



Winter walk possible

Mid-year ceremony may be on horizon

By KELLY SCHMIDT
Special to The Shield

This December, over 500 USI students will be graduating. Because there is no December commencement ceremony available, these students will have to wait until spring 2006 to participate in graduation exercises.

In 40 years, the university has never held a December commencement.

With university growth and an increasing number of students graduating mid-year the idea is something that the administration is carefully considering.

"In the past there just hasn't been a demand for a December graduation," said Sherianne

Standley, vice president for advancement.

"So many of our graduates stay here, but as we have grown many students leave the area then have to come back for commencement."

CJ Regin, director of special events, said planning commencement exercises takes at least a year of preparation.

"A December graduation would be a smaller event because fewer would be participating," Regin said. "It would also be kept on campus."

"Spring commencement is a fabulous event," Standley said.

"It is a wonderful rite of passage and no matter how hard we try, a December commencement won't equal that."

University research has shown that the popularity of December commencement ceremonies is increasing.

"As of late, December graduations are becoming more popular," Standley said.

"The university thought why not try it and see what happens?" "It's an instant gratification concept," Regin

'Graduation is a benchmark experience in life and I encourage everyone to participate.'

- CJ Regin
Director of Special Events

said. "Graduates are immediately able to celebrate their accomplishments."

Regin also said that by the time May rolls around, some December graduates have moved on with their lives and don't feel the need to come back for commencement.

"Graduation is a benchmark experience in life and I encourage everyone to participate," she said. "It is something graduates will never forget."

Next year's December graduation, even though in the works, may not happen.

The right amount of funding

will be the determining factor in the December commencement plan.

"A December graduation isn't definite," Regin said. "Everything is based on funding and we have submitted a request for the 2006-07 fiscal year."

Regin urges all graduates to check the USI Web site for important information regarding commencement exercises.

"This year commencement is being held on a Saturday," Regin said.

"It was usually held on a Sunday and Roberts Stadium was shared with the University of Evansville, but with USI graduating so many students, we've had to move commencement."

Graduation information can be found on the USI Web site or by calling the office of special events at 464-1930.

Kelly Schmidt is a journalism major and a member of the Advanced Reporting class.

Xbox 360:
Hottest holiday
item sells out

See Page 4



Women's
basketball wins
four in a row

See page 6

Chilly children



The children for the 'College Mentors for Kids' program arrive on campus all bundled up for the cold weather. After the weeks of uncharacteristically warm November weather, temperatures dropped as November comes to an end.

Photo by Julia Hunter

Students aid victim in crosswalk car accident

By ANTHONY PATE
The Shield staff

USI students displayed true heroism Nov. 18 as they came to the aid of 47-year-old student Clara Bertinelli, after she was struck by a car at the crosswalk in front of the HP building.

This was the second time in less than a year that a pedestrian has been hit in a crosswalk on University Boulevard.

Campus security reported Bertinelli didn't receive any life threatening injuries and was completely conscious after being struck. She was taken to Deaconess Hospital and was released the same night.

Barry Hart, security director, said they received the call at 10:49 of a pedestrian being struck by an automobile at the crosswalk by the Health Professions Building.

Hart said security took after actions and staffed security guards at the crosswalks until Thanksgiving Break. The security office will also post road-side boards to inform drivers at the crosswalk intersections to slow down.

According to the police report Jacob Beyers, the driver, dropped a cigarette just before reaching the crosswalk. He bent down to pick it up and didn't see anyone in the crosswalk.

Junior Katie Watts was the first person to come to Bertinelli's aid. "I saw her in the process of landing," Watts said.

Watts said she was fiddling with her bag straps when she heard a scream and then a crunch. She

said as soon as she saw what happened she dropped her bag to help.

She put her coat on Bertinelli, wiped some soda off her face and helped her put her glasses back on.

As Watts was helping Bertinelli, an EMS student came to assist and asked Watts to hold her head straight while he put a neck brace on her.

Watts said a few minutes later there was enough help, so she stood in the way of traffic so people would see there was a situation.

Resident assistant John Thomas and his roommate John Gries said they had just been dropped off when Bertinelli was hit.

"My first reaction was to find one of those security columns, which is part of my training and get a hold of security as soon as possible," Thomas said.

He ran down to the nearest security emergency column, while Gries was on his cell phone to contact security.

"We knew it was going to happen sooner or later," Thomas said, regarding the vulnerability of people in the crosswalks.

Thomas said Bertinelli was conscious and alert enough to let the EMS student know her glasses had gotten caught on the neck brace.

Beyers, according to Hart, was issued a citation for failure to yield the right of way.

The Shield was unable to reach Bertinelli and Beyers for comment.

Excuses provide humor for teachers

By ADRIAN STOICA
Special to The Shield

It's 2 a.m. the night before your final exam.

You're not ready, but you're almost there.

You scramble for ideas for an excuse to get out of it. What do you tell your professor?

Do you skip class, blaming an illness as you hack and cough on the phone the next morning with your professor?

Or just send him/her an e-mail and save yourself the trouble?

There is always the death of a beloved family member excuse.

One distraught student called her professor to say a family mem-

ber had died and she would not be able to make the exam or to take any makeups during her religion-prescribed mourning period of six weeks. Later, when she arrived to take a makeup, she confessed that the family death was a cat.

This excuse and many others are available through Exccuuuse Me: A New Web-based tool, one of several humor columns for The National Honor Society in Psychology that USI's Dr. Joseph Palladino and Dr. Mitchell Handelsman of the University of Colorado at Denver have written over the past nine years.

One "four star" award winning excuse on the site is what many teachers would consider to be too much information.

A student's parents left town for a second honeymoon, a month camping in the Pacific Northwest wilderness. The student, a senior about to graduate, was left in charge of the household and of her sister, a high school senior. The student spent most of her time at her boyfriend's apartment, especially after she discovered she was pregnant.

The student's sister took advantage of the empty house and threw a terrific party for her high school pals, but the police objected and arrested the high school student. Apparently, there wasn't enough household money left to bail out the younger sister.

The student said she missed the exam because she was trying

to figure out a way to tell her parents that she was pregnant and her sister was still in jail—without making her dad mad.

Palladino says that the examples of excuses in his column are real, as reported by faculty members by email.

Palladino, along with USI students and faculty, is currently conducting research into the some of the most used excuses to see what students are saying.

Although the column is no longer being written, you can find all of them on Psi Chi's Website at http://psichi.org/pubs/articles/article_176.asp.

Adrian Stoica is a journalism student in the Advanced Reporting class.

Future could bring more masters

By JULIA HUNTER
The Shield staff

The Graduate Studies program is one of many areas at USI that must deal with the college's rapidly increasing enrollment.

Of USI's 10,050 students currently enrolled, 752 of them are graduate students.

The university's enrollment is predicted to exceed 11,000 students in the next five years.

Through, it could happen sooner.

USI has ten master's degrees available through the Graduate Studies program, which began in 1984 with the Master of Industrial Management.

"We are always open to the possibility of adding more graduate studies programs," Director of

Graduate Studies Peggy Harrel said.

"We know we are growing, but we have to balance it for the students we have and the students that want to come here and it is a very delicate process."

After a graduate program is proposed it must pass through the approval stage.

"The approval process is often very long and cumbersome and there are many large bodies to go through. It can take several years," Harrel said.

The idea is proposed to various on-campus committees, such as the Academic Planning Committee. Then, after written documentation of what the program will include is approved by all necessary on-campus committees,

it is sent to the Indiana Committee for Higher Education, Harrel explained.

