

# THE SHIELD

VOL. 24, NO. 48

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA, EVANSVILLE, IND.

Monday, April 17, 1995

## 'Proven track record' results in appointment to athletic director

From Staff Reports

Steve Newton, a Terre Haute native who is assistant athletic director at the University of South Carolina, was named today as the athletic director for USI. He will assume duties on June 1.

President H. Ray Hoops, in announcing the appointment, said university officials were pleased with the range of candidates who applied for the post and was especially pleased to have recruited someone with Newton's experience and ability.

"He has a proven track record in athletic administration and fundraising," Hoops said, "and will make an excellent addition for the USI staff."

Newton said he appreciates the confidence Hoops and the administration have shown in him, and "I look forward to working with them toward our goals. Kathy and I and the family are ecstatic about joining the Evansville community and the USI family."

"You have a very positive environment, with strong leadership, successful programs, and a very supportive community."

Kathy is his wife, the former Kathleen Meyn of New Orleans. The Newtons have four children — daughter LeAver of Las Vegas, and sons Harv, an Air Force Academy graduate who is an F-15 pilot; Jay, a pre-

law junior at South Carolina; and Royce, 17.

Newton said he expects to be at USI this week, with a news conference slated at 11 a.m. Tuesday. Details will be made available later.

Newton completed the 1994 Sports Management Institute in the Executive Management Program, University of Southern California. He has been the assistant athletic director at South Carolina since 1993. He was head basketball coach there the two years prior, going to South Carolina from Murray State University in Kentucky where he was head coach (1985-91) and assistant athletic director (1988-91). He had joined the Murray staff as associate head coach in 1978.

Newton received his B.S. in physical education and M.S. in education from Indiana State University. He was a Hoosier high school coach (1963-69) before moving into the college ranks and has been an assistant coach at Louisiana State in New Orleans (now University of New Orleans) and Mississippi State at Starkville.

His duties at South Carolina have included, among many other tasks, acting as liaison to the Olympics in preparation for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, coordinating visits by international athletes and teams, budget development for special events, and fundraising for various departmental projects.

## Texas professor to offer insight on U.S.-Mexican relations

by Kristi Bufkin

The "Liberal Arts Distinguished Scholar Lecture" will be held in the Mitchell Auditorium of the Health Professions Center at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 24.

Jonathon Brown, professor at the University of Texas, will speak on "Labor and Free Trade in Mexico and Latin America: A Historical Perspective." Brown is the author of *Oil and Revolution in Mexico*.

"He (Brown) is really an expert of U.S. and Mexico relations," said Casey Harrison, co-chair of the L.A. Distinguished Scholar Lecture Committee. "Also, he is a well-known scholar."

Following the lecture on Tuesday, April 25, Brown will take part in a panel discussion, "After NAFTA: Indiana, Mexico and the Impact of Free Trade." The discussion will be held at 3 p.m. in the Mitchell Auditorium.

"The panel discussion deals with topics that have an immediate impact on jobs," Harrison said. "I think it will be lively. We tried to balance it so there would be some expression of opinion."

Brown will be joined by Professor Alan Sandstrom, an anthropologist from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne; Gerardo Osequera, a contract engineer from Azteca Milling Co., Mexico; Robert Griffin, president for Escalade, Inc., Evansville;

and Roy Mabrey, head of the Central Trades Council, Evansville. Catharine Gregor Blitzer of the Indiana Humanities Council will moderate.

"We would really like for anyone in the community to participate," Harrison said. "There will be a chance to ask questions and a reception will follow."

The panel discussion is being offered in conjunction with the "Crossroads of Culture" project.

"Crossroads of Culture" is produced by the Indiana Humanities Council," Harrison said. "They're funding projects across Indiana to improve relations with Mexico."

"One important reason for us to know more about Mexico, is jobs we have had some companies in this area leave and go to Mexico. Also, our federal government is talking about building an interstate that would connect Evansville to the Mexican border. It would run from Detroit to the Mexican border."

