident forced him to the hospital and out of his apartment.

When he has had the ability to go to college, at Ivy Tech, he earned straight A's.

These are just two of the many faces of homelessness that differ from our traditional thinking.

I'm sure when you first thought of someone being homeless, you pictured an old, bearded, white male, who was an alcoholic and simply didn't work.

But the homeless, and how they became homeless, often times don't fit into this traditional thought of a homeless person.

According to Destination: Home, 4,500 families are on the edge of being homeless.

There are, at any given time, 60 families that are homeless, and family homeless shelters in Evansville turn them away every night, already running at capacity.

The EVSC reported that 485 students in their system reported being homeless at some point during the year.

Destination: Home also reports that 47% of children that experience homelessness suffer from depression, anxiety, or withdrawal, compare to 18% of housed children.

The issue isn't as simple as helping that bearded old alcoholic. It is much more real than that.

And before we can ask others to help or work towards a more sustainable solution, we first have to convince them that homelessness stereotypes don't always fit.

No one wants to help someone who is a lost cause or incapable of being helped. But the truth of the situation is that many of the homeless are working to get off the streets and need our assistance.

We certainly know what it feels like to be mischaracterized as a college student, so let's work towards thinking differently about those who are homeless.

Do you think unused munch money should be given to students?

- Yes

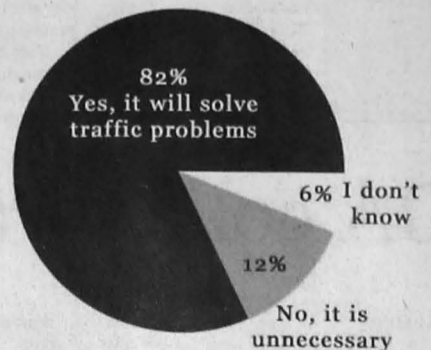
- No

- Not sure

Tell us what you think at our Website. Log on to <www.usishield.com> and vote in the poll, and compare your choice with others.

Last weeks poll response*
*not a scientific poll

Should USI build a parking garage?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Shield accepts original, unpublished letters from all of its readers. Letters should be no more than 250 words. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number for verification. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, style, grammar and spelling. Pieces will appear in The Shield Online. Letters can be submitted online or via e-mail.



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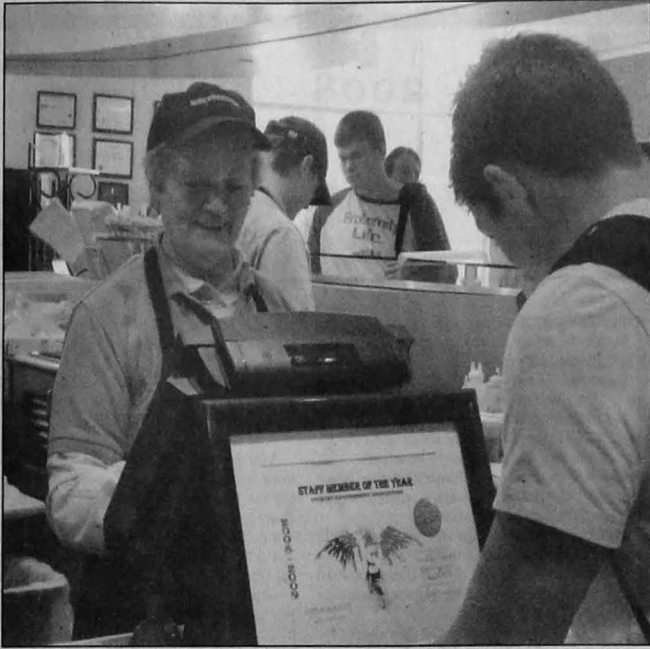
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David Strange

GUEST COMMENTARIES

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

Opinions expressed in unsigned editorials represent a consensus opinion of the editorial board.