Only after ICHE approves the proposal does USI begin to look for funding, which in most cases comes out of the university's own budget.

However on rare occasions, and because of special needs, the university has received federal grants in order to be able to offer programs, such as Nursing.

Degrees currently available through USI's graduate studies program includes Masters of Accountancy, Business Administration, Education, Social Work, Public Administration, Industrial Management, Nursing, Health Administration, Occupational Therapy and Liberal Studies.

Various programs are also available through these degrees such as Elementary Education.

Possible graduate programs that are currently proposed include Physical Therapy, Imaging Sciences, Medical Records and Health Informatics, Exceptional Needs and Communications.

Occupational Therapy is the newest graduate program, which started this year.

Occupational therapists can no longer practice with just a bachelor's degree, so the need for a master's degree in the program has recently increased significantly.

The Master of Accountancy program, however, has ceased s.

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Graduate Programs and those to come

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| What we have now: | What we could see in the future: |
| -Masters of Accountancy | -Physical Therapy |
| -Business Administration | -Imaging Sciences |
| -Education | -Medical Records and Health Informatics |
| -Social Work | -Exceptional Needs and Communications |
| -Public Administration | |
| -Industrial Management | |
| -Nursing | |
| -Health Administration | |
| -Occupational Therapy | |
| -Liberal Studies | |

ODDS & ENDS

ANCHORAGE, Ala. (AP) - Gentlemen, start your beards. Anchorage has been awarded the 2009 World Beard and Moustache Championships following a bid process and vote of its members, according to association president Bruce Roe of Bremerton, Wash.

The biannual contest has been held in the United States only once before, two years ago in Carson City, Nev.

"It's a big honor," says David Traver, vice president of the Southcentral Alaska Beard & Moustache Club. "We've had a beard competition going on in Anchorage for about 54 years now, and we feel Anchorage is the perfect venue for this event."

Competitors can choose from several different categories, including handlebar moustaches to those sporting the "Fu Manchu" style. There also are categories for those preferring to grow goatees and other partial beards.

ST. JOHN, Ind. (AP) - What's the best way to catch a runaway ostrich? Apparently not a lasso.

An ostrich led St. John police on a two-hour chase through neighborhood streets and yards Friday, before they finally managed to throw a net over it.

Resident Kathy Sorenson watched from the kitchen of her home in the northwestern Indiana community as police set up roadblocks.

"Then I saw a police officer jump out of his car and run toward something with a rope, like he was trying to lasso something," she said. She assumed officers were trying to catch a stray dog, then saw the ostrich run out from behind a tree.

The bird was turned over to animal control officers after it was caught. Police Chief Fred Frego said he had no clue where the ostrich came from.

HUNTSVILLE, Mo. (AP) - Along with concert tickets, sports memorabilia and designer handbags, add a Missouri jail to the list of things you can buy on eBay.

Randolph County officials have decided to sell their old jail on the auction site as soon as Wednesday. Bidding starts at \$32,500, said Jim Myles, a county commissioner.

County leaders say they got the idea to sell the jail from neighboring Howard County, which sold its jail to a Los Angeles lawyer who plans to renovate it into a country getaway.

"After Howard County sold their jail, we were kind of jealous," said Myles. "We wished we had been first."

'Helicopter parents' don't always help

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) - A mother in Salt Lake City flies to Cambridge, Mass., to argue with a Harvard University professor about her daughter's biology grade.

A father leaves the parent seminar at Saint Louis University to wake up his son, a college student, for a campus job interview.

A young woman at a college in the Northeast calls her dad in the South because it's snowing, and she wonders if classes will be canceled. He calls the school to find out.

These true stories illustrate the hyper-involvement of today's "helicopter parents," a term coined by university administrators to refer to those who hover over their young adult offspring and hinder their maturation.

The mostly well-meaning baby boomers, raised to get their money's worth at any cost, are flexing their muscle around college administrators and pestering professors.

The meddling has become so acute that public universities are creating programs and hiring staff to deal with problem parents, something most private colleges

have done for years.

"We live in a customer-service culture," says Jim Boyle, president of the Arlington, Va.-based College Parents of America, which lobbies Congress on financial matters on parents' behalf.

"People expect to have their questions answered by institutions, whether it's the local department, the cable operator or the school where their son or daughter attends."

Universities are no strangers to overzealous parents.

Changes in transportation and technology, from cell phones nicknamed "the world's longest umbilical cord" by one Georgia university administrator to e-mail, give parents an almost split-second way to be involved.

The biggest problem Purdue University has faced is parents requesting new roommates for their child.

"This should come from the student," said Deborah Taub, an associate professor in the College of Education who is studying this growing phenomenon. "We're seeing them as adults, but their parents are seeing them as their child."

Universities should use a firmer hand in insisting parents "let grow," not "let go," of their kids, says Helen E. Johnson, an author and parent-relations consultant to colleges and universities.

"My biggest pet peeve is the dean who says to the parents, 'Welcome to the family,'" she says. "There's no role for them to play in that family. It's like having your drunk uncle around at Thanksgiving: You can't tell him to go away, but you don't want him there either."

Parents might not realize the damage they're doing to their kids by fighting their battles.

"These kids have never, almost ever, done anything on their own," Johnson says. "They have been surrounded by adult-supported, adult-scheduled, adult-originated activities all their lives, and to them, this is usual."

But it's not conducive to them becoming independent adults who make their own decisions, accept consequences and revel in their own successes. Hovering makes kids lazy, instills self-doubt and impacts their ability to bounce back, Johnson says.

"If a child never learns how to be resilient, they'll have very little confidence in their ability to handle things," she says. Taub added that they won't learn valuable problem-solving and self-advocacy skills if parents continue to micromanage their college student's life.

Parents should urge their children to resolve their own problems, offer suggestions for them to consider and remind them of their love and support, Johnson says.

"Parents have to remain constant in their own approach. 'I will do whatever I can in this transition, but these are your decisions to make,'" she says.

Irina Sheagley of Lafayette agrees that college is a time when children need to learn to be independent. Her son, Daniel Yelfimov, is a senior at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, and she lets him handle his own problems.

"I never call the school," she said. If her son tells her about a problem he's having, she offers her advice but lets him deal with it.

Even when the school only honored one of the two scholarships originally offered to her son, Sheagley said her son took care of

the details.

Carrie Waszak, a sophomore at Purdue, would be surprised if her mother called the school to handle one of her problems. "I think my mom has given me freedom," she said, noting that she would give her advice, but then let her handle her own problems.

Johnson, the university consultant, says it is difficult to step back if a big part of a person's identity is being a mom or dad.

"This is a loss of a role, but isn't it what we hope will happen? What have you been working for all these years? To get your child independent?"

Boyle doesn't think universities have seen the worst of it.

"They need to seriously brace themselves for Gen X parents who don't have as rosy a view of their own educational experiences as baby boomers do, and their kids, who have grown up in a culture of measurement and accountability for schools," he says.

"That same level of accountability will be asked of colleges and universities in the future. It will be a matter of doing business."

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MASTERS

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admittance because of low enrollment.

The program was developed because legislature passed a law that required 150 hours of education to sit for the CPA exam.

Although, the 150 hours required did not necessarily have to be in accountancy. Therefore, many students opted to take other classes.

"The greatest need this institution has is for us to be able to have all the faculty we need to staff all of the programs we have and want to offer, and that's a slow moving process," Harrel said.