## Greeks to recognize accomplishments

by Anna Buchhorn

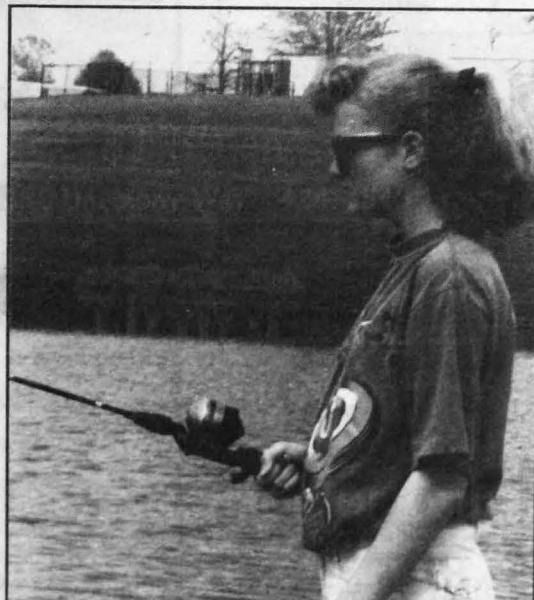
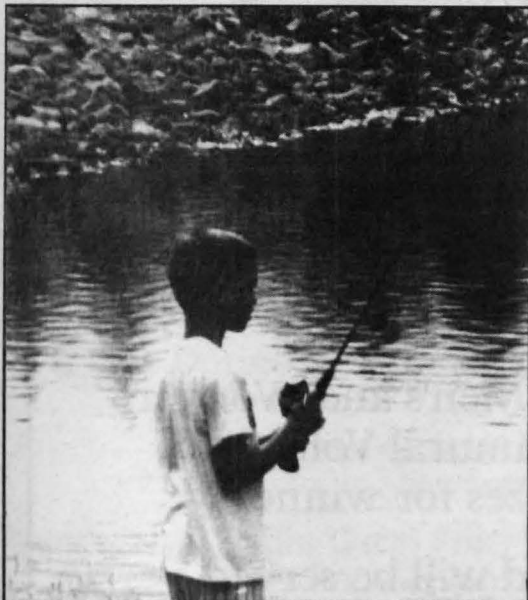
A time of recognition will be offered to USI Greeks at the Greek Awards Day April 25. The event is sponsored by Order of Omega, which is a recognition of individuals in the Greek system who have greatly contributed leadership roles to the Greek community and to USI.

Dean Egler, president of OO, said an awards day was held about five years ago, but was stopped for some reason. So Julie Dunn-Crawford, Program Advisor for Greek Life, suggested OO organize the event again.

"Because a lot of things have been done lately and it is important to recognize them (the Greeks) for their hard work," said Heather Daugherty, OO secretary and treasurer. "Even though some people may never see it, at least they will be recognized."

Also, "with so much going on, it is a good time to bring everyone together one last time," she said.

During the Greek Awards, OO and Rho Lambda will tap their new members. RL is a recognition of Panhellenic women. A Founder's award, recognition of scholarship and



photos by Cathryn Schwindel

Dustin Mayse, 7, and his sister Thiwana, 14, enjoy some early morning fishing in the lake near the University Center.

• Continued on page 6

# Campus & Community Bulletin Board

To have your campus or community event published by The Shield, send a description of the event, including date, time, place and contact person to The Bulletin Board, c/o The Shield, 8600 University Blvd., Evansville, Ind., 47712. Or drop it off at The Shield office, located in UC 115.

