

THE IUPUI SAGAMORE

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COMMUNITY • CAMPUS • SPORTS • LIFE • VIEWPOINTS

THE MURDER OF AN IUPUI STUDENT

"We never missed the chance to tell each other 'I love you.' And gave me this gift of life for 20 years, and I never thought it would be taken away or exchanged."

Sharon Towner
Mother of Tahnesia Towner

*Tahnesia
Towner*

"She was the perfect role model. She was deeply needed here. She was just the beginning of something marvelous."

Chalice Shannon
IUPUI student, sister of Tahnesia Towner.

1979-2000

■ Police bring in man living across the hall from victim for routine questioning and arrest him after crime lab finds his prints in deceased's apartment.

■ Investigators think suspect tried to make the murder appear as if it had stemmed from a robbery, taking the victim's purse and some personal papers.

■ Suspect's wife is a 1999 IUPUI graduate who police say cannot provide an alibi for her husband between the hours they think victim was killed.

Neighbor arrested in brutal murder of IUPUI sophomore

The suspect



Name: Desmond Loftis
Age: 25
Connection to victim: Neighbor
Criminal history: Found guilty to battery, criminal mischief, July 1995.
Employment: Unemployed
Family: Married to Latasha Anderson Loftis, a 1999 IUPUI graduate.

Early in the investigation, Lt. Steve Garner, homicide detective (below), said police thought the murder scene was made to resemble a burglary.



By J.M. Brown
EDITOR IN CHIEF
AND
Jenny Montgomery
NEWS EDITOR

Late last week police arrested an Indianapolis man in connection with the death of Tahnesia Towner, an IUPUI student whose partially-clothed body was discovered Feb. 8 in a trash dumpster a mile from campus.

The suspect has been held on a preliminary charge of murder, and detectives expect a formal charge to be issued shortly by the Marion County Prosecutor's Office.

Homicide investigators decided to detain the victim's neighbor, Desmond Loftis, 25, after he was brought in to police headquarters for routine questioning Feb. 10.

During the interview, detectives received an alarming call from the crime lab: investigators had found Loftis' prints on Towner's dresser.

Sgt. Paul Ciesielski, Indianapolis Police Department spokesperson, said Loftis had told investigators he was never in Towner's apartment. He also failed a voice stress test administered by police during the interview.

After nearly three days of combing the city for leads and questioning a number of Towner's acquaintances, the police are confident they have arrested a solid suspect, Ciesielski said.

The unemployed man who police think broke into Towner's apartment and strangled the 20-year-old biology student, pled guilty in 1995 to a battery charge against his ex-girlfriend, Latasha Anderson Loftis, 23, who is now his wife.

She lived with her husband in the apart-



Photos by J.M. Brown/The Sagamore

Investigators with the Indianapolis Police Department interviewed residents of the near Northwest side apartment complex where the body of Tahnesia Towner, an IUPUI student who was majoring in biology, was found partially-clothed in a dumpster Feb. 8. Towner was 20 years old.

ment across the hall from Towner, is a 1999 IUPUI graduate.

The case

Lt. Steve Garner, homicide detective, stood by the curb on Ransom Street, just a few yards from the dumpster where Towner's body had been discovered one day earlier.

"You don't just find this street," he said. "You have to know it."

Garner and Det. Kenneth Martinez were

See SUSPECT • Page 2

Towner was well loved by family

Funeral Monday

Services for Tahnesia Towner will be at 1 p.m. Feb. 14 in Stuart Mortuary Chapel, with calling from noon. Burial will be in Crown Hill Cemetery.

By Jamil Odum
LIFE EDITOR

A bodyguard to her brothers. A role model to her sisters. And a best friend to her mother.

Tahnesia Towner lived these roles on a daily basis. Whether it was swinging a bat to ward off bullies or screaming because of a crawfish bite, her family's memories of her are many and colorful.

"I took her to the Bahamas as a graduation gift," Sharon Towner, Tahnesia's mother, told *The Sagamore*. "She had this two-piece outfit on and her hair was done."

"She finally got in the water and just screamed. It was a crawfish that bit her," she continued. "Tahnesia came out the water and never went

See FAMILY • Page 3

THIS
WEEK

CAMPUS
PAGE 4

■ Chicago Supreme Court judge to speak on judicial freedoms at law school.

SPORTS
PAGE 5

■ Women's basketball on a roll, winning four of last five. Men's basketball wins second straight.

VIEWPOINTS
PAGE 7

■ Former U.S. Representative encourages voters to look for 'real' politicians.



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SUSPECT

Continued from Page 1

trying to relay information about pieces of the murder investigation, many of which seemed not to fit together.