The Office of Graduate Studies has a meeting on Dec. 5 where they will be discussing possible changes or progression of the proposed graduate studies programs.



Study season

Left: TaNeika McGuire, sophomore, studies in the library. As term papers and final exams loom around the corner, many students are seeking extra study time.

Academic Skills is sponsoring two more classes this semester to help students prepare for finals.

Finals Quest, Thursday, Dec. 1, 3 p.m. in ED 1102: This workshop will help students develop a 5-day study plan as well as what to do before and during the final exam.

Spirit Soothers and Mind Enhancers, Monday - Thursday, Dec. 12 - 15, 11:30 a.m. in ED 1102: Students who are relaxed remember more and do better on exams. Take pressure off with this 3-minute session. Participants will be nourished with music, meditation and relaxation. Attend one or all sessions.

Photo by Jondi Schmitt

USI Spectrum Announces:

RALLY

In honor of **World AIDS Day**

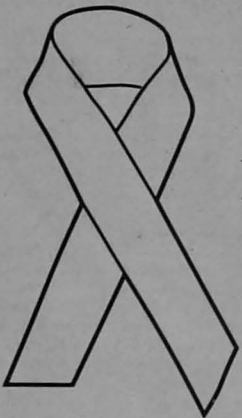
Today, Thursday Dec. 1st

7:00 P.M.

University Center Mall

Please attend to hear speakers

And participate in a candle light vigil.



All proceeds benefit the Tri-State AIDS Christmas Project

For information about the Christmas Project, visit www.aidschristmasproject.org, call 812-422-5951 or e-mail wallypaynter@aol.com

For information about the rally, contact spectrum@usieagles.org

Co-sponsored by
TSA Youth Group
www.TSAGL.org



CHANGING YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Thursday, Dec. 1, 2005

Americans appoint utensil

By ANNA BECHER
Special to The Shield

Empty boxes of Velveeta hit the trash can.

Macaroni: it's what's for dinner.

In the house next door is a mother preparing a cheesy potato dish. With extra cheese, of course.

Somewhere down the street, a father slaves over his grill. Rare cooked steak is on the menu for tonight. Plenty of it.

Pick up that fork and let chow-time begin.

The first helping is wiped out within minutes.

So much for chewing each bite at least 20 times. Who needs proper digestion, anyway?

Bring on the seconds! And don't forget the dessert.

The fork is our tool for obesity. It's a simple utensil that has led to a national outcry for help.

According to the American Obesity Association, 60 million Americans are obese. This is in addition to the 127 million who are overweight.

Of course, Americans need someone to blame for this "epidemic."

Many have jumped on the bandwagon and blamed fast food corporations.

Is it really McDonald's and Hardee's who are at fault?

Unless these companies forced you to consume that order of super-sized fries, they are not the culprits.

Others, however, place the blame on bad genetics.

"It's in my genes."

"I've always been 'big boned.'"

Who hasn't heard these statements?

Why not blame the fork?

We Americans don't like to take the blame for our mistakes, so why not find someone or something else to condemn?

It's one of the great evils of society.

Why hasn't the fork already been outlawed? Just look at the sharp edges. If a butter knife is classified as a weapon, why isn't the fork?

Before you know it, the fork won't be allowed on an airplane.

You will be removed from the aircraft due to "possession of fork."

But it's just a simple fork. Is that what you're thinking?

It doesn't have any friends.

It's probably the only one of its kind in your utensil drawer.

It is probably surrounded by prettier forks, longer forks, well-known forks and shinier forks that are brought out only on special occasions.

This fork is an outcast. Cursed to add on the pounds to those who choose to use it.

It goes without saying that the fork isn't the only culprit.

With a place near the fork, the spoon shares in responsibility.

But the fork should take the cake on this one.

Literally.

Anna Becher is a journalism major and is in the Editorial Writing class.

Letters from the editor

By JENNIFER MURPHY
Opinion editor

Last year a faculty member was struck by a vehicle, so the school built a speedbump in hopes of eliminating future accidents and slowing drivers.

The bump didn't work. More recently, a student was hit by a car on Nov. 18.

The recent incident did not occur on the bump nor did the bump stop the driver from striking the pedestrian.

Not to patronize anyone, but where was the student looking? What was the driver doing at that exact time?

Are we naive enough to believe that all drivers are paying attention all the time?

Why did something so preventable occur?

Campus security shouldn't need officers patrolling USI crosswalks 24 hours a day to avoid similar accidents.

The bottom line is awareness. If you are aware of both drivers and pedestrians, accidents will be prevented.

To all, I address the issue.

Dear Drivers:

Use caution while driving on the USI campus. We are all in a hurry to get home or wherever it is that we are going.

Speed limit signs are posted for a reason. A speed limit of 15 mph is difficult to maintain, but the brakes are present for a reason also.

Pedestrians are everywhere on campus, especially around the times classes begin and end.

The pedestrian, most likely, was just behind the wheel or is preparing to be.

You, the driver, were probably just a pedestrian or will become one within the next five minutes.

The two are infinitely interchangeable. So, walk as you would want others to walk while you are driving, and drive like you would want others to drive when you are the pedestrian.

All I ask is for you to be more attentive behind the wheel.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Murphy

Dear Pedestrians:

Use caution while walking (or running depending on your time frame) across roads at USI. Drivers aren't always looking.

One would think I should not have to address the issue of looking before you cross, but many have walked in front of my vehicle without consideration of my presence and whether or not I was aware of theirs.

When approaching a crosswalk look left, right and then left again.

Next make eye contact with the closest drivers. These simple precautions will help ensure your safety while crossing our busy streets.

Just because you legally have the right of way doesn't mean the vehicle will always see you and stop.

When the battle is between you and a vehicle, the vehicle will prevail.

Again, attentiveness helps.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Murphy

Eating is necessary, but gluttony not

By CASEY MCCOY
Special to The Shield

Let them eat.

As of today America's population is above 60 percent over weight. As Americans, it's our right to eat.

Our whole world revolves around food, from a profit market to a purchasing market.

The more we advertise, the more it makes people think they want food, thus, the more they are going to eat.

Don't people get sick of seeing fat parents sitting alongside their starving children?

Maybe "obese" is the more politically correct term to use.

After all, if you're going to be fat, you might as well deserve to make up the name people are going to call you.

While you're shoving that beloved piece of deep-fried chicken into your mouth and pondering why you got fat, it might not feel as offensive if you made it up.

People become "obese" because they don't live near a grocery store, but near a fast food

restaurant, right?

According to a recent study, it depends on the price of fresh fruits and vegetables and the income of the household.

If the price is low, the kids have a lesser chance to become obese.

However, if the price is high they tend to choose cheaper, less healthy substitutes.

Might it be better if we implemented two different welfare systems, for people with and without children?

Instead of giving people food stamps in one lump sum, make some of the food stamps allocated for fresh produce.

That would force people to purchase fresh foods for their children to start life off being healthy, instead of battling their entire lives with obesity.

Once the pounds amass they are hard but possible to loose. Let them eat.

Casey McCoy is a journalism major and is in the Editorial Writing class.

Class Act

By Rob Sheehan



America deserves more respect

By ANGEL BAILEY
Special to The Shield

My hat goes off to America. She is a strong, beautiful country that is harshly condemned at times, yet never waivers in her pride and persistence.

In times of need, she is the lone entity to step up to the plate, aiding any country who asks or even doesn't ask for her assistance.