## Today, 17

**Solarbron Pointe** Fireside Fellowship meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

**Single Parent Awareness Network** from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in UC 118.

**Math Club** from 3 to 4 p.m. in SC 190.

**HOPE** at 5 p.m. in UC 117.

**Pep Band** from 7:30 to 11 p.m. in GLH.

**Baptist Student Union** from 9 to 10:30 p.m. in WT 8113A.

## Tuesday, 18

**New Horizons** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in UC 118.

**Curricular Committee** meeting at noon in UC 308.

**Baseball Team** vs. McKendree (H) at 1 p.m.

**Spring Film**-- "Monsieur Hire," at 1:30 and 6 p.m. in Forum I. The film is free and open to the public.

**Men's Tennis** vs. Brescia (A) at 3 p.m.

**Communications Arts Club** from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in UC 118.

**Student Government Association House** from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in UC 118.

**Interfraternity Council** from 5 to 6 p.m. in UC 113F.

**MASH Judicial Board** from 7 to 10 p.m. in UC 118.

## Wednesday, 19

**Activities Programming Board** from noon to 1:30 p.m. in UC 118.

**Sigma Tau Delta** from noon to 1 p.m. in UC 113F.

**Student Christian Fellowship** from noon to 1 p.m. in FA 58.

**Baseball Team** vs. IU/PU Indianapolis (A) at 1 p.m.

**MASH Judicial Board** from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in UC 118.

**Black Student Union** from 3 to 5 p.m. in UC 113F.

**SGA Senate** from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in UC 118.

**Panhellenic Council** from 5 to 6 p.m. in UC 113F.

**APB** presents The Nasty Girls at 9 p.m. in the UC Dining Room.

## For the Record

USI's annual **Student Art Exhibition** continues until April 24, in the UCC from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

**Joe Hulgus**, WSWI DJ, returns to the air May 6. "The Big Band Revue" program, which he did for 11 and 1/2 years on WSWI prior to Dec. 17, will air Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. Hulgus took a sabbatical due to his wife's illness.

**Historic New Harmony's** annual Heritage Week opens, bringing elementary school students from around the Tri-State to view exhibits and see demonstrations of 19th century lifestyles.

The April meeting of the **Ohio Valley Writer's Guild** will be held today at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Evansville Courier Building. Nancy Riecken, a local children's book writer, will be the guest speaker.

**Fraternity and sorority pre-registration** for Fall Rush 1995 will be held all week. Tables will be at the UC today, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and in the OC on Tuesday and Wednesday at the same time.

**Mayor Frank F. McDonald II** will be the featured guest for the Albion Fellows Bacon Center "Roast and Toast" Dinner on Wednesday at the St. Mary's Medical Center auditorium. Call 422-9372 for tickets or information.

**Willard Library** is sponsoring the Jacobsville Neighborhood Retrospective Photo Exhibition until April 28. For more information, call 425-4309.

Several positions are open at *The Shield* for the 1995-96 school year. If you are interested, call Jeff Anderson, editor, or Brian Harris, assistant editor, at 465-1645.



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## USI Housing

presents the

7th annual  
"No Suitcase Weekend"

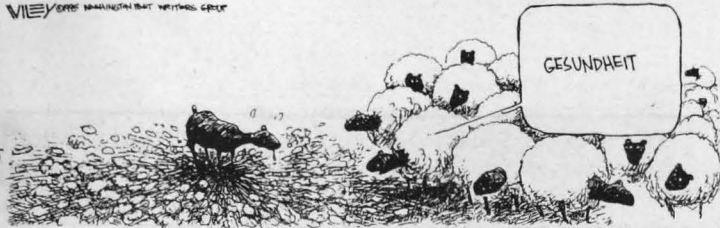
Thursday, April 20th  
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

McDonald West Rec. room

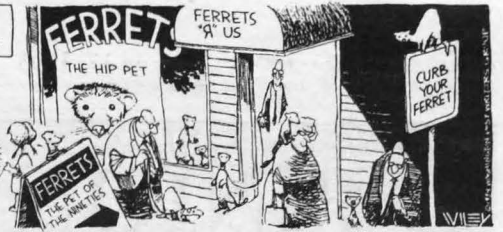
Co-ed, Men's and Women's  
Intramural Volleyball  
Prizes for winners.

Food will be served.





JACKIE'S REVELATION THAT HE'S NOT ON THE CUTTING EDGE ANYMORE...



CHAOS by Brian Shuster



"Wait a second guys . . . I think we had the plans up-side down!"

CHAOS by Brian Shuster



Thomas Edison inventing the light-bulb.

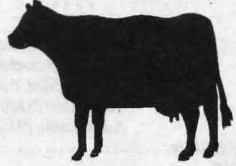
This Week Is

# SPRING WEEK

## "OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS"

Wednesday - **The Nasty Girls**

Comedy Show with the Grandma from Hell  
9 p.m. UC Dining Room



Thursday - **Kiss the Farm Animal** - noon Eagle's Nest

- **BBQ Feast & Kite Flying** - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. In Front of UC

- **Dance in Eicher Barn** - 9 p.m.