The victim, an IUPUI sophomore, had no connection to the area where she was found, six miles from her home on Leatherbury Lane in Williamsburg North Apartments.

Her car was parked a few hundred feet from her apartment. Her cellular phone, purse and some personal paperwork from her apartment were missing. By press time, those items had not been located by police.

Police had no idea where to begin. "I see most anything as a possibility," Garner said early in the investigation.

Now, the possibilities are narrowing. Authorities have developed a theory that Towner was murdered in her apartment, probably soon after she returned home from work Monday between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Ciesielski said authorities think

Loftis was in Towner's apartment, waiting for the victim. After she died from strangulation, police think Loftis carried Towner's body down to her car sometime after dark and drove the deceased to the Ransom Street site where he left her in a dumpster.

Police theorize, the suspect then drove back to Williamsburg North, parked the victim's car and drove his own car to pick up his wife from work at 11 p.m.

"One of the theories (detectives) assumed from the start was that (the murderer) had to be someone the victim was close to, because otherwise, a murderer wouldn't have removed the body from the crime scene," Ciesielski said.

"They'd kill the person and just walk away, and here an effort was made to move the body, which is pretty rare."

The crime scene

Placed by a temporary employment agency, Towner had worked at Methodist Hospital for only eight days.

After clocking out of the hospital garage Feb. 7, police say Towner called managers of her apartment complex, requesting that the lock on

her on door be changed.

According to police, she feared someone had been entering her apartment when she was not there; however, she never formally reported a break in with police.

Strangely, four hours after Towner's body was found the next day, police say the suspect reported his apartment had been burglarized. That claim was one of many oddities that led investigators to think Loftis tried to cover the crime by making it appear there had been a string of robberies.

Inside Towner's apartment, there were signs of a burglary and a struggle: CDs, bills and a promissory note for a student loan are still missing and some of Towner's furniture was broken.

When police went to Towner's apartment to gather clues about her murder, they found the front door kicked in, which might have indicated a burglary had occurred.

However, police have now determined the door was forced open after the murder.

At press time, Ciesielski said investigators were still awaiting forensic evidence that might place Loftis inside Towner's car. They also are an-

ticipating the results of a complete autopsy that might further link Loftis to Towner.

Police cannot yet say whether Towner's body shows signs of a sexual assault.

Early inquiries

During the investigation, Garner said Towner's boyfriend might have been the department's first suspect had he had a solid alibi.

Police say the boyfriend, Stacey Young, who Garner believed to be in his 20s, was in jail at the time authorities think Towner was killed.

Detectives also questioned a man whose romantic overtures Sgt. Martinez said Towner had declined, Derrick Manns, who lives in Williamsburg North, was cleared and released by police Feb. 10.

Shortly after police excused Manns, they brought in Loftis for questioning about the murder.

"Through out the interview, (Loftis) never denied it," Ciesielski said. "He never confessed, but he never denied it."

Editors Heather Allen, Janet Odom and Cynid Fugate contributed to this report.



27th Annual Pulliam Journalism Fellowships

Graduating college seniors are invited to apply for the 27th annual Pulliam Journalism Fellowships. We will grant 10-week summer internships to 20 journalism or liberal arts majors in the August 1999-June 2000 graduating classes.

We encourage applications from students with a wide variety of backgrounds.

Previous internship or part-time experience at a newspaper is desired, or other demonstration of writing and reporting ability. Those who go through the Fellowships often find new professional opportunities opening up at other newspapers during and after the program. Past Fellows now serve as newspaper publishers, editors and reporters and include several Pulitzer Prize winners. We have been offering the Fellowships since 1974, in an effort to provide a bridge between the classroom and the newsroom.

For the most part, Fellows work as reporters or copy editors, but they also have a chance to attend luncheons with some top names in the business - people such as David Broder, Helen Thomas, Cal Thomas, Tony Snow and Clarence Page. Fellows also receive special attention from a writing coach, and for many of the Fellows, the coaching is the highlight of the program. They learn not only about strengths and weaknesses in their own writing, but also how to get help from editors and peers - their fellow reporters and columnists.

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Alum visits before international conference



Who: Colorado Supreme Court Justice Gregory Kellam Scott
 What: "Judicial Independence: Lifeblood of the Civil Rights Era and Today's Emerging Third World Nation States"
 When: 7:45 p.m., Feb. 17
 Where: LS 116

■ IU law graduate to talk about importance of an independent judicial system.

By Heather Allen
 CAMPUS EDITOR

On his way to the National Summit on Africa's Dialogue and Celebration of Africa in Washington D.C., Justice Gregory Kellam Scott, a 1977 honor graduate of the law school will return to his alma mater to discuss with law students importance of roles they will have as future lawyers in maintaining American freedoms.