She fights for what she trusts to be right, sometimes being proven wrong, but never giving up.

It's not easy to be the one at the top, but America has managed to do it and do it well.

While other countries sit on the sideline and criticize the rest of the world, America is the one to take action and take risks to make quality of life better for anyone she can.

Although she may be influenced by those who have their

own selfish agendas in mind, those people come and go, and she always returns to her good old self again.

No matter who may be at her reigns for the time being, she always reclaims her freedom.

As a good mother would, she has based her personal philosophy on liberty and independence for those who live under her roof.

America has done a commendable job on being open and adapting to negative criticism.

She never takes the hurtful protests personal and will even go as far as to encourage them.

She continuously grows and amends her ways to be more of what her people think she should be.

It can even be said that she continues to feed the mouths that insist on biting her hand.

America is not perfect. Not much is, but she is giving and nurturing and respects those that respect her.

Some countries suppress their people, dictate their lives and even kill for crimes against them.

Not America. She is forgiving, and always believes in her loved one's innocence.

It's time for people to learn to appreciate the country that loves them and learn to forgive her for her mistakes.

In times of need she always gives money even though she herself is in debt, she risks the lives of her own children to help strangers' children and she even gives regular people the chance to tell her how to live her life.

It takes a strong woman to be all of this, in spite of the way she is looked down upon and hated.

America deserves better, though, and will, someday get what she deserves: respect.

Angel Bailey is a journalism major and is a student in the Editorial Writing class.

Woman is enemy No. 1 to women

By JENNIFER MURPHY
Opinion editor

Women, we are our own worst enemy.

It seems we are very judgmental and even more critical when evaluating another woman, compared to evaluating men.

We, as women, set standards so high for each other and ourselves that would make it almost inconceivable for a woman to ever become president.

Any woman who desires to be president must not have had below a B average in college, lied (and been caught) or ever been linked to any illegal activity involving drugs like cocaine or marijuana.

Any one of these things would prevent a woman from becoming president, even if she claimed she didn't inhale.

All of these same qualities have been overlooked for current leaders who just so happen to be, for the most part, men.

Why, you ask, do we, as women, set standards so high for ourselves?

We are competitive.

Book judged by the cover

By EMILY TAYLOR
Special to The Shield

Stamped inside a weathered copy of Ernest Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls" is an unobtrusive placard signifying that the book was a gift to our university library from one B.F. Wolfe.

It was donated back when USI was a regional campus of Indiana State University.

The school has changed in many ways since then, and B.F. probably has too.

The pages of his donation are now yellowed with age and worn with use.

This particular copy was printed in 1973. In all likelihood, it has probably occupied the same shelf since then.

There is no introduction or analysis by some unknown author aspiring to become a scholar of all things literary.

There is no satin ribbon to mark the reader's place. This book is just Hemingway's words from cover to cover, beginning and ending just as he intended.

Shelved next to B.F.'s donation is a more modern-looking version of the same work, this one printed in 1993 by the Quality Paperback Book Club.

The newer copy is certainly more visually appealing with its glossy cover highlighting a black and white photo of the author at work.

The hard cover of the older edition bears no more than the author's name in black font, and yet it commands a respect unachieved by modern trappings.

While both copies afford the same words, B.F. Wolfe has

Life thrives on competition, win or lose.

Competition is animalistic, and, as much as we hate to admit it, humans are animals.

Humans might be a little smarter than the average creature and have a more complex brain, but we are still creatures, nonetheless.

Survival of the fittest plays out in politics more than Average Joe will ever know.

The fit know how to conceal a good lie or laundering scheme.

The fit are in control of their lives and hold a proper outward appearance at all times.

The fit have intelligence, or there is someone behind them pulling the strings with even greater intelligence.

A flawless, intelligent, beautiful (but not too beautiful to be flattered by vanity), honest and hard-working woman might have a chance at becoming our head of state, but it is doubtful it will happen in the near future.

Just to be safe, though, she had better get a hysterectomy before she begins the campaign trail.

Emily Taylor is a journalism major and is in the Editorial Writing class.

Teardrop's journey reflects a common bond of humanity

By TYRREN BONDS
Special to The Shield

Life is a mystery.

In the fight for individuality, we often lose sight of the features that make us all what we are.

For every unique trait each individual possesses, there are several other qualities that make people similar.

Symbolism plays a major role in our social construct. We frequently gauge an individual's demeanor and possession of social markers to make a presumption of who that person is and whether we would like to communicate with him or her.

While this is a complex screening process, today's society fails to begin at the elementary level of seeing people for what they are.

We are human with various needs, desires and emotions that define us.

The most basic display of our humanity is contained within our emotions.

Our entrance into and exit from this existence is marked by emotion in the visible form of a tear.

For whatever reason, tear ducts excrete the salty solution, the liquid, which is stored within the eyelids, does not begin to fall from the eyes until it has fully matured.

Upon maturation, the tear begins its journey from the eye down the face, and while sometimes changing directions, the tear manages to navigate the face until it glides off into the unknown.

As the tear falls, it begins its transition into another state and

fuses with the atmosphere to become a part of life itself.

A single tear can cause thousands more.

A single tear can change the world.

The raindrops of man can become nourishment for the land.

Throughout life, there are many reasons for tears being shed such as joy, sorrow and discomfort, but this is a commonality humans share.

Our lives are but a tear which is born of and displays emotion throughout its existence.

Just as a tear is fed until it is mature enough to exit the eye, our lives begin in the same fashion flowing along the face of existence leaving a signature trail.

A tear forms for unknown reasons to the observer, and when it begins its course, it has an

unknown destination.

Along the journey down the face, the tear is challenged by the natural terrain of the face only to end its course in the same fashion it began it.

Our social behavior is complex, but it is not more complex than the anatomy of a tear.

As humans, we should not embrace extreme pride-filled individuality, but rather, love the commonality of our existence.

We are all just a tear, a substance of emotion, flowing from the eye of the mother as a solution destined to become more than a wet spot on a dry surface.

Tyrren Bonds is a journalism major and is in the Editorial Writing class.

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Xbox 360 sells out worldwide

Microsoft shorts retailers for launch of their next generation system

By JONDI SCHMITT
Managing editor

The most desired item this holiday season may be the Xbox 360, but most people won't find it under their tree come Christmas morning.

Many retailers began pre-selling the Xbox 360 game system several months ago.

They sold a certain number based on what they anticipated they would receive from Microsoft.

They anticipated wrong. With tens of thousands of units pre-ordered, retailers warn customers not to count on shipments in time for Christmas.

"There is still a lot of hope out there with retailers that Microsoft will come through," said Jason Byrn, Manager of EB Games in Eastland Mall and on Evansville's west side.

"We are trying to prepare people for the worst."

Byrn says he remains hopeful that everyone who pre-ordered a unit will receive it before Christmas.

"A good portion will," he said. However, any holiday shopper hoping to purchase an Xbox 360 without having pre-ordered has few options.

"We won't have any to put on the shelves until January," said Jacob Kane, former west side EB Games manager.

Xbox 360 units are available for purchase on eBay. The going price is \$1,500 to \$2,500.

"Microsoft is doing something that has never been done before," Kane said.

"They are doing a worldwide launch."

The worldwide launch is, perhaps, the culprit of the shortage of units.

"If they had done a U.S. specific launch, we would be in better shape," Byrn said.

The Xbox 360 is rumored to be the next generation of gaming.

With the eBay going rate being as high as \$2,500 one might ask, is it worth it?