Friday - **All Campus Garden Party** sponsored by Volunteer USI!

2 - 5 p.m. in Housing call 465-1618 to sign up



Saturday - **Eagle Gran Prix** 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Free Pepsi & Hot dogs

sponsored by APB

## Shield Policy

Last week, *The Shield* carried a clearly marked advertising insert about abortion. To some on this campus, you'd think we'd committed a crime.

Now think about that a minute. University setting. Marketplace of ideas. Advertising. Diversity. Place to talk things out. Minds which are (supposedly) open.

*The Shield* will accept any advertisement which conforms to the rules of common decency and which can be placed in the newspaper without redesigning it. We don't make advertisements conform to predetermined political or religious points of view. Indeed, we would be in real hot water were we to even consider that in a tax-supported, state institution.

Further, we don't seek a balance in advertising. If a Republican advertises, we don't get on the phone and ask a Democrat to send over an ad (and a check). If a Chevrolet dealer requests the back page, it is not our policy to call the nearest Ford dealer and report it. And if a Right to Life group wants to place a professionally prepared insert in the newspaper, we don't call someone else to see if they wish that same opportunity.

That opportunity was always there. I hope it always is there.

*The Shield* is a forum for ideas. Some of them are reported in the newseditorial pages. Some show up in columns and letters. Some of them show up in advertising.

**Ronald C. Roat**  
Chairman, Student Publications

## Supplement only presented one side

To The Editor:

I would like to address your recent issue devoted almost entirely to the Right to Life philosophy. I consider myself "pro-life," however, I believe that everyone has a right to their own opinions. I also think the only way to form a lucid and reasonable opinion is to hear, study and respect both sides of an issue. By only printing one view, you are denying your readers the opportunity to see a subject objectively and therefore doing them a great injustice.

I would think a university newspaper would recognize the diversity of its readers. Aren't we promoting education here? And isn't education about studying an entire subject, not just the areas you want to examine? Also,

without presenting both sides of the issue, the article could be found by some to be judgmental and offensive.

I happen to agree with the Right to Life theory, but I also believe in the right to education. For every statistic and argument that the pro-lifers have, the pro-choicers have one too. Don't we have the right to hear the whole story?

It is my opinion that when presenting only one side of such a sensitive subject, we are not promoting education but ignorance. Perhaps if we all could learn to listen to both sides of an issue before forming an opinion, we would be able to hear and understand each other, instead of talking without listening.

**Kerrie McCormick**

## Nazi atrocities vivid after viewing powerful photographic exhibition

To the Editor:

I have just unglued my eyes from the Karl Stojka display, in the Wright Administration building, depicting life in a Nazi concentration camp. My hands fell numb on these keys and emotion presses on my throat and eyes. It is impossible to sort thoughts.

I keep envisioning myself as a single prisoner in a suffocating bunker, day after day, having been made an enemy without having committed a single act of aggression.

I wish I could feel, for one escapable second, the hate that motivates a being, created in God's image, to nail a living man's genitals to a wooden post or torture and club to death an enfeebled woman or child. Is the mere sight of people over whom one has complete control so empowering that it obliterates any reality of one's own fallibility?

The fact that some SS soldiers were torn limb from limb by liberated prisoners is no consolation, but I, at least understand it.

I am reconciling with dearly loving people from both the world that destroyed and the world that liberated. My husband is of German ancestry

and lived there for six years while his father served in the U.S. military. His mother is from Germany and was only a child when the war ended.

My husband often jokes, "Germans are the nosiest people on Earth. They know everybody's business in town." How could they have not known what was going on almost under their noses, as they claim?

My dad was a GI during the war and spent time fighting in Germany. He sat in the movie houses and watched newsreels of the camp liberations. The war is in his memory, in his lifetime.

We are planning a trip there soon. Excited about it until now, I find myself having second thoughts. I will not be able to disconnect dismal images and facts from the he scenery of "verdant hills and postcard-perfect castles" as the April 3 Holocaust report of US News and World Report puts it.

But the hardest of all is that knowing I cannot disconnect from a species of animal that created Hell for millions of their own.