"The real power of the American judicial system still rests with the people...and the people are repre-

mented by lawyers," said Scott, who was also a visiting professor at the IU School of Law-Indianapolis.

During "Judicial Independence: Lifeblood of the Civil Rights Era and Today's Emerging Third World Nation States," the Colorado Supreme Court justice will draw analogies from the American Civil Rights experience and the struggles within emerging African nation states.

"In looking at African nations, those countries with a strong judiciary system are also countries that provide great liberties to their citizens...analogies certainly can be drawn to the integration of African-Americans to full citizenship and the role of the courts in the civil rights era," said Scott, also a member of the board of directors of the Constituency for Africa, a non-governmental

organization that seeks to increase American's understanding of Africa's foreign policy regarding African nation states.

The day after his presentation at the law school, he will be on his way to the nation's capital to speak at what Scott calls, "the most significant and largest conference regarding Africa since the colonial powers divided Africa."

Keynote speakers at this event include President Bill Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, and retired Gen. Colin Powell. Former President Jimmy Carter; Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa; the presidents of Uganda, Ghana, Algeria; and presidential candidates Al Gore, Bill Bradley, George W. Bush and John McCain will also be speaking.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Music school faculty takes the stage

IUPUI music department faculty will be presenting an evening of music at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 15 at the Indiana Historical Society Building Auditorium located at 450 West Ohio St. Among the faculty performing will be Jack Gilfoy, director of the IUPUI jazz ensemble and professor of the history of jazz will perform as premier drummer. Joan Gerzon, professor of piano and concert pianist; new faculty member Jodi Showers, professor of music appreciation will play flute; and Minnie Hertzog, professor of intro to music fundamentals and who also tours with Beeblebrox. Guest appearances will also be made by the director of the music department, G. David Peters on trombone and graduate student, John Ray on vocals. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Gadget Competition register deadline is Feb. 10

This semester's competition is called Mission Observation. The objective is to launch a little green army man into the air and have him stay up the longest. On the day of the event teams are given the objective and resources to accomplish it in two hours. To participate contact IEEE in SL159 or e-mail lee@iupui.edu. The competition is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26 in the second floor lobby of ET.

The Faculty Exhibition at Herron Gallery

The show will open from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Feb. 16 and remain on display through March 11. Nine faculty members representing seven different departments will participate in this year's annual exhibition. Works on display include sculpture, a calendar in the form of a film strip, a web site featuring photographs from Nazi Germany, and large allegorical oil paintings.

Learn at Lunch Cinema

The Black Student Union is co-sponsoring the screening of, "The Road to Brown," which is a 56 minute documentary that tells the story of how African Americans struggled for full legal equality under the Constitution. Popcorn and soda will be served and student led dialogue will follow. Learn at Lunch Cinema will be in UC 132 from 11:30 a.m. through 1 p.m. on Feb. 16.

Technology: Are African Americans missing out?

This student dialogue will discuss technology, where African Americans are, and what can be done to increase African American participation in this growing industry. The discussion, sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Feb. 17 in UC 115.

Poet Lecture and Signing

Susan Howe will speak and read from her latest collection, "Pierced Arrow" at the Ruth Lilly Auditorium located on the lower level of the IUPUI Library at 4 p.m. on Feb. 17. Admission is free to IUPUI students and non-students. The lecture is sponsored by both the Rufus Reiberg Creative Reading Series and the Peirce Edition Project.

www.sagamore.iupui.edu

Brand, student to trade places

■ Jackie Landess, pre-med student and IU President Myles Brand, will trade places Feb. 15



Landess



Brand

Staff Report

Landess and Brand will begin the day together over coffee at 9:30 a.m.

Landess will begin her day with a tour of the school of medicine and meet with the assistant dean while Brand tours the athletic facilities where Landess spends much of her time training for cross country.

At lunch time Brand will have lunch at the University College. Students are welcome to join him between 11:30 and 12:45 p.m. Landess spend her lunch with IUPUI Trustee Hertzler.

During the early afternoon she will take a tour of the Information Technology Facilities at the NOC facility and meet with the vice president of the facility. And he will be attending Spanish and physics and afterwards visiting the Cultural Arts Gallery in UC.

It will be in the lower level of UC that they will meet at 3 p.m. for a reception where they will both talk about how their day has gone.

Because Landess has a test in her communications law class she will have to cut the day short at 3 p.m.