Cashier wins staff member of the year



Donna Bradley, cashier at Sub Connection, rings up a student on Tuesday afternoon. Bradley was awarded the staff member of the year award by the Student Government Association. Photo by Lana Kunz

By LANA KUNZ
Student Life editor

With a knowing smile and a spark in her eye, Donna Bradley greets each and every customer at Sub Connection. She teases and jokes with each one, asking them how their day is and calling the regulars by name.

When asked about the plaque in front of her register, she beams proudly and explains that the general assembly of the student government voted her staff member of the year.

The former vice president of the Student Government Association, Letitia Brooks, presented Bradley with the plaque after she was unable to attend the banquet.

"I didn't know anything about it ... didn't know they had such a thing to be honest," Bradley said. "I received the Circle of Excellence (from Sodexo) but this means

more to me than anything," she said.

When the staff evaluations were mailed off to corporate, Bradley made sure they penciled in that she had received the SGA award.

Many members of last year's SGA noted that Bradley is always in good spirits, puts forth extra effort and genuinely cares about the students.

"She really puts out extra effort to make a difference in the community," Brooks said.

Former SGA Chief Justice David Staples had Bradley in mind when it came time to nominate candidates.

"Most people go about their jobs ... just do what they've got to do. She goes beyond that," Staples said. Bradley always remembers his name and favorite chips.

"After a long day it's nice to have someone cheer you up with a smile," former president of SGA Amy Beard said.

My address to the (kindergarten) graduates

By JON WEBB
Editor in chief

Good early afternoon to everyone, and congratulations to the graduates for making it this far.

Just think: a mere year ago you all arrived for your first year of school as burgeoning toddlers; unformed youths more interested in mining the depths of your nasal cavities than the depths of your brains.

Speaking of which, allow me take this opportunity to assure Jimmy Keith that one cannot easily access the brain through the nasal cavity.

So, when you shove your finger far up your nose, immediately start drooling and loudly saying "Dur, I'm retarded, dur," I'm not buying it.

But let us move on to something more important than lobotomies: let us discuss your future.

After an extremely short summer break, each of you will return to this school to enroll in first grade, and you will notice the difference immediately.

Gone will be the half-days spent drinking chocolate milk from plastic pouches and quietly playing with blocks in the corner during 10 a.m. break time.

You will instead be exposed to recess — a veritable Vietnam of teasing, obnoxious cliques and exceedingly violent kickball games.

It will be the best part of your day.

You will learn to crave it deeply, and may even develop hallucinatory, pink elephant-ish withdrawals.

But, of course, the teachers will withhold recess from you — because they are sadists.

What's that Jimmy? Oh, allow me to explain: sadists are people who receive physical satisfaction from causing and witnessing the pain of others.

But let us move on to something more important than sadism: let us discuss your education.

You will eventually move on from the tedious task of tracing m's and t's and soon find yourself studying more complex subjects like ethics and literature in college.

This reminds me of a funny story.

One day, a young giraffe was walking through the savanna when an unexpected rain hit.

He eventually ran under a large tree for cover and found an older, unkempt and bearded giraffe doing the same.

"Quite a storm we're having, isn't it?" the young giraffe said to the older giraffe. "Next thing you know, Noah will float on by in his Ark!"

The older giraffe thought awhile, and then turned toward the younger one.

"You're an idiot," the older giraffe said.

(Pause)

The humor in that story escapes me now, but let us move on to something more important than non-literal readings of scripture: let us discuss success.

Graduates, let me assure you: success can come in many forms.

Maybe you were successful this morning when you avoided dripping pudding on your new t-shirt during snack time, or when you "socked" Alan Sailor in the nose for eating all your crayons.

One day success won't come so easy.

Instead of going to school for half a day and spending summers seeing if you can squirt yourself with a garden hose for 100 seconds without drowning, you will someday have to work a job while slogging through four — or five — years of college.

During that time, you will be successful in meeting interesting people, and you will be equally successful in losing them.

But after each failure comes success. It may not necessarily come in that order, but be patient.