**Mary Jean Stockman**

## Shield advertisement not clearly identified as such

To the Editor:

I was appalled that the University of Southern Indiana's *Shield* would insert such a disgusting advertisement in our paper. That supplement was absolutely insulting to the intelligence of university women and I hope that none gave it much value.

I can understand that not running the supplement would be censorship. However, it should have been labeled with the word "ADVERTISEMENT" a little larger. Also, a disclaimer should have been run in the paper. This supplement just looked too much like a part of the paper.

That supplement was nothing but junk. Over half of what they wrote was untrue and twisted the facts around.

To suggest that a child who has been molested by their father would want and would be able to emotionally handle having a child is absolutely revolting. It said that incest and rape victims are "in a high risk category"

for abortion is to act like they are simply victims a second time over. These women have been emotionally scarred by the men who attacked them. To saddle them with the added responsibility and emotional turmoil of a pregnancy is mean and uncalled for.

It all boils down to the fact that women should be able to do whatever they please within reason with their own bodies. They need to make their own decisions and they'll have to live with their decision. Abortion is not the answer for everyone, but it should be a choice available to everyone.

I hope that none took this supplement to be the absolute truth or the definitive answer to the problems facing society. Abortion, just like anything else that has to do with personal health, is a personal choice. Women should feel free to make these decisions for themselves.

**Amanda D. Barton**

# THE SHIELD

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Editorials represent the opinion of the newspaper. Columns are the opinion of the writer. Letters to the editor represent opinions of readers and not necessarily of *The Shield* staff. Letters may be edited for length or libel.



# Lincoln was leader who cared, was willing to compromise

by Brian Harris

This past Friday was Good Friday—the day in which the Christian religion observes the anniversary of the slaying of its leading martyr.

But Friday was also another anniversary of sorts, because 130 years ago Friday, another great martyr of history laid down his life — the 16th president, Abraham Lincoln.

Coincidentally, when Lincoln was shot and killed at age 56 in the president's box at Ford's Theater by Confederate sympathizer John Wilkes Booth, it was also Good Friday.

Good Friday. What an ironic day for one of the darkest curtains in American history to have fallen.

Lincoln is remembered fondly as one of the greatest presidents in American history.

Why?

Obviously, most would agree that Lincoln's opposition to black slavery was worthy of admiration.

He felt that although there are fundamental differences between the races, we are all equal when it comes to our worth as humans, and deserve equal regard, no matter what the skin color. He was right.

But perhaps one of Lincoln's greatest traits was he was the utmost dip-

lomat.

Prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, Lincoln made his opposition to slavery well-known.

But, he did not want to abolish slavery if it did so at the cost of breaking up the Union.

If slavery could be abolished without the Union disintegrating, fine, but he was grudgingly willing to keep slavery intact if it meant the Union could be preserved.

Rightly, one could argue that Lincoln was wrong on this point, and that the abolishment of the hideous, degrading institution of slavery was much more important than whether or not the United States of America stayed together.

A great moral issue, one could argue, takes precedent over issues of politics.

It is important to notice one key thing about Lincoln regarding this issue, however.

He was willing to sacrifice his own personal, deeply felt belief that slavery was wrong in favor of doing something he had moral convictions against, because doing what he wanted would destroy the Union, and he thought the country would be better off in the long run if the Union stayed together.

Plus, Lincoln didn't believe the

outright abolition of slavery was the only answer to the slavery issue.

He felt slavery would eventually die out anyway, especially if the North participated in some sort of program in which the South was slowly weaned off slave labor and gradually, in small baby steps, became adjusted to an agricultural or industrial economy using regular, paid labor.

In this way, not only would the slaves eventually be emancipated, but the South would be emancipated as well, from a system of labor that suffered from many flaws, not just the obvious moral ones. Whether he was right or wrong in his beliefs, at least Lincoln was willing to compromise.

But, both the North and South were stubbornly determined to make sure their agendas were met — and, unfortunately, their agendas were diametrically opposed.

With neither side willing to compromise, the blood began to run. The blood of over 600,000 men ran on battlefields from east to west and north to south.

The loss of so many lives was what Lincoln wanted to prevent, and it was these things which he spent many agonizing days and nights pondering in the lonely solitude of the Oval Office.