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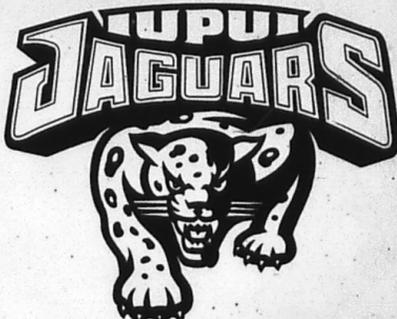
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Flashbaxx

'Gutsy' Jaguars get emotional lift in overtime win

■ Sophomore guard Taj Hawkins helps lead IUPUI to second consecutive win.

By Ed Holdaway
SPORTS EDITOR

The losses the IUPUI men's basketball team have suffered this season pale in comparison to the personal losses that sophomore point guard Taj Hawkins has suffered.

Over the past six weeks, Hawkins uncle, childhood friend and most recently his grandfather have all passed away.

When his grandfather passed away last week, Hawkins flew home to Washington D.C. to be with his family at the funeral.

"I honestly didn't expect him to be back," IUPUI head coach Ron Hunter said. "I could understand if he needed to be with his family and take the semester off."

But Hawkins has returned with a vengeance leading the Jaguars to a pair of Mid-Continent Conference wins over the past five days.

His most recent heroic effort was a

career-high 15 points in a 74-72 overtime win over Oral Roberts University.

"I feel like I had to play for all of them," Hawkins said. "I've dedicated this season to them."

Mid-Con Standings

Men's Basketball (thru Feb. 11)

1. Youngstown State	8-3
2. Southern Utah	8-4
3. Oral Roberts	6-4
4. Valparaiso	6-5
5. UMKC	6-5
6. Chicago State	6-6
7. Oakland	5-5
8. IUPUI	3-8
9. Western Illinois	2-9

And for the first time this season, the Jaguars were able to win a game on their home floor after losing their first eight games of the season. The Jaguars had led at halftime in six of those contests.

IUPUI surged out to a 40-18 half-time lead thanks to a 17-0 run late in the half. But an inspired ORU squad began chipping away at the lead

throughout the second half.

The comeback began with a 9-0 run over the first three minutes of the half.

Three minutes later, the Golden Eagles went on a 14-2 run that cut the lead to four with 6:45 remaining.

The Jaguars clung to a scant two point lead over the final minutes of the game.

A Walter Moore six-foot jumper put IUPUI on top 64-60 with 1:34 to play.

ORU retaliated with an easy layup, and junior Don Carlisle missed a pair of free throws on the ensuing foul.

ORU came up empty on their next possession, and senior guard Jermaine Gardner hit one-of-two free throws.

But just like the rest of the season, ORU hit an improbable, fadeaway three to send the game to overtime.

In overtime, IUPUI fell behind by four with just 2:15 to play.

Carlisle answered with a three from the left corner to cut the lead to one.

Then Hawkins exploded around his defender for a layup on the next possession to give IUPUI a lead it

would never relinquish.

The Jaguars hit three-of-six free throws in the final minute which proved to be enough for the win.

"If you were to look up gutsy win in the dictionary, you would find a picture of this win next to it," Hunter said. "These guys were exhausted, but they never gave up."

It was also the first time the Jaguars were able to pull out a close Mid-Con game after dropping four games by a total of ten points.

"We didn't give up on any of these games," Carlisle said. "It shows the character of our team."

Carlisle led four Jaguars in double figures with 20 points. Moore added 16 and sophomore Charles Price had 10. Part of IUPUI's success has been because of their interior presence.

IUPUI won the war on the boards 36-27, including seven apiece from Carlisle, Price and Moore.

The Jaguars' tough season has taken a positive turn of late as they are currently at 4-17 and 2-8 in the Mid-Con.

"Everybody has had a tough year, but Taj has had an even tougher year than us," Carlisle said. "To see him



Sophomore Taj Hawkins eyes the Oral Roberts defense in the Feb. 9 win.

come back, it shows how dedicated he is and how he wants to win."

"Maybe his grandfather, his friend and his uncle are looking down on us," Hunter said. "Taj deserves a lot of credit."

"Don has been our best player this season, but Taj has been our MVP."

ORAL ROBERTS (72) — Irving 3-9, D.O. 6, Brown 3-4, D.O. 6, Tate 8-13, 2-3, 16, Perry 4-8, D.O. 11, Brown 1-4, 2-2, 3, Akerman 0-0, D.O. 0, Black 0-1, D.O. 0, Plaster 1-1, 1-2, 3, Taylor 10-18, 9-7, 25. **Total: 59-68, 10-14, 72.**

IUPUI (74) — Carter 7-12, 5-12, 20, Price 4-6, 2-2, 10, Moore 6-13, 4-6, 18, Hester 6-8, 3-4, 15, Gardner 2-6, 2-4, Williams 2-3, D.O. 4, Thomas 1-5, D.O. 3, Walker 0-0, D.O. 0, **Total: 22-41, 10-21, 63.**

Halftime — IUPUI 42, ORU 18. **Relegation** — IUPUI 65, ORU 18. **3-point game** — ORU 17 (7 on 3), Taj 2, Brown, IUPUI 4 (4 on 2), Carter, Thomas.