At the end of a graduation speech David Foster Wallace gave at Kenyon College — what's that, Jimmy? Oh, he's kind of like a really wordy Dr. Seuss — he said, simply, "I wish you way more than luck."

I wish you all the same, and remember: when offered the choice between an Animal Cracker and an Animal Cookie, always choose the latter.

You will only have your metabolisms for so long.

And for God sakes Jimmy, take your fingers out of your brain.

Freshman experience comes with a soundtrack

By CLARE PRATT
Staff writer

Have you ever felt like your whole life has some kind of eerily accurate soundtrack?

I can probably match a song to every important time, place, and person in my life.

This year, my freshman year of college, that song was "I Love College" by Asher Roth.

The coincidence couldn't have been more noticeable, song about your freshman year of college, coming out of my freshman year? Crazy. This semester, it's like I can't escape that song.

That song doesn't tell the whole story. College really isn't one big keg party. It's much more complicated.

Coming to USI, I knew very few people; only a few people from my high school actually go here. I also live four hours away and don't have a car, which can make trips back home few and far between.

While in the long run this really helped me get out there and meet people here, at the beginning, this made the transition even harder.

The first few weeks were just a blur; I honestly don't remember half of it.

Welcome Week was a mixture of meeting dozens of new people, trying to figure out where the hell anything around here was, and reminding myself that I was not at camp or anything. I was here for good.

Or at least until summer, which seemed like a lifetime away. I was so busy, I hardly had time to get homesick; but when it struck, it hit hard.

Not only was I away from home, I was trying to adjust to living with three other girls who I didn't really know, which is never an easy task.

Pretty soon, I started to get in the swing of things. I almost

immediately started looking for organizations to join, which not only got me more involved with USI, I met tons of really cool people there who have really kept life interesting. As the year went on, things became routine.

Just like in the song, you start to find yourself doing the same things over and over, which isn't a bad thing.

Pretty soon, I was engaging in all kinds of stereotypical college behavior. Frisbee on the quad, pseudo-intellectual discussion in the library over coffee, and yeah, parties.

Plus, people actually got my obscure pop culture references.

I used to get up at 6:30 every morning in high school. Now getting up before 9:15 a.m. is unthinkable.

I finally got my dorm just the way I like it, lots of posters, pictures and clutter.

Sure, class is hard. Yes, I have lots of homework and tests. But I get to do them at my favorite spot on the third floor of the Rice Library.

Yes, I don't see my high school friends very much anymore. But I love my friends here and I love meeting new people almost every day.

I miss my parents, but I'm busy planning events, hanging with friends, and taking classes at the REC.

Yes, I had to get used to having roommates, but now it will be weird not living with my crazy roomies. I'm really going to miss them, and all the other people on my floor, and my other crazy friends that made this year amazing.

There have been some bad and stressful moments. There have been moments where I have just wanted to grab a train and hightail it back home. But those few moments are balanced out with all the awesomeness in between.

At the start of this year, sum-

mer vacation was a million years away. Now it's about a week.

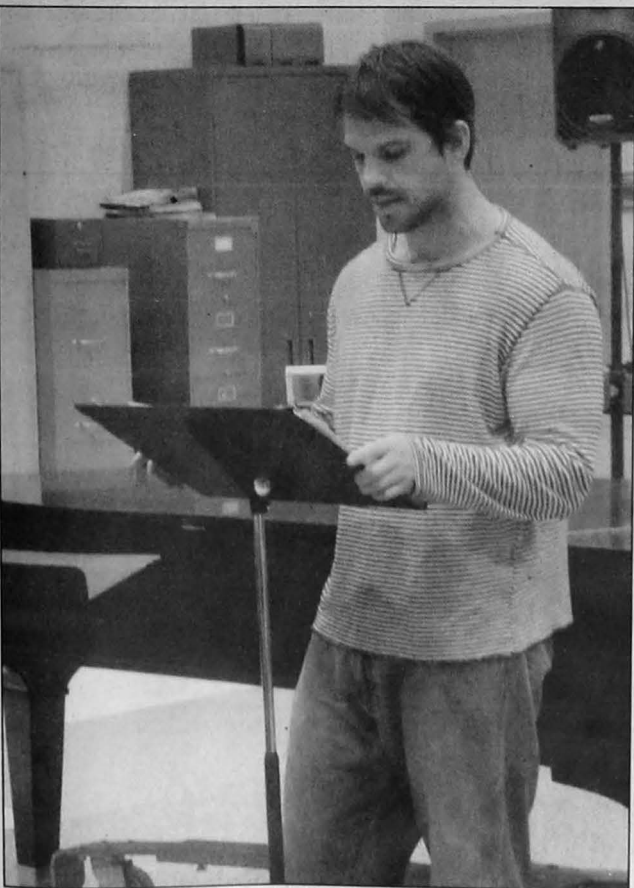
At the start of the year, I had no idea what I was going to do for a year. Now, I have no idea what I'm going to do for a whole summer away from USI.