What is all the hype about?

"It offers so many more options," Byrn said. He got to play the 360 for the first time on the evening of Nov. 27.

He described it as "impressive."

"One neat trick is that you can load pictures onto the system and make a photo album," he said.

He said one of his co-workers put family pictures on his system and added a soundtrack to it and played it for his family.

"It is a multi-media machine," said Byrn.

According to a press release from Microsoft, the Xbox 360 is ultimately a gaming unit, but it is also an entertainment system.

Every system has built-in progressive-scan DVD movie, CD music and photo playback support.

Microsoft says every MP3 player, digital camera and Windows XP-based PC with a Universal Serial Bus (USB) 2.0 port can plug right into an Xbox 360 system to stream music and photos.

The integration of Xbox Live into the system lets players receive game invitations from friends while they are watching movies or listening to music.

Now people will be able to see when their friends are online, what they are playing and can even send voice messages to each other," Byrn said.

The Xbox 360 is available in two packages. The core system, which retails at \$299, includes the console, one wired control, the power supply and the appropriate AV cables.

"The core system is silly," Byrn said.

"I don't even know why they bothered with it."

The bundle, which sells for \$399, comes with the console, a 20gb hard drive, the power supply, a wireless controller, a headset, a DVD remote, Ethernet cables and the appropriate AV cables.

Byrn said the bundle is a much better deal.

With the core system, in order to save games people will still have to buy memory cards.

"They can buy a 64mb card for \$40, or they can

buy the 20gb hard drive that comes with the bundle for \$100."

Other than a shortage of systems across the country, Xbox fans could encounter another problem.

Some of the newly released systems may have bugs.

There have been reports of systems not functioning correctly.

While these faulty units seem to be mainly isolated cases, according to a Nov. 24 press release, the total number of reported problems is unknown until Microsoft releases that information.

"We have received a few isolated reports of consoles not working as expected," Microsoft spokeswoman Molly O'Donnell told CDRinfo.com.

"With a launch of this magnitude, you're bound to see something happening."



At right, the Xbox 360 launch party in the Mojave Desert.

As it turns out, this is about as close as most of them will ever get to a 360 for months.



New boutique offers runway fashion for less

By BETSY GENTRY
Fashion guru

If you are tired of having to go to the mall to buy clothes or don't feel comfortable ordering clothes online, District is the new trendy place in town for your wardrobe.

Owner Katie Blair opened the new boutique a couple of

weeks ago and feels this is the kind of clothing shop Evansville was missing.

Blair's interest in fashion started at a young age when she began making her own jewelry and clothes.

She later graduated with a fashion degree from the University of Kentucky and after working in a few boutiques in Kentucky, she moved to Evansville to start her own clothing shop.

She prides her store on having minimum quantities of all the

merchandise, making it next to impossible for anyone else in town to have your outfit.

Blair also receives new merchandise every few days, so every time you visit the store there are always new items to choose from.

Shirts are priced between \$20 to \$30 and pants vary from \$30 to \$60.

She also sells jewelry, which is priced as low as \$5 and goes up to \$20.

Twice a year Blair visits trade shows in Las Vegas, which is where the majority of the merchandise comes from.

I am very impressed with the store because everything was so in vogue; all of the merchandise looks identical to things from the runway but at a much lower price.

The quality of the clothes is fairly high too, which is rare when clothes are priced so moderately.

Blair really knows style, and the clothes she sells in her shop really reflect her superb knowledge of the fashion industry.

It is nice to have a new boutique that really caters to the college lifestyle and trends.

Blair's best selling brands are Double Zero, Sooki and Do & B. I personally am a fan of Chinese Laundry shoes and the Miss Me line which she carries a wide variety of in her store.

District also offers a 10 percent discount to students who present their ID when they spend over \$50.

District is hosting a fashion show Dec. 16 at the new Woody's bar downtown around 10 p.m., where I will be one of the models doing the infamous catwalk.

District Boutique is located at 2809 Lincoln Ave, Suite 124 and is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

For more information, contact District at 812-401-7777.

Musician finds success through tragedy, with God

By ASHLEE MCCANN
The Shield staff

Hoosier musician Jeremy Camp will be gracing the stage in Evansville at The Centre on February 18th.

This 24-year-old guitar playing singer is may be new to the Christian music circuit, but his latest album sings like a veteran.

Camp started singing and playing guitar after he left Lafayette, Ind., to go to college in California.

Once out there he realized he had a gift for praising God through music. During his college stint he began playing across California.

As a Christian song writer he carried his voice to several Bible studies, making his music well known in the Christian scene.

While traveling, Camp met his future wife, and they began a relationship with each other.

Her role in his life played a large part in the song writing process for Camp's new album, "Restored".

After only a few months of marriage tragedy struck when Camp's young wife died of ovarian cancer.

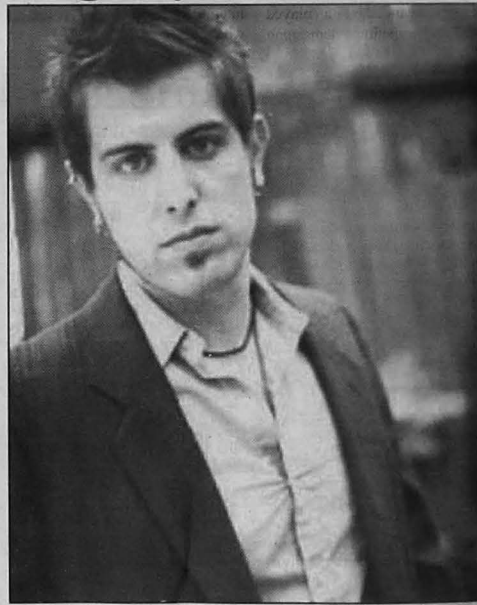
The hit song "I Still Believe" is about this hardship.

Through his music he has shared her story and gotten through that tough time.

Camp has gotten through past misfortunes and has now moved on, in his music career and in life.

Camp has been nominated Male Vocalist of Year the last two years from the Gospel Music Association. Camp has also remarried and has had his first child on top of all the fame.

"Restored" is Camp's second album, his first a worship CD that



Ladies and gentlemen, may we introduce to you, Jeremy Camp.

A Lafayette, Ind. native, Camp is burning up the Christian music scene and coming to a town near you.

was a hit nationwide. This second album is more pop with some rock splashed in here and there.

Camp's voice pushes the album and pulls listeners in.

The album also has a few songs that are more on the worship side.

"All the writing for this record has come from reflection as I've spent time with the Lord, growing and maturing with my walk," Camp said.

Any Christian music fan should check out Camp's newest

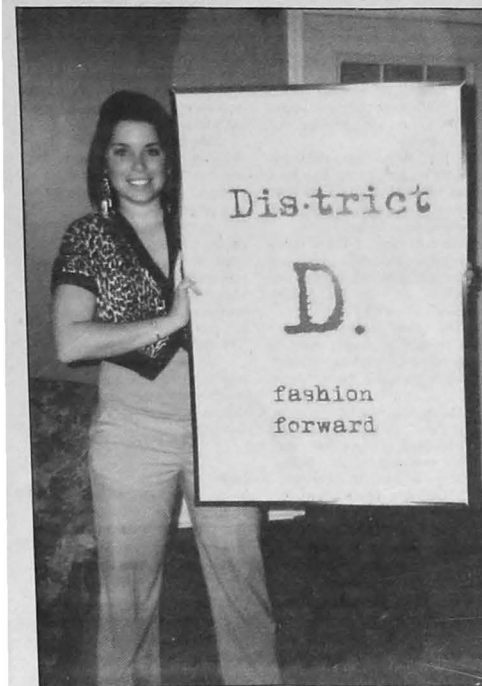
CD, then see him live this February.