Women hold off ORU, take sole possession of 6th place

■ Despite shooting 17 percent in the second half, IUPUI wins at foul line.

By Ed Holdaway
SPORTS EDITOR

It wasn't pretty, but for the women's basketball team, a win is a win.

IUPUI connected on only three field goal attempts in the second half and none over the last ten minutes of the game to escape with a 51-49 win over Oral Roberts University Feb. 10.

"Oral Roberts' defense is so much different than everybody we play," IUPUI head coach Kris Simpson said. "We just couldn't get in a flow."

Both teams got in a flow early though.

The Jaguars hit their first three shots of the game, jumping out to a 9-4 lead.

IUPUI continued to lead throughout the first half, with their biggest lead of six points coming with 6:33 left in the first half after a Barb Nelson spin move.

Three pointers from Kellie Byers and Kelli Wering helped IUPUI carry a five point lead into the locker room.

In the second half, the referees

whistles kicked into hyperdrive.

Nelson began the parade to the foul line by knocking down a pair on back to back possessions with 16:55 to play.

The Jaguars drilled two more threes, this time Wering and Angie Watt pulled the trick, to push the lead to five.

Freshman Tiffany Kyser drilled a jumper from the left side to set the score at 43-38 with 10:38, but that

was the last time IUPUI would connect from the field.

The Jaguars nailed 8-of-13 free throws over the final ten minutes to hang on to the victory.

Wering hit all three of her free throws after being carried on a three point attempt with 1:29 left.

Watt then hit a pair of clutch free

throws with 1:01 to play to set the final margin.

ORU had two shots in the final minute. The first was a missed layup that Watt rebounded.

IUPUI turned the ball over on a jump ball, with the possession arrow in favor of ORU.

But ORU star Krista Ragan airballed a three from the top of the key to end the game.

Wering led IUPUI with 16 points, while Nelson had 14, including 10-of-12 from the free throw line.

"It's hard to get into a groove when the officials call the game too tight or they let you play too much," Simpson said. "We have to play over that."

IUPUI is currently 10-12 overall, but more importantly 6-6 in the Mid-Con.

"We've been saying that we're trying to bring everybody back to us in conference," Simpson said. "And we're doing the job right now, which is helping us, especially at home."

Mid-Con Standings

Women's Basketball (thru Feb. 11)

1. Youngstown State	8-3
2. Western Illinois	8-3
3. Valparaiso	7-3
4. Oakland	6-3
5. Oral Roberts	6-5
6. IUPUI	6-6
7. Southern Utah	5-7
8. UMKC	3-8
9. Chicago State	0-11

ORAL ROBERTS (49) — Bryant 7, 2-10, Jankova 3-4, 4-10, Brady 2-8, 3-8, Ragan 3-18, 2-2, 8, Morris 3-7, 0-1, 9, Kelley 2-2, 0-0, 0, Whitson 0-2, 0-0, 0, Moss 1-3, 0-1, 2, Rucinski 0-1, 1-2, 1. **Total: 16-31, 13-17, 49.**

IUPUI (51) — Hest 17, 0-2, 2, Nelson 8, 10-12, 14, Kyser 3-4, 0-0, 6, Byers 1-4, 0-0, 3, Wering 4-8, 5-4, 16, Bunker 0-2, 2-4, 2, Watt 2-2, 2, 8, Lupton 0-0, 0-0, 0, **Total: 13-28, 19-26, 51.**

Halftime — IUPUI 33, ORU 28. **3-point game** — ORU 5, 17 (Morris 3, Brady, Ragan), IUPUI 6-14 (Wering 3, Watt 2, Byers).

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Jo Jo's Diner adds new flavor to neighborhood



Photo by Heather Allen/The Sagamore
Jo Jo's Diner, 5363 N. College Ave., features traditional entrees such as meatloaf, turkey and fried chicken.

■ Owner revamps former local business and turns it into a casual eatery.

By Heather Allen
CAMPUS EDITOR

Whether it was draped with handmade dresses and beads, new age books and candles, syrups and sellers, or local art, the business at the corner of a historic-looking strip mall at the corner of 54th St. and College Ave. has always been known as Modern Times.

But times have changed and this friendly neighborhood stop reopened recently as Jo Jo's Diner.

New owner, Don Horstman, said he started the diner for the neighborhood as a place to get a bite to eat when people don't want to cook.