What has my freshman year been like?

Do you have three hours or so? This experience can't be summoned up in a three-minute song, or in a 700-word article.

You have to live it. Things change.

Things stay the same. It's been one hell of a ride, and I can't wait to hear next year's song.



Chris Connors recites his poem, "Everything she effortlessly tosses to the floor" during the poetry reading final for Matthew Graham's poetry workshop class. "It helps the students take responsibility for what they have written," Graham said.

Photo by Lana Kunz

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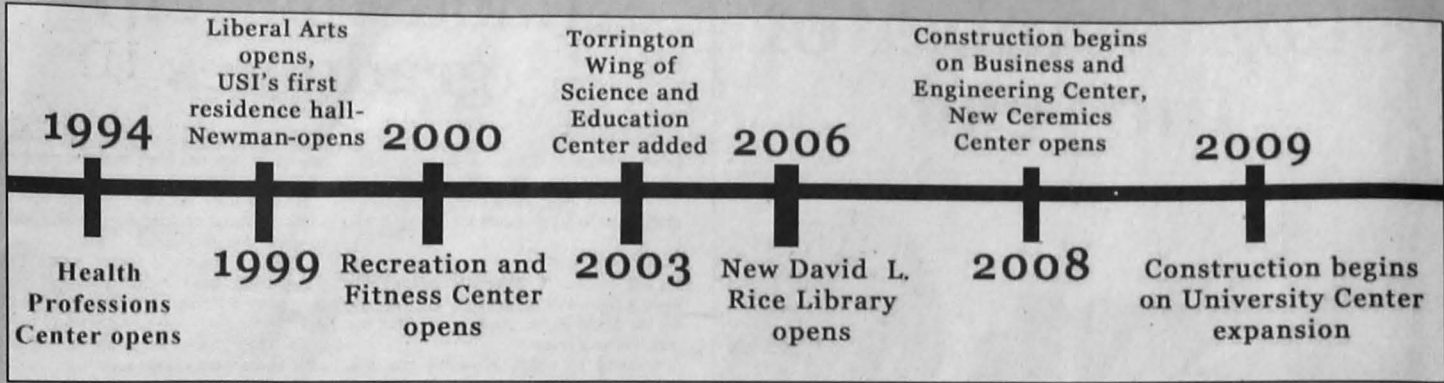
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Knowing PG-13 8:50 10:05
X-Men Origins Wolverine PG-13 (10:15 AM) (11:15 AM) (11:45 AM) 12:45 1:15 1:45 2:15 3:45 4:15 4:45 5:15 6:45 7:15 7:45 8:15 10:15 10:45
Ghosts of Girlfriends Past PG-13 (11:10 AM) 1:40 4:40 7:10 9:40
17 Again PG-13 2:10 4:50 7:20 9:50
Hannah Montana: The Movie G 1:10 3:40 6:10 8:40
Fast & Furious PG-13 2:30 7:40
Earth G **1:20:00 *4:10:00 **6:20:00 **9:15:00
* Not Shown Saturday
** Not Shown Wednesday

