

For immediate release
April 16, 2001

Photo/Video Opportunity

USI students to launch concrete canoe

University of Southern Indiana engineering technology student Shelby Hoffman and fellow engineering technology students will launch "The Blur," a 120-pound concrete canoe at noon, Thursday, April 19, on Reflection Lake behind the Liberal Arts Center on the USI campus.

Yellow with black lettering, "The Blur" is 18 feet long, 33 inches wide, and 11 inches deep. Its mortar has been tested in water and is proven to float.

The canoe is a project of USI's American Society of Civil Engineers chapter. It will be entered in the Master Builder's National Concrete Canoe Competition Friday, April 27, and Saturday, April 28, at the University of Illinois. Contestants will be judged on their entries performance, a written report, a display, and an oral presentation.

Hoffman, a non-traditional student, is a senior at USI and a graduate of Jasper High School. The project is lead by Jack Naghdi, assistant professor of civil engineering technology at USI.

Sent to assignment editors at tv stations; photo desk, *Courier & Press*