Christian or not, Camp's voice and music can be appreciated and liked by all.

If nothing else, go support Camp because he's a fellow Hoosier.

Camp will be in Evansville on Feb. 18th along with Andrew Carlton.

Tickets run from \$15.00 to \$25.00. More information can be found via ticketmaster.com or at The Centre.



District owner Katie Blair shows off her sign.



Just a few of the options you have at District. Aren't they beautiful?

Photos by Betsy Gentry

They said it...

'He wants us to be the best defensive team we've ever been so if we get good defense then that leads to offense.'

Freshman Keisha Collins on Coach Stein

'We played with a lot of heart and desire.'

Coach Rick Herdes on his team's performance in the first round of the USI Invitational.

'It's a way of meeting new people and it actually gives me something to look forward to at the end of the day.'

Senior Erin Steinkamp on Intramural Volleyball

Eagles' Athletics news

Golf

The Screaming Eagles women's golf team inked two rookies, Brittney Kyler and Renee DeCaro, for the 2006-2007 season.

Kyler is a three-time All-Conference selection and was named All-Area as a senior.

DeCaro was named team MVP for three years, Academic-All-state in 2005 and placed 13th at the IHSAA State tournament this year.

Cross Country

Center Grove High School standout Andrew Menner officially signed with Coach Mike Hilliard. Menner was named Academic All-State in Cross Country and Academic All-conference in Track and Field.

Volleyball

Coach Leah Mercer received two national letters of intent this week. Courtney Bealer (LaPorte, Ind.) and Ashley Henricks (Greenwood, Ind.) are the first to join Mercer's squad in the early signing period.

Eagles travel to UM-Rolla after winning four in a row

By KATIE BUSCHING
Sports editor

After the disappointment at Disney, the Screaming Eagles women's basketball team picked themselves up and brushed up on the basics to begin their home schedule.

Of the 14 players Coach Rick Stein has on his team, half are newcomers.

"That's a lot of new faces out there," said Stein.

"They are fitting in well, which is great. But we are all still trying to learn each other and learn the system."

"We do a lot of defensive things [in practice]," said Freshman Keisha Collins. "He [Stein] wants us to be the best defensive team we've ever been so if we get good defense then that leads to offense."

In their home opener, the Eagles flew by Brescia University in an 87-62 win.

Sophomore Jasmine Baines finished the game with a team-high 20 points to seal the deal for her team. Freshman Jessica Minnick seemed to always be under the basket at the right time, notching 10 rebounds in the game.

One of the new promising faces on the team, Collins put 10 points on the board and had seven assists, a game high against Brescia University.

"I've learned a lot from [the veteran players], Tiara [Brown], Leah [Stormont], all the guards, and I'm looking up to them. They are taking me underneath their wing and are helping me out a lot," said Collins.

Newcomer, Junior Katie Theisenhusen started the scoring with the first five points.

A transfer student from Meskego, Wis., Theisenhusen finished the home stand with 18 assists and 56 points.

In the second of the four-game home stand against regional opponents, the Northwood University Timberwolves, four players notched double digits in the

scoring column

Jasmine Baines ended up with 15 points before fouling out in the final two minutes of the game.

Theisenhusen put up an impressive 22 points against the Timberwolves.

The next time the Screaming Eagles took to the court at the PAC, they were faced with the Marauders of Central State University (Ohio).

In the first five minutes, the home team trailed by one point, before going on a 14-0 run.

The Eagles finished the first half with a 38-13 cushion and never looked back.

At the end of that Tuesday night contest, the Screaming Eagles were gazing down at a 74-38 win and looking ahead to keep their spotless home record unblemished.

"I think one of the things we've done well early on is guard, and we held this team to 60 points, forced 31 turnovers.

"The last three weeks we've been focusing on the offensive end and we've trying to get some things done," said Stein.

Sunday, the Eagles took to the court to take on West Virginia Wesleyan.

The Eagles forced 31 turnovers and banked on the Bobcats' misfortune, scoring nearly half of their field goals on turnovers.

"That zone has stagnated us just a little bit, we turned the ball over way too many times, but we learned a lot about our team and some things we need to work on.

"But I was pleased overall, just to come out of here with a win today. We are .500 going into conference play," said Stein.

The Screaming Eagles took to the road and visited Missouri-Rolla for the first time on Tuesday.

The Eagles then travel to St. Louis to face the Riverwomen of UMST before heading home to face the Rangers of Wisconsin-Parkside on Dec. 8.



Senior Tiara Brown moves past a defender as Central State University puts pressure on the Screaming Eagles offense on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

Photo By Greg Nixon
Courtesy of News & Information

Men put their spotless record to the test

By ANDREW STANLEY
The Shield staff

Three schools showed up, invitations in hand in hopes of running away with the USI Invitational.

To the Screaming Eagles' opponents' dismay, the weekend was all about the two teams in the GLVC.

"We played with a lot of heart and desire," Coach Rick Herdes said of his team's performance over the Thanksgiving weekend.

The men's basketball team kept their record perfect by going 2-0 in the USI Invitational.

The Eagles broke the century mark for the first time this season, defeating Glenville State 107-69 last Friday night.

They dominated the game from the opening tip and never looked back.

They led by as many as 18 points in the first half. The Pioneers fought back to close the gap to seven before USI went on a 26-2 run that sealed the victory.

USI's senior forward Chris Thompson led the Eagles in scoring for the fifth consecutive game with a team-high 25 points.

"Chris continues to be the best player that steps on the floor night in and night out," Coach Herdes said of his pre-season All-American.

Five other Screaming eagles joined Thompson in the double-digit scoring column. Melvin Hall put up an impressive 16 points, while David Bryant and Geoff Van Winkle scored 14 a piece.

Not far behind, Nick Brooks and Mike Harrington added 12 points each to the season-high 107 for the Eagles.

USI continued their winning ways Saturday night against Central State University, defeating the

Marauders 94-68.

This win was not so easy, CSU wanted to break even in the tournament after losing to the Knights of Bellemeine the previous night.

Coach Herdes said, "We didn't play smart, but the effort was there. I was happy with the play of all of my seniors, they were very unselfish."

That unselfishness allowed three Eagles to post double-doubles.

Chris Thompson added his fourth double-double in six games with a game-high 18 points and 12 boards.

Junior Marty Wise finished right behind Thompson in scoring, with his season-high 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Junior Keith Christmas was the third Eagle to post a double-double, finishing with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

For the second night in a row, the Eagles ran away with the game by going on a 22-4 run.

They shot 80 percent during that run, and finished the half with a 66.7 field goal percentage.