Obsessed PG-13 2:20 5:10 8:00 10:35
The Soloist PG-13 12:40 3:50 6:40 9:20
Star Trek PG-13 (10:00 AM) (10:30 AM) (12:30 PM) 1:00 1:30 3:30 4:00 4:30 6:30 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:00 **11:00
**Plays Sat And Sun Only
Fighting PG 13 1:50 5:20 7:50 10:20
State Of Play PG 13 5:00 10:10
Monsters Vs Aliens PG 2:00 4:20

Me La Cenerentola Plays Saturday
Only 11:30 AM
DCI 2009 The Countdown Plays
Wednesday Only 7:30 PM

Construction during Hoops' tenure



HOOPS continued from Pg. 1



Hoops in 1994, shortly after his appointment to the presidency.

Shield archives

We have a pretty great need for a multi-purpose classroom facility. We need some renovations in the Physical Activities Center; certainly if enrollment keeps growing – and it looks like it will – we'll need more housing.

I'd like to see (the housing) built on campus by outside entities as opposed to through student fees.

We're also going to need to do something with the building that houses art and engineering now.

And while it would have been the last of my priorities, (the Wright Administration) building doesn't serve the administration's purposes very well. We've started to farm people out, so it's going to be time to start thinking about a new administration building at some point in time.

As far as the state budget, there's been a kind of freezing on capital project spending.

The (Indiana) general assembly's not done yet. In the joint house senate resolution for the budget – which did not pass – the theatre building was there to be authorized. How that will turn out now will be hard to say.

You recently had an editorial published in the Courier and Press in which you criticized "Reaching Higher" – a document proposed by the Indiana Commission of Higher Education. You said the document would do nothing to address the inequality in funding for USI when compared to other state universities. Indiana State is roughly the same size as USI, but receives more than twice the amount of funding per full-time equivalent student. Why do

you think there is such a discrepancy in funding?

I think (the discrepancy) has an historic basis. What I said in (the editorial) was no way a complaint about the general assembly. They've done a good job for us, and Lord knows I'd be perfectly happy to criticize them if I thought they hadn't.

The real issue is, I think, is that we've been growing and Indiana State has been shrinking in size and the budget has not followed down ...

The Indiana Commission – who ought to be an Indiana policy body – has ignored that fact for all these years.

It doesn't take a reasonable person to look at (the funding) and say, "wait a minute."

Do you think there will be any steps in the future to rectify the funding problem?

I think the general assembly has tried over the years.

Four times, since I've been here, we've gotten what were called "special catch up increases."

You have to remember, if the 15 years I've been here ... we've had a higher percentage appropriation in all of those years but one, but what's more remarkable is we've had the highest percentage appropriation all of those years but two.

It's hard for the general assembly to adapt to a growing institution, but if we look at some of the institutions that are funded better than we are – and you look at the choices students are making – I think (the students) understand that they've got a great value here ... and they make this choice over places that theoretically have more money to educate them.

The USI Foundation has spiked since you've been here. It started at \$3.8 million when you arrived, and it's at \$53 million now, correct?

The foundation got to \$70 million before (the market dropped).

We are not making expenditures out of the portion (of money) that's in the stock market. We're making expenditures out of other places, so when the market comes back – and it will come back, it always does – the (money) will come back as well.

The foundation is still sound. It's one of things that makes a major contribution to our being able to keep your education as inexpensive as it is.

How long do you think it will take the Foundation to rebound to \$70 million?

Oh, God, if I knew that I wouldn't be sitting here ... I'd be on television, because I'd be

straightening out the entire country.

History is not a perfect judge of the future, but it's really the best one we have.

Downturns in economies have rarely lasted more than 18 months.

If it follows past patterns, the market will be back where it was in three or four years. And a year and half of that has already gone by.

You'll be serving as Chancellor after your retirement from the presidency. Can you give a quick overview of your role?