Judging from the current political

scene, how many so-called leaders today are willing to put their own personal beliefs aside for the greater good, or for what they think will be better for everyone in the long run?

And how many of us are not so wrapped up in our own agenda that we can see the larger picture? Not many.

So when that rare commodity comes along, we heap the greatest esteem upon them, and call them "hero" as we raise them up to their deserved pedestals.

And when those heroes are killed for their causes, they become martyrs — Christ-like figures — and our reverence takes on a deeper dimension.

Had he lived past April 14, 1865, would Lincoln have been able to put the Union back together as wisely as he handled the war?

We will never know the answer, but we can be sure that few people in our history had the character, wisdom and intelligence to handle so many crises with the tact, skill and caring Lincoln did.

Honest Abe was also Brilliant Abe, Diplomatic Abe and Resourceful Abe. But most of all, he was Caring Abe.

For these reasons, he will never just be the guy on the penny, or the skinny fellow on the five-dollar bill.

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# Kayaking is way for people to get closer to nature

by Chris Balbach

To the ancients, water was one of the four elements - together with earth, fire and air - defining and forming our universe. To the modern geologist, white water is one of the great shapers, carving gorges and valleys and changing the face of the planet.

The white water experience of running rapids in small boats puts you back in touch with these elemental forces and flow so far beyond the normal scope of over-controlled urban life.

No other craft in the world can bring you as close to the water as a white water kayak.

All the ingredients of a pure sport are combined in kayaking. An entire array of movements and paddle strokes exist which to master and apply. It is a thinking and reacting sport, requiring both strategy and split-second timing.

It is an individual sport in which no one can run the rapids for you, but a team sport that develops strong bonds and friendships, since your very life may depend on your companion's quick reactions.

Kayaking is not terribly difficult to

learn, but there are certain limiting factors both physical and psychological. You must be in fairly good physical condition.

You must also be a fairly calm person who can accept full responsibility for your own safety, and function well under stress.

When your boat tips over in rapids, it is solely up to you to recover. You must take the initiative, even if it means only popping off your spray skirt to release yourself from the boat.

You cannot remain passive, because if you do nothing at the onset that white water kayaking must be taken seriously if it is to be safe as well as fun.

If you would like to experience the thrills and adventures of North American white water, call Chris or Keith at Extreme Performance Outfitters at 468-9491 for more information on introductory spring white water kayak courses.

Evansville is also the home of the Ohio Valley Whitewater Club, a group of active paddlers who meet at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Deerhead Tavern.

Interested persons are encouraged to attend.

\* "Greeks," continued from page 1

Mifca Mafca participants will be awarded.

Other awards are sponsored by Panhellenic, Interfraternity Council, as well as fraternities and sororities. Each organization was responsible for writing an application, choosing the winner and purchasing the award.

IFC will sponsor the awards: Public Service, Fraternity Achievement and Outgoing IFC Officer. Panhellenic is sponsoring Outgoing Officer, Greek Woman of the Year, Greek New Member of the Year and Philanthropy Award.

Phi Delta Theta is awarding the Greek Sisterhood Award and Sorority of the Year. Tau Kappa Epsilon is awarding the Campus Contribution

Award, Alpha Sigma Phi is sponsoring Highest Women G.P.A., while Lambda Chi Alpha is sponsoring Individual Highest G.P.A. and Greek Woman of the Year. Sigma Tau Gamma will end the awards with Best New Program and best Executive Council Award.

Delta Zeta will begin the awards the sororities with offering the Brotherhood Award and Highest Fraternity G.P.A. Alpha Sigma Alpha is awarding Fraternity of the Year and Greek Man of the Year. Alpha Gamma Delta is sponsoring Highest Male G.P.A. and the Fraternity Spirit Award.

Also, OO will give the Top 10 Greek Awards, which are lighthearted categories like Cutest Greek Couple, Prettiest Eyes and 110% Greek.

Got something to say? Write a letter to the editor, today!