And while neighbors might not have time to cook, many are talking about the missing sign that used to say "Modern Times." The sign, said Horstman, was auctioned off after the last restaurant closed several months ago.

Although the familiar sign has moved, the casual charm and comfort haven't gone anywhere.

When we arrived, my companion Andrew and I were greeted at the door by the owner himself. After being seated, he gave us an 8.5 inch by 3 inch stapled stack of menus along with two library pencils to write our orders.

After seeing two of my favorites, fried chicken and ribs featured on the new sign outside, it wasn't hard to decide. The dinner menu also includes meatloaf, turkey and beef

Manhattan. Jo Jo's also serves breakfast, lunch and dinner anytime.

The meal choices are simple and the food is simply good.

While waiting for our order, we took a minute to see what was hanging out on the old built in bookcases. Currently, colorful blown glass vases decorate the solid melon colored walls and shelves. Black and white photographs also complement the classy yet classic feel.

For a main dish, Andrew had the fried chicken which had a delicious, home-style batter that was very light. He rated the chicken an 8.5 out of 10. With his chicken he also ordered green beans, corn, and mashed potatoes. Small disappointments came when these dishes showed up a little less than hot. But Andrew's main complaint was that the size of the portions weren't large.

I ordered the owner's own specialty, baby back ribs and was delighted. The meat was seasoned well and very tender. Also, the portion was large. The sauce is a little sweet and very peppery.

Along with the moderate portions came very reasonable prices. The average dinner, which included a main course, a beverage, and two side dishes, costs about \$9, while lunch and breakfast will between \$6-\$7.

The restaurant doesn't serve alcoholic drinks or desserts.

Jo Jo's is a very comfortable, casual place to have good home-style meal. And if you are on the move the new restaurant offers curb service—carry out food brought to the door of your car.

life BRIEFS

■ "Telling Stories: 15 Years of Photo/Text"

InVision Alliance of Photographic Artists will sponsor their first Photographer's Forum. IU, Bloomington Professor and photographer Jeffrey Wolin will present the program. The event will be held Sat. Feb. 19 at 1 p.m. in Indianapolis Art Center, 820 E. 67th Street in the Broad Ripple area.

■ WFYI radio presents *Hopes and Promises*

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, along with actor Avery Brooks and conductor William Henry Curry, are featured in the benefit concert for the Martin Luther King Jr. Multi-Service Center. The musical selections focus on the vision and ideals of King. The performance will air Wed. Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. on 90.1 FM.

■ Figure skating for kids

Former Olympic competitor Marie Millikan of the Carmel Ice Stadium will tell children what is required to be successful in skating. The event will take place noon, Sat. Feb. 19 at Borders Books & Music, 8675 River Crossing Blvd.

■ World Mardis Gras at Circle Centre Mall

Local rock band Shades of Wrong will perform Feb. 18 at 10 p.m. The club is on the fourth floor.



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>>>Backpacking
my ASSSSSSS!!
If I tried it on my
own I'd still be
looking for the
train station!!

... I was on the train for 12 hours and miss all who says nothing. I had this piece of ass of us... I was on the train for 12 hours and miss all who says nothing. I had this piece of ass of us... I was on the train for 12 hours and miss all who says nothing. I had this piece of ass of us...

this sort of thing sometimes happens to people who travel with us.



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Next Issue — Feb. 21

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Cyber love is too easy

■ Sending an old-fashioned Valentine is much better than sending an electronic one.

Have you seen the cyber guide to love? Web sites offering dating services for busy men and women inundate the World Wide Web. Finding love on the internet is as easy as filling out a credit card application. Just fill in the blanks and give yourself the attributes you've always wanted.

What's next virtual weddings? Before you know it we will be able to sit in front of our computer screen and watch as our friends get married.

In today's hectic world people do not have time to find dates the old fashioned way. Instead, we go online into chat rooms and build a virtual world of non-geographical friends.

This isn't necessarily bad, but it's not helping the commitment problem most of us have. After all, isn't that why we have our technological buddies?

Friends inside our monitor are safe and secure. We can "talk" about anything from bad holiday gifts to therapeutic gripe sessions.

The world as we know it is getting smaller with every Pentium III processor sold. And, our circle of "real" friends is getting smaller, also.

We are losing our social skills by creating a network of virtual communities. Before this Valentines Day comes to an end, I urge all my virtual friends to call someone on the telephone.

This requires unplugging the phone cord from the computer and plugging it back into the phone. Go out and have dinner or see a movie. If you already have someone special and are wondering what to get them for Valentines Day, I have the perfect gift.

A handwritten letter. As simple as it may seem, a genuine heart felt letter of love is sure to swoon your sweetheart.