My appointment was for two years. I would not expect it to extend past that.

Outside fundraising has always been important to us – it's important to you, because it keeps your costs down.

I'll be doing (my job) under the direction of the new president (Linda Bennett). I don't mean to impinge upon or impede her.

I will have no say in the operations of the university whatsoever.

I will assist (Bennett) in whatever way I can. I won't give her more assistance than she wants, and I'll give her all she wants.

There's no one, expect for maybe her, that wants her presidency to be a roaring success more than I do ...

I think the next ten years will be some of the best times this university has ever seen, and if I weren't getting so long in the tooth, I'd want to be doing (the job of the president).

Do you see USI growing continually at its present rate?

I do. We leveled off a bit when there was the ramping up of Ivy Tech into a community college system, but we expected that and we supported their doing that.

Enrollment turned up again last year, and it looks as it will turn up a little more sharply this year.

And projecting enrollment is always tough. But the pattern here looks as if it's up. The reputation of the university continues to grow statewide and in the region and in fact probably more of our growth is coming outside of the region than inside the region.

Which is different from years past.

It is different than it used to be. It started to change four or five years ago, I think.

When people come here, they want to go to school here. If a student visits the campus, they're almost always going to come here ...

It's the people they meet. (We certainly have) a nice setting for a campus, but I don't think people make their decision based off that.

I went to Eastern Illinois when some of my

classes were in a hall so old and creaky you always wondered whether you were going to fall through the floor.

It's nice to have a good physical plant – and it makes a difference – but I don't think students make their decision based on that.

And they shouldn't, incidentally. You've always shrugged off questions about your legacy. But if someone were to ask you for the thousandth time, what would be your short answer?

I don't think there is a legacy. I truly don't. I'll tell you the special thing we do here: we see ourselves as an institution to be of service.

One of the great problems in the academic world is a lot of places and a lot of people – a lot of the professorate, and to some degree a lot of the public – have some interesting ideas of what makes a quality institution.

The more people you turn down (for enrollment) makes you a better institution.

The less the professors teach make you a better institution. Those things don't make you a better institution. What makes you a good institution is the service you provide.

Test scores here are going up, and we're getting a better-prepared student each year.

But we've kept a clear head about what we're here to be. We're here to give you an absolute first rate education, geared very much to the economy of the region so that when you leave the probability of there being a job for you is quite high.

If you look at the qualifications of the incoming students here, we look more like a selective institution than an institution that is not selective.

If there is a legacy it is the legacy of the commitment to service both to the students and to the region.

When you talk about legacies, though, it strikes me as self-aggrandizement.

I've never, ever made this about me. It's about all of us.

The interesting thing about the kind of job I'm in is that when things are going well you get all the credit for a lot of things you never did, and if (things) are going badly, there's the reverse.

But (USI) has been a better institution almost every year than it was the year before, and I think people generally feel that.

I don't really feel as if (the success has been because of) me. I've tried to be an important part of it, but this didn't all happen because of me.

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An atypical athlete

Cunningham soars as Eagle based on Bible verse

The year in sports

Men's basketball

The men's basketball team started its season with a number of new faces and with that gained something they hadn't had in the previous season — a deep bench.

With that deep bench, the team reached 27 wins, the fifth time they've done so in six seasons. After clinching the GLVC West division crown, USI earned the right to host the GLVC tournament, its first time to ever do so.

They earned a berth in the NCAA II tournament but lost in the second round to the University of Findlay.

The team only lost two players this season and have already signed two forwards for next season. Mohamed Ntumba and former Iowa Hawkeyes player David Palmer are the first to sign with the team.

Men's soccer

After finishing the season with a losing record of 8-10-0, the athletic department went on a search for a new head coach.

Former coach Dan Hogan was replaced with coach Matt Santoro.

Santoro comes to USI from the University of Memphis where he was an assistant coach last season. He assisted with all facets of the program during his only season with the Tigers.

As head coach, Santoro has already signed five new players for next year.