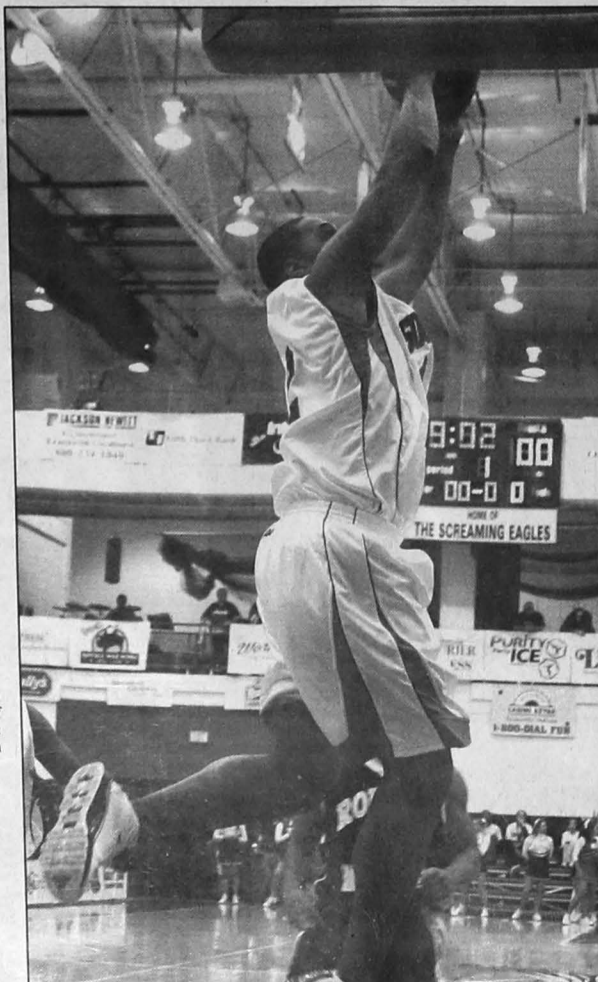
They expanded their lead to as many as 29 points before finishing with the 26-point victory.

Each team played twice, and two teams seemed to have swept the tournament.

But there was never a championship game between the Bellemeine Knights and the Screaming Eagles who both went 2-0 in the Invitational.

USI improved their record to a perfect 6-0 for the season.

The Eagles look to keep their hot start rolling against their next opponent, GLVC rival, Missouri-Rolla. They will then wrap up their first conference road trip, Dec. 3 at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.



Senior Danny Gibson breaks away from the pack and shoots a layup in the Eagles win against Robert Morris College.

Look for the Screaming Eagles to be back at the PAC to defend their perfect home record on Dec. 8 when they take on the Rangers of Wisconsin-Parkside at 7:30 p.m.

Photo by Greg Nixon
Courtesy of News & Information

By the numbers Volleyball an intramural favorite

| | |
|------|---|
| 107 | Season-high scoring mark for Men's Basketball team |
| 3 | Double-doubles posted by Men's team against Central State |
| 4 | Double-doubles recorded by Chris Thompson in last six games |
| 31 | Turnovers forced by Women's team against West Virginia Wesleyan |
| 4 | Winning streak for Women's basketball team |
| 2 | Number of Volleyball players selected to the All-American Volleyball Coaches Association All-Region team |
| 6 | Number of players from the Men's team to score in the double-digits against Glenville State |
| 7 | Number of new faces on the Women's Screaming Eagles basketball team |
| 6-0 | Men's basketball team's record so far this season |
| 66.7 | Three-point field goal percentage for Women's team against West Virginia Wesleyan |
| 2 | Number of Screaming Eagles head basketball coaches named Rick |

By ERIN HOBGOOD
The Shield staff

Intramural sports have been quite popular this year with the student body. But none have been so popular as intramural volleyball.

This year the number of students signed up for intramural volleyball is a record-setting number. In fact, so many students have signed up that Joseph Gratz, the assistant director of intramural/recreational sports, has had to do quite a bit of rearranging so everyone can have a chance to participate.

There were 65 teams signed up to play. Of that number, 36 teams are in the women's division and 29 are in the men's division.

"There are so many teams we

are struggling to give them five games each year in every sport," Gratz said. "We have only so many facilities to play in so that makes it tough."

Senior Erin Steinkamp said, "It's a way of meeting new people and it actually gives me something to look forward to at the end of the day."

While the numbers are increasing in each intramural sport, volleyball was the one with the most participants.

Therefore, it allowed for the intramural sports directors to get creative when thinking about how to be able to accommodate all of the teams signed up to play.

"For volleyball we maxed out and were able to give each team five games," Gratz said.

To accommodate all of the 65

teams, there are six women's leagues and five men's leagues.

Senior John Spindler said, "It's a good way for students to get involved in extracurricular activities."

Gratz said that the department set up leagues consisting of six teams in each league. This enables everyone to play five games at least.

The games are played on three different courts at the PAC and one court at the RFC.

The games being as early as 7:15 p.m. and continue through to 10:15 p.m. when the last league takes the court.

The teams that win their league get a t-shirt to advance to the single elimination tournament along with the team that is first runner-up in the division.

In other words, there will be 11 separate league winners, and 22 teams advancing to a single elimination tournament.

The tournament is a single elimination event for both the men's and women's leagues.

Twelve women's teams and 10 men's teams will have a chance to compete for the title of intramural champion in the tournament.

The winners will receive a long-sleeved special volleyball champions t-shirt.

The second place team will get a finalist t-shirt. Along with these awards, an MVP will be picked who will receive a sweatshirt.

The second day of tournament play will continue this Thursday at 9 p.m. in the PAC and RFC.

Sports' fanatics find home on Facebook

By JD BRADFORD
Special to The Shield

If you haven't heard, or maybe you must be living under a rock somewhere, the Facebook is the place to be.

One can find nearly anybody they know on the Web site, along with being able to join the groups.

Groups are the easiest way to find people that share common interests. One genre is a sports' group.

Sports seem to be the equalizers in American culture. No matter what race, creed or social status one may have, following a sport can put them on top or level them out.

Every sports fan knows that feeling when their favorite team just won the big game, or went through yet another heartbreaking losing season.

Whether riding on the heels of greatness or wallowing in the agony of defeat, there is a place for just about anyone just one mouse click away.

Facebook sports groups allows fans of certain teams or individuals to find those same kindred spirits whose mood depends on the final score of the game, or just be able to chat with somebody about how your team looks this season.

Even sports that are just now starting to grow in popularity have a fan base on Facebook. NASCAR has dozens of groups all over the country, and seems to be getting more popular every

year.

Even games such as Texas Hold'em have taken on an abundance of fans throughout the Facebook.

USI is not immune to the grip of the Facebook fanfare.

Our school has its own groups for Varsity sports such as, soccer, basketball, softball, baseball and track.

USI's club sports have a following on Facebook as well.

There are at least two groups for the Ice Eagles hockey club, and a group for Rugby fans to join.

Someone even has a group pushing for our non-existent foot-

ball team.

Ricky Crider, the Reitz stand-out running back even has his own fan base of 40 people at USI, along with 95 groupies.

Facebook sports groups are not always the rah-rah fans you normally see.

Some fan groups have only one thought, bashing their rivals. In Indiana Reggie Miller is loved, but if you travel to New York, it's a different story.

Red Sox fans can rejoice in the idea of being able to join the multiple anti-Yankees groups that are out there, and there are many to choose from.

Like any online sports chat room, Facebook gives you as many options as you can imagine.

There is something for everybody, from the most loveable of losers, to the most dominating dynasties.

Facebook fans can find a group, or even make up their own, to show support for any and all teams, no matter what sport it is.

The Facebook can unite fans from all over the country and give you a chance to know that the fan isn't alone as they stride or struggle through this and every other season.