## Crossword 101

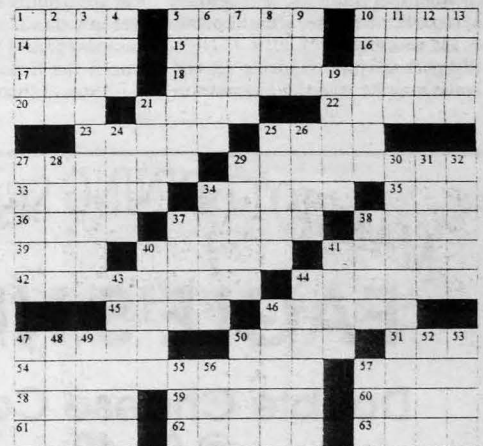
By Gerry Frey

### "Friends"

#### ACROSS

- 1 Man's friend
- 5 Lone Ranger's friend
- 10 Ernie's friend
- 14 Capital of So. Yemen
- 15 Humiliate
- 16 Region
- 17 Chair
- 18 Tonto's friend
- 20 Lifeguard fringe benefit
- 21 Pub offerings
- 22 Purloined
- 23 Flicka's mom & others
- 25 Feed the kitty
- 27 Drool
- 29 Ralph Kramden's friend
- 33 Rabbits' relatives
- 34 Consumers' friend
- 35 Eggs
- 36 Crafts' relatives
- 37 Lugs
- 38 Iowa city
- 39 Caesar's 56
- 40 Old Mid East currency
- 41 Sting
- 42 King Arthur's friend
- 44 Odors
- 45 Caps
- 46 Vegetable
- 47 Moving about
- 50 Enthusiastic vigor
- 51 Prefix meaning not
- 54 Dean Martin's former friend
- 57 Burgundy for one
- 58 On
- 59 Occurrence
- 60 Land measure
- 61 Despicable persons
- 62 Parygoer's friend
- 63 Rind

- DOWN
- 1 Rapid
- 2 Thought



- 3 Former friend of 54 across
- 4 NY's neighbor
- 5 Having greater stature
- 6 Woodward instruments
- 7 Ms. Fabray & others
- 8 Mao -tung
- 9 Over to Burns
- 10 Jest
- 11 Therefore
- 12 Fisherman's need
- 13 Weedy plant
- 19 John Jacob
- 21 Greek god of war
- 24 Sts. relatives
- 25 Snake
- 26 Dirs.
- 27 A determined verb
- 28 Newly hatched insect
- 29 Chew away: 2 wds
- 30 Harry's friends
- 31 Not hidden
- 32 American editorial cartoonist & family
- 34 Unacceptable acts
- 37 Slant
- 38 U.S.A.
- 40 Affectionate word
- 41 Glance at
- 43 Bird sounds
- 44 Daisy type
- 46 Actor Eastwood
- 47 Open
- 48 Bristle
- 49 Horse's gait
- 50 Female sheep
- 52 Cross words
- 53 Perceived
- 55 Lunar excursion module
- 56 First lady

#### Quotable Quote

"The happiest miser on earth is the man who saves up every friend he can make."

Robert Emmet Sherwood

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See next page for puzzle solution

# fun!

for the '90s

## Get's You Going!

**April 19, 10am-3pm**

- 10 Car Display
- Pop-a-Shot Tournament
- Ford Motor Credit Company Info
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# Young golf aficionado has played since childhood

by Kelly Trafton

A stern look of concentration masked Briar Merrill's face as he gripped a golf club, swung behind his shoulder, and followed through with professional skill. The golf ball landed nowhere, since we were in his living room.

He was practicing different swing methods, and using his beige carpet as an imaginary tee. "The carpet is pretty worn down in this area," he said. "I've been swinging clubs in here for a long time now." He looked back down at the position of his club with the same look of determination, and swung again.

He began his golfing career as a young teenager. "My grandfather introduced me to the game," he said. "After that, I haven't stopped playing since."

He has the trophies and plaques to prove his dedication to the game. Brian is one of the top golfers in the state of Indiana.

As a senior at Boonville High School, he placed fifth in the state golf championship. Other victories include Southern Indiana Regional champion, four college tournament wins at USI, club championships, and three years honored (due to excellent performance

and academic standing) as an All-Conference and All-District athlete in the state. Merrill also spent a summer in Colorado Springs and Denver, working with Mike Adams, a golf-pro for various country clubs in Florida.

"I've been told by quite a few respectable golfers that I have the potential to become a professional golfer," he said.