Add little things they do to make you smile. The thoughts that make you laugh out loud when you're alone. Don't forget to tell them why you fell in love with them to start with.

Friends deserve Valentine letters also. Write why their friendship is important to you and how being their friend has made you a better person. Encourage your cyber friends to do the same.

For one day walk and talk among the live community and stay away from the keyboard. As we all know, our cyber friends will be there when we return to our virtual world.

If you e-mail stay on line over Valentines Day just scan the letter and e-mail it. Sending an online e-mail greeting isn't as warm as the real thing, but it will still be appreciated.

—Cyrndi Fugate

Staff Editorial

The staff editorial expresses the opinion of the majority of the editorial board, which includes all section editors. Viewpoints expressed within the staff editorial are not necessarily the opinion of every individual staff member.

Awards and honors

ACP "Story of the Year" News, 1st; Diversity/Multiculturalism, 2nd; 2000 ACP/Alpha Delta of the Year 1999; National Reporter, 1999-01, 1999; ACP "Best of Show," 1st, 1999, 2000; 2000; MVP/VP of the Year 1999-01; Best Press Photo 1999; 1999 National Photographer of the Year, 1999-01, 1997; 2000-01, 1999

Letters to the Editor submission policy

Readers may submit letters of any length and on any topic, but preference will be given to those less than 350 words, related to the IUPUI community. Letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number, and must be dated and signed. Addresses and phone numbers will not be printed. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

The IUPUI Sagamore reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and brevity. Those deemed potentially libelous, obscene, inflammatory or in poor taste will be rejected. Mail or bring typewritten letters to: The IUPUI Sagamore - Letters to the Editor, 425 University Blvd. Cl. 001G, Indianapolis, Ind. 46202.

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COMMENTARY

Search for the true politician

■ Former legislator warns students to sift through political trash in order to find the truth.

Now that an election year is upon us, I have a small suggestion: As your airwaves and your mailbox and possibly even your doorway are filled in the next few months by candidates seeking your support, look for the politicians among them. It won't be easy.

That probably sounds odd. After all, when the campaigns heat up in earnest later on, it will seem like you can't watch a news program or eat a waffle cone at the county fair or mail a letter at the post office without encountering someone asking for your vote. But those are just the candidates, when I say "politician," I mean something else. I mean someone who knows how to practice the art of politics.

This is not a skill that has come in for much praise in recent years, but that's mostly because we've gotten confused about what it entails. When the federal government almost got shut down a few years back, that was "politics."

So is the unseemly rush to raise campaign funds, or the tit-for-tat exchange of negative advertising, or the jockeying for public support based on polls and focus groups.

To get a sense of just how disdainful we've come to view the word, just imagine the reception you'd get if you stood up at your next neighborhood get together and announced that

politics is good, and that we need more of it, not less. You'd be laughed out of the room.

But the fact is, you'd be right: Good politicians are vital to the functioning of our democracy, and we desperately need more of them. Let me give you an example of what I mean.

Suppose you've been elected to Congress, and you have to decide how to approach our country's drug problem. And let's say, as well, that you firmly believe the answer lies in using federal funds to back more treatment programs for addicts. But then an interesting thing happens.

As you talk to your colleagues, you discover that they're all over the issue: Some are hard-line jailers for users, some want to beef up spending on anti-drug education efforts, some want to put more drug-fighting tools in the hands of law officers, others want to strengthen border patrols, still others want funding for medical research into the causes of addictive behavior, and others yet want to spend as much as we need to eradicate coca crops in South America.

All of them can argue passionately for their point of view, and what's more, you discover that you have some sympathy for what each of

them is saying.

Moreover, it gradually begins to dawn on you that in order to make progress on the issue, much less get what you want—more money for treatment programs—you're going to have to find a way to give others what they want as well.

It's at this moment, as you set about crafting a bill that can take all these voices into account, that you'll discover why true politics is considered an art.

Now, there are some who would look at the process of reconciling these competing points of view as messy and unseemly.

"Stick to your guns!" they would urge: "Anything less is a sell-out."

But controversy and conflict are unavoidable in a nation as large and diverse as ours—indeed, as the United States grows larger and even more diverse with each passing year, fundamental disagreements over how to address any given issue are likely to grow even more intense.

To avoid ripping apart at the seams, we need people who know how to provide stability, to accommodate different points of view, to develop consensus, and to see that the people's needs are met as we wrestle with our problems.

That is what good politicians do: They make democratic government

possible in a nation alive with competing factions, and they make the country work.

This is still an unsavory activity. It is the stuff of which freedom is made. It is why we need more politicians these days, not fewer.

