

Dead-week long time coming

By **BOBBY DENSFORD**
Staff Writer
rdensfor@ius.edu

The Student Government Association is proposing incorporating a dead week at IU Southeast.

A dead week is when no assignments are due and no new material is taught the week before final exams. In the proposal, classes are optional and if taught, would only serve as a semester review of material.

Floella Gonya, general

studies senior and SGA vice president, originated the idea of a dead week at IU Southeast.

"Oh sure, some students will goof off during dead week," Gonya said. "But for most students, it will be a godsend. It will give the serious student the time they need to prepare for finals. This is especially true for classes where a term paper is substituted for a test, for the final grade like an English class."

Gonya said she wants to

'Oh sure, some students will goof off during dead week.'

Floella Gonya
SGA vice president
general studies senior



make sure students understand that by creating the dead week, the SGA is not extending the semester. The current 14-week semester

would stay intact. Her plan will call for the cooperation of the faculty who will need to increase the students' work load incrementally in

each of the 13 preceding weeks.

Joe Wert, associate professor of political science, said there are some hurdles to

overcome.

"We are required by the Commission of Higher Education in Indiana to have a certain number of class hours each semester," Wert said, "and right now, we are at the very minimum number of class hours. Depending on how dead week is implemented, we may run afoul of that regulation. If that's the case, we'd have to tack on a week at the end of the semester."

SEE DEAD, PAGE 2

UC North restrooms closed

By **ZAK BECHER**
Staff Writer
zbecher@ius.edu

The bathrooms in University Center North closed Monday, Jan. 22 for two months, due to a multi-million dollar expansion.

Construction started in July of 2006 and is scheduled for completion by the middle of summer.

Sam Asberry is the project manager for the University Center renovations.

"The new University Center will be very nice after the construction," Asberry said.

The new bathrooms will be bigger and more handicap accessible.

"This will change everything in the University Center North and I think students and faculty will be pleased," Asberry said.

Alane Ziemer, journalism senior, addressed another aspect of the project.

"It's really an inconvenience," Ziemer said. "Some students might not know where other restrooms are located and there are no



Photograph by Zak Becher

signs which give directions for other facilities."

The bathrooms in University Center South will be open through the construction.

They are located on the bottom floor between the bookstore and the loading dock.

Ben Wilmes, biology senior, is the secretary of interior/exterior for the Facilities and Safeties Committee. He said the main focus for the FSC right now is to regulate a smoking policy for IU Southeast.

"I didn't know about it

[the bathrooms] until I saw it," Wilmes said. "Having those restrooms closed makes it very difficult when you are eating."

"Having construction on these bathrooms makes it difficult because if you are eating in the cafeteria you have to walk all the way down to the other end of the building, but it needs to be done," Wilmes said. "Fixing the restrooms one at a time would be the way to go."

The restrooms are located adjacent to the cafeteria, which becomes very congested around lunch.

'Some students might not know where other restrooms are located and there are no signs which give directions to other facilities.'

Alane Ziemer
journalism senior

After the construction the new addition will be twice its current size.

A new elevator is also being installed next to the Hoosier Room. New conference rooms will also be built.

The plan calls for the incorporation of state-of-the-art technology in the new rooms.

Geese, feces face hazards

By **JUSTIN CARTER**
Staff writer
bencarte@ius.edu

IU Southeast is planning to break ground for the new residence halls by late spring or early summer in order for them to be open in time for the fall 2008 semester. However, there are a few dozen waterfowl that might make a stink out of the situation.

On Jan. 10, Chancellor Sandra Patterson-Randles sent an e-mail to all IUS faculty and employees asking them to stop feeding the ducks and geese that congregate around the lake.

"Since there will be many more campus activities and human use of the space surrounding the lake," Patterson-Randles said, "the huge volume of bird droppings will be a real health concern, in addition to the hazards the site will present to the birds themselves."

She said anyone who feeds the birds should stop doing so immediately so as to encourage a natural relocation of the bird population as soon as possible.

"I'd say it's not good to feed wildlife in any situation," Randy Hunt, assistant professor of biology, said. "It's definitely not a natural situation for the geese or anything, so I don't see any need for anyone to try and save their habitat."

Hunt said the number of geese currently around the



'I don't think people realize how far pathogens and bacteria associated with their waste can travel.'

Claude Baker
biology professor

lake would not be healthy for students living in the new dorms. He also said there can be pathogens in the feces and that the waste around the pond could pose health threats and more cleaning for construction crews and Physical Plant workers.

"Their feces is everywhere," Hunt said. "I chal-

SEE GEESSE, PAGE 2

Higher education, lower rates

By **LORI RICHIE**
Staff Writer
larichie@ius.edu

Congressman Baron Hill was on campus Jan. 19 to discuss the cutting of interest rates on subsidized student loans.

Hill introduced the College Student Relief Act which was recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The bill will cut the interest rate on subsidized loans in half.

"Interest reduction is always a good thing," Brittany Hubbard, director of financial aid, said.

Over the next five years the interest rate will be cut in phases until it reaches 3.4 percent, half of the current rate of 6.8 percent.

The rate on the federal Stafford student loan was a variable rate until Congress decided to lock the interest

rate to a fixed 6.8 percent in July 2006.

It is estimated that students will save more than \$2,000 throughout the life of their loan.

"Anytime you save money it is good for the student," Hubbard said.

There are drawbacks to the bill. The bill contains a clause called a sunset clause. The sunset clause states that after six years the interest rate will return to the 6.8 percent.

Hubbard said she believes this will give Congress time to construct a new bill to help with interest rates.

The bill is designed to only assist need-based loans for lower to middle-income students and families on subsidized loans.

Subsidized loans are loans that the government pays interest on until the student graduates and

'Any time you save money, it is good for the student.'

Brittany Hubbard
Financial Aid director



assumes the loan themselves.

Normally a student would consolidate the loans they have borrowed over their student career.

With the new changes, the student should ensure it is a sound plan, Hubbard said.

When consolidating loans an average of the stu-

dent's loan rates is used as the rate for the consolidated amount.

Hubbard said IU Southeast had 10.2 million in subsidized loans and 8.1 million in unsubsidized from October 2005 to September 2006.

The bill still needs to pass the Senate and be signed by President Bush in order to be enacted.

SGA constitutional amendments tabled again

By **JEROD CLAPP**
Editor
jclapp@ius.edu

The proposed constitutional amendments that would change the structure of the Student Government Association's senate were

tabled again this week row at their meeting on Feb. 1.

Jaarad Taylor, political science junior and SGA president, was one of the authors of the bill to amend that part of the constitution, but was not present at the meeting because of a hernia

operation.

David Prince, secondary education senior and senate chair said some members of the senate were reluctant to vote at the time since they made changes to the bill without Taylor there.

"Since Jaarad was one of

the main ones to write the bill, they didn't want to make a decision without him there," Prince said.

The bill was amended to change the number of students the deans of each

SEE SGA, PAGE 2



'Since there will be many more campus activities and human use of the space surrounding the lake, the huge volume of bird droppings will be a real health concern, in addition to the hazards the site will present to the birds themselves.'

Sandra Patterson-Randles
Chancellor