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CAMPUS CALENDAR

Thursday, Dec 1

12 p.m.
Pott College Colloquium: Delocalization in Disordered Periodic Systems
Pott College of Science and Engineering Colloquium lecture presented by Glen Kissel, assistant professor of engineering.
Mitchell Auditorium

3 p.m.
Finals Quest
Feeling unprepared about finals? Not sure how to get organized? Don't face the unknown unprepared! Come to this presentation to learn how to develop a five-day study plan as well as what to do before and during your finals.
Presented by Lori Saxby, Study Skills specialist, Academic Skills EC 1102

7:30 p.m.
36th Annual USI Madrigal Feast
The 36th annual Madrigal Feast commences with feasting, song, dancing, and mirth. Guests will toast with wassail, feast upon His Majesty's Royal Fare, and enjoy the stirring sounds of the USI Chamber Choir as they sing music fit for angels. Carter Hall

9 p.m.
Dukes of Hazzard
Free Movie: Dukes of Hazzard, featuring Sean William Scott, Johnny Knoxville, Burt Reynolds, and Jessica Simpson. The event is free and includes free popcorn and prizes. This event sponsored by APB.
Forum 1

Friday, Dec. 2

3 p.m.
Biology Fall Seminar: The Evolution of Mammalian Gliding: A Wish for Wings that Work
Biology Department seminar presented by John Scheibe of Southeast Missouri State University.
EC 1101

7:30 p.m.
36th Annual USI Madrigal Feast
Carter Hall

7:30 p.m.
Friday Night in the Forum
Friday Night in the Forum presents

"Kitchen Stories" - a film from Norway, Sweden.
Forum 1

Saturday, Dec 3

7:30 p.m.
36th Annual USI Madrigal Feast
Carter Hall

Sunday, Dec. 4

4 p.m.
Lighting a Tradition
Holiday tree-lighting featuring the Madrigal Singers, photos with Santa, and free refreshments, sponsored by the USI Student Alumni Association. Students, employees, alumni, and their families are welcomed.
Admission to the event is one canned good or non-perishable food item.
OC Lobby

6 p.m.
36th Annual USI Madrigal Feast
Carter Hall

Monday, Dec 5

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Open auditions for The Exonerated
See Campus Roundup for more information

Tuesday, Dec. 6

12 p.m.
Nix the Fix Smoking Cessation
This 4-week class will help smokers make the transition to become non-smokers.
UC 215

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Open auditions for The Exonerated
See Campus Roundup for more information

Wednesday Dec. 7

8 p.m.
Holiday Fun Night
Intramurals is hosting a fun night at Walther's Fun Center. Come and play putt putt, laser tag or the many different video games. Deadline is December 2.
\$5 per person
Walther's Golf n Fun Center

Campus Roundup

Sixty-one students accepted

The USI Honors Program is announcing the names of 61 freshmen who have been accepted into the program this fall.

Students who earn an SAT score of 1200+ or ACT composite of 27+ are automatically accepted into the Honors Program upon application.

Other students are encouraged to apply and evaluations are based upon cumulative grade point average, class rank, academic background, and extra curricular activities.

These students join 194 USI students who are in the Honors Program

Paper explores science, politics

In "Comparative Boundary Work: U.S. Acid Rain and Global Climate Change Policy Deliberations," Stephen Zehr, chair of the USI Sociology Department, explores the relationship between science and politics - specifically, the boundary between the two, and how they affect communication in the policy realm.

The paper will be published in the December issue of "Science and Public Policy," a special issue on boundary works in science and technology policy.

"When scientists bring information, politicians often say scientists don't understand the political side of it," Zehr said. "Scientists, on the flipside, say that politicians don't listen to them."

"There needs to be some kind of mechanism to bring the two together - to merge the scientific realities with political reali-

ties to make things work."

There are no 'sacred cows'

For his students, Dr. Howard Gabennesch's name is synonymous with critical thinking.

"Back in 1968 I read a book called Invitation to Sociology by an important sociologist named Peter Berger, and that really got me started in what I would later come to realize consciously, and articulate explicitly, as critical thinking," Gabennesch said.

Though critical thinking has influenced his teaching from the start, he has specifically incorporated it into his teaching in the last 15 years.

"I started off using a critical thinking approach to teaching sociology, and then I realized the biggest contribution I could make to my students' education was to use sociology as an instrument to teach critical thinking," he said.

"That's how I've viewed my teaching goals ever since."

His article, "Critical Thinking: What is it Good for? (In Fact, What is it?)," will appear in the January 2006 issue of Skeptical Inquirer: The Magazine for Science and Reason.

In the article, Gabennesch discusses his approach to critical thinking, in which "everything is scrutinized and there are no sacred cows."

Theatre to hold open auditions

USI Theatre will hold open auditions for The Exonerated, a play by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen based on the true stories of

six people who were wrongly convicted of murder and their experiences on Death Row, on December 5 and 6 from 5 p.m. till 7 p.m. each day in the Mallette Studio Theatre on the lower level of the Liberal Arts Center.

Any USI student may audition. The play requires race-specific casting; four of the ten roles available are for African-American actors.

Performances of The Exonerated will be held February 15 - 26, 2006.

Rehearsals will begin in January and are generally held Monday - Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

Students who wish to audition for The Exonerated should sign up for an audition spot on the callboard behind the Mallette Studio Theatre or come the night of the auditions and wait for an open spot.

According to Wasserman, everyone who wants to audition will be seen.

Auditioners should prepare a one to two minute monologue from the play, which is on reserve in Rice Library under Wasserman's name.

Theatre majors are required to memorize their monologues.

For more information, contact Wasserman at 465-1614 or visit the Theatre Management office in LA 3094.

AAA scholarship offered

Each Year the USI AAA Organization presents a \$500 scholarship to a deserving student. The requirements that must be

met are:

1. The applicant must be a full-time student one semester prior to applying for the scholarship
2. The applicant must be a full-time student when scholarship is taken.
3. The applicant must maintain a 3.0 GPA.
4. The applicant must be in need of financial assistance; however, may be receiving other financial aid.

The members of the USI Administration Assistants and Associates Organization will select the scholarship recipient. The scholarship will be awarded during Honors Week in March.

Applications are available on-line at <http://www.usi.edu/aaa/> or contact Mary McGrew or Donna Hopf in the business office for more information.

USI gets ready for holidays

The annual "Lighting a Tradition" will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, in the Orr Center Lobby.

This tree-lighting event brings the holiday spirit to campus and features the USI Chamber Choir, Santa photos with the children and free refreshments.

Admission to the event is one canned good or non-perishable food item for Archibald Eagle's Food Closet.

For more information, contact USI Alumni & Volunteer Services at 812/464-1924.

"Lighting a Tradition" is sponsored by the USI Student Alumni Association.

SHIELD Help Wanted

The Shield has several positions opening for the spring semester. Paid positions include editors, reporters, photographers and advertising reps.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact The Shield by e-mail at shield@usi.edu or by phone at 465-1645



EVERY WEDNESDAY HUMP DAY

COLLEGE NIGHT
25 cents DRAFT
25 cents WELLS
\$2.00 PITCHERS

DECEMBER 7th

BOSKO

EVERY TUESDAY FREE COVER

Acoustic with Nathan & Justin

EVERY THURSDAY

TEXAS HOLD'EM
7 & 10
\$3.50 PITCHERS

FRIDAYS

FREE COVER WITH COLLEGE ID
\$1.00 LONG NECKS
\$3.00 PITCHERS
\$4.00 VODKA RED BULLS
\$4.25 JAEGER BOMBS

EVERY FRIDAY: NATIONAL COMEDIANS

Doors open at 6pm
TICKETS ONLY
\$5 WITH USI ID



December 3rd

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