Men and Women's Cross Country

USI's men's cross country team made a run all the way to the national competition this year, where it placed 15.

Although the women's team was edged out of the national competition, junior All-American Mary Ballinger competed individually and finished in 10th place. This was the highest finish at a national meet by any female in the program's history.

The cross country program will host next year's national competition. This will be the second time in five years that USI is hosting the event, which will bring 48 teams and more than 400 student athletes to the campus. It is scheduled for Nov. 21.

Women's basketball

USI finished the season with a 14-13 mark and went 6-11 in conference play. The Eagles finished fourth in the GLVC West Division, missing the league's post-season tournament by a game.

Women's volleyball

The University of Southern Indiana volleyball team finished its 2008 campaign as one of the best blocking teams in the country according to the final NCAA Division II statistics.

The Screaming Eagles finished the season with an 18-14 overall record, 9-8 in the GLVC, and advanced to the GLVC Championship match for the first time since 2004 and the sixth time since 2000.

bom with Down Syndrome, bowls and runs track in the Special Olympics.

Cunningham showed the same athletic potential in high school. He played basketball, baseball, golf and one year of track.

After high school, Cunningham left for Vincennes University to pursue an associate's degree in business administration. He wanted to play baseball there but ended up playing for a semi-professional team—the St. Wendell Swings. He later transferred to the University of Illinois to finish a bachelor's degree in marketing.

"I ended up not really liking it, though," Cunningham said.

He was only there for a year before he moved to USI for the first time. He got his bachelor's degree in psychology.

In 2006 he started at the Illinois State Police Academy where he trained for six months before becoming a state trooper. He worked there for only four months when he had to leave on workman's compensation for a shoulder injury he sustained while at the academy.

It wasn't his favorite job anyway, he said.

"There were some things about the job that were interesting and other things that were a pain in the butt," Cunningham said.

"Is it a job that I'd say I truly loved — no. But I learned a lot of things about myself."

When he could no longer perform his job as a trooper, he decided to once again go back to school.

"I thought I'd come back to school in case I couldn't work as a trooper anymore, so I had more options," Cunningham said.

He decided that when he came back this time, he wanted to run again.

He didn't exactly know where he wanted to continue his schooling, though, until he opened the Bible. Cunningham said Isaiah 40:13 inspired him to return to USI.

"It said, 'but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint,'" Cunningham said.

Because of these words, he knew he wanted to return to USI and become an Eagle on the track and field team.

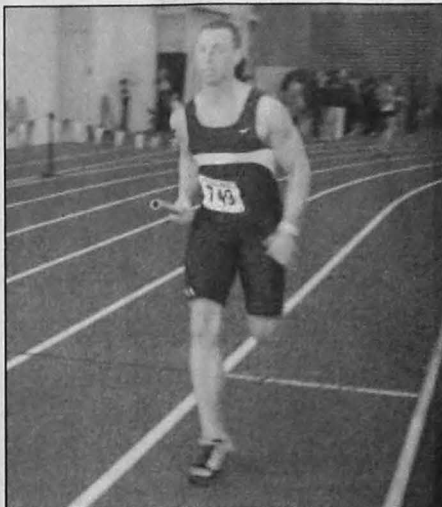
The return was not without its difficulties, though.

"At first since I didn't know anyone, it was hard," Cunningham said.

He eventually grew closer with his teammates, but not as close as he would have liked because he's not on campus or even in Evansville much.

He still lives in Bridgeport, Ill., with his family. He makes the one hour and 10 minute drive four times a week to attend class and train with the team.

This is the dedication Cunningham shows in his pursuit of success on the



Senior sprinter Tom Cunningham runs in a meet at Grand Valley State during indoor track season.