"It's just going to take a lot of hard work if that dream will ever come true. I just don't want to be forty years old and look back and say, 'I wonder if I could have made it?'" Merrill said. "I am really going to try, and if it is not there, then I will be happy with myself and teach high school history."

Studying history and education at USI has kept Merrill rooted to Southern Indiana for the past four years. He attends USI full-time and has a golf scholarship here, birdie-ing and putting for the USI Eagles.

"It is important to my parents and me that I get a college education," he said. "But, as soon as I graduate, I'm heading to Florida to try and make it in the amateur tour, and see where that takes me."

Merrill said some of the expenses for trying professional golf are high. Unless he has a sponsor to

fund him through the levels of the PGA Qualifying School, he will have to pay the tuition of \$3,000 and other fees to make it to the next level.

"It is an expensive sport just to try to make it in," he said. "I hope I can find a sponsor, but if not, I am saving money."

Jim Brown, USI's golf coach, agrees with regional experts of the game on Merrill's talent.

"The strongest point of Brian's game," he said, "is that he has few weaknesses." Merrill's father said he feels if he applies himself fully to the game, that his possibilities are endless. Both Merrill's mother and father said they are proud of him no matter how much over par he may score.

Although golf seems to dominate most of Merrill's time, he is still dedicated to his studies as well. Merrill was an top student in high school, always maintaining above a 3.5 average, and serving in the National Honor Society. He also maintains a well respected grade point average at USI.

"My free time is spent on the golf course," he said. "I love golf so much -- it's the best thing for me to do with all of my time."

Merrill's teammate, Ben Roback, said "he practices morning to

night. I wish I had that much dedication."

Maybe we will see Merrill on television one day, playing with the "Masters" of the game.

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The last issue of *The Shield* for the 1994-95 school year will be Thursday, April 27.

Easter 1987, Age 5

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## Coach's Corner

by Tom Rupert

Some would say that compared to baseball, fastpitch softball is not a competitive sport.

It lacks the speed and technical skills that baseball requires. However, compared to their baseball counterparts, most of what girls do on a softball field is more difficult and must be done faster. Let's take a look at some of the comparable aspects of the game of fastpitch softball and baseball.

In both games, one of the most important positions is the pitcher. Consider the following: the average female softball pitcher today is throwing in the 60 mile per hour range. This is 88 feet per second, .45seconds to be exact. This is a very short time for a hitter to react.

At the same speed from the baseball mound (60 feet 6 inches from home) a baseball would take .68 seconds to reach home plate. This is more than 50 percent longer. For a baseball to reach home plate in

.45 seconds it would need to be traveling at 91 miles per hour. This speed is very rare at the high school level. It is not even common in the professional ranks. Nolan Ryan's 100 mph fast ball would take .41 seconds to reach the batter. Female hitters face this reaction time routinely.

An additional degree of difficulty that fastpitch pitchers give to the hitters is the rise ball. I am not aware of any baseball pitcher who can make a ball rise. This pitch is not seen in baseball. Softball pitchers also have drops, curves, change-ups, and variations of those pitches similar to baseball. Only softball has the rise ball.

Another myth to dispel is that since a softball is larger, it is easier to hit. In fact the contact point is virtually the same. The size of the softball actually works against the hitter in several ways. It is easier to mishit a softball as swing planes which will miss the ball entirely will result in pop ups or weak ground balls with a softball. Additionally, the seams of a

softball are larger, allowing the pitcher to throw pitches that break more sharply than a baseball.

We should also consider the actual field of play when discussing hitters. The average softball field is 32,000 square feet. The baseball field is over 100,000 square feet. The baseball field is over three times the size of a softball field, yet both teams have nine players to cover all the areas. Consequently it is much more difficult to "find a hole" in the softball defense.

Another aspect is the time it takes to complete a defensive play. Baseball base paths are 90 feet long. Softball is 60 feet. The average baseball play takes 4.5 to 5 seconds while the average softball play must be accomplished in 3 seconds or less.

Looking at the game in these terms, perhaps all can be a bit more appreciative of female softball players, their abilities, and their accomplishments. Hey, at sixty miles an hour, there ain't nothing soft about it!

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