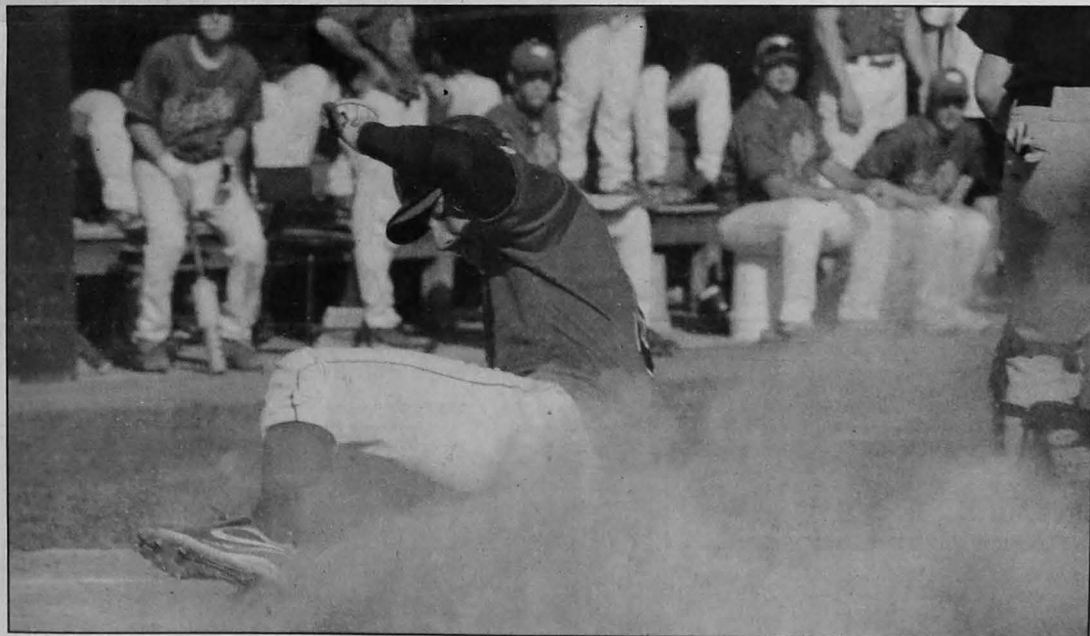
Photo courtesy of Jackie Henderson

track. He showed this dedication early when attended a track meet by himself early in the season to get extra practice.

Though he has another year of eligibility, Cunningham said this will be his only season with the track team. He's trying to make the most of it.

On Saturday he took first place in the 200 meters at the GLVC conference tournament. He was still 0.3 seconds from a provisional qualifying mark for the national contest. Cunningham was satisfied with the performance, though. "It felt nice because of all the work I put into it," he said.

High hopes in post-season



Senior Alex Thieroff slides during a recent game against Northern Kentucky University. The Eagles swept NKU in two games. USI finished regular season play by winning the GLVC West division crown for the second year in a row. They now prepare for the GLVC tournament which begins today. The Eagles face Bellarmine University today in the first round of the tournament. USI beat Bellarmine at home and away this year.

Photo courtesy of USI News and Information Services

By LINDSEY ZILIAK
Sports editor

Seniors Alex Thieroff and Chad Werry have high expectations when the USI baseball team enters post-season play today.

In interviews earlier in the year, both said they look for the team to win the conference tournament, regional tournament and NCAA II tournament.

They want it all. Both remembered back to their sophomore years when USI made it to the college World Series and placed third in the country.

Now as seniors, they want a repeat of that.

USI will start the first leg of that journey today as the team faces Bellarmine University in

the first round of the GLVC tournament.

The Eagles enter the tournament as a number one seed after clinching the West division crown.

The Eagles, who went 35-15 for the season, captured back-to-back regular season conference titles for the first time since the 1992 and 1993 seasons.

They will attempt to capture their first conference tournament title since 1993.

USI leads the all-time series with Bellarmine, 59-53, after defeating the Knights at the home, 11-8, and on the road, 5-4, this spring.



Senior Royle Beach receives high fives from his teammates during a game against Rockhurst University in April. USI split the series, winning two and losing two. The Eagles start tournament play today after winning the GLVC West division.

Photo courtesy of USI News and Information services

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