Over the course of the next few months, as candidates start competing for your attention, you'll find it tempting—indeed, you'll be encouraged by the various interest groups to which you belong, as well as by the assumptions of the news media—to expect detailed positions on every possible issue and to look for a cheerleader who can advocate your points of view.

My advice is to look beyond that, for the simple reason that the more a politician is locked in by specific positions on different issues, the more difficult it is for him or her to govern.

Find someone who can bring different interest groups together, and you will have found someone who can help America solve its problems.

The fact is we need to look both at detailed positions on every possible issue and their skills as politicians.

So when you step into the voting booth this fall, remember this: Vote for a politician. It could be the most important contribution you make all year to the health of our Republic.

(Lee Hamilton was a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years and is now Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University.)

COMMENTARY

Schulz says good-bye to Charlie Brown

■ Peanuts gang found motivation believing in themselves.

He never kicked the football. He waited hopefully for the mailbox for the valentines that would never come. And his batting average with the little red-haired girl was at zero.

What the world loved most about Charlie Brown was that he never quit trying. But his creator, Charles Schulz, has.

Peanuts completed its 50-year run last Sunday with its final full-color comic strip, and a little part of me is going to retire, too.

Charlie Brown, Snoopy and Lucy have been a part of my life since a few days before I was born. My mom bought me a stuffed Snoopy before she went into labor. That dog still sits in my bedroom in my apartment, reminding me of when I was younger and not fully aware of the intelligence that Schulz poured into his comic world.

As I grew up, I always said I was a Peanuts fan, but it was just because I had that dog.

It wasn't until I was much older that I learned what most every other

fan had learned: no matter who we are, we can find a little bit of us in at least one member of the Peanuts gang.

But the identities that each character possessed didn't stop at caricature. Every one of them truly believed in what they thought, and they didn't say something just because Schulz wanted us to laugh.

Their motivation for doing what they did was because they believed in themselves. Schulz wanted us to think and to learn from the adult problems that visited the seemingly-innocent world of a bunch of 8- and 5-year-old children.

Lucy was the bossy one, who tried to analyze every expert herself. Sally challenged the educational system every day of her life, and her outlook on life changed as fast as she could come up with a new philoso-

phy. Snoopy had more fantasies and personalities than a room full of schizophrenics.

Linus Van Pelt is the only person I've known who could fling out philosophical answers while holding on to his childhood by sucking his thumb and clutching his security blanket.

My mom still tears up when he marches out on the stage to recite the meaning of Christmas, mass according to St. Luke in a Charlie Brown Christmas.

Just about anyone can pick one. But regular to identify with? No. For me, I'm a Charlie Brown. Charlie believed the best in everyone. His hopefulness stuck out all over him as had as he stuck out at a school dance.

Good old Chuck was sure that everyone liked him, regardless of his

faults, and he was certain that somebody, he would kick that football or talk to that little red-haired girl.

The little round-headed kid couldn't get his baseball team to perfection no matter how much he wanted to win a game, and in one case, his head was used as a model for a jack-o'-lantern.

I cried the day I learned that Schulz would retire his strip. I'm not ashamed to admit it. In fact, most people who know me figured I had. In a way, it's almost like losing a family member to me.

But if there's one thing about all else that I learned from Peanuts, it's that there's never a real reason to give up. Charlie Brown remained hopeful during his entire career managing a baseball team, and after 43 years, his perseverance paid off.

In 1993, Charlie hit his first home run and he won the game for his team. And so was the appropriateness that was Charlie's life. If you do believe, it can happen.

Just ask Charlie Brown.

GUEST COMMENTARY

ROLAN BRAUER
THE SHORTESS
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
ARLINGTON

EDITORIAL

Rocker's voice heard loud and clear

■ Allowing people to voice their prejudices is only way to change their beliefs.

Last week, America's favorite bigoted baseball player, John Rocker, was sanctioned by Major League Baseball with a suspension and \$20,000 fine.

The Major League Baseball Players' Association immediately responded with a grievance.

"I do not believe it is appropriate that I should be harshly disciplined for my misguided speech unaccompanied by any conduct on my part," Rocker said in a statement.

Truer words were never spoken. If anything, he should be applauded—not for the statements themselves, but for making them in the first place.

Of course, Johnny made headlines by ramming his foot down his throat with his comments on just about every minority out there, leading to the CNN/ISI headline, "New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani thinks John Rocker needs help."

Thanks for the news flash, Rudy. But how would we know that if he hadn't shot his mouth off? The hysteria over Rocker's com-

ments was reminiscent of the recent furor on this campus when something wicked this way came.

By forcing these people out into the harsh light of day and finding out who they are, we might actually have a chance with them. You can't deprogram the brainwashed without facing them one-on-one.

The issue shouldn't be how to shut them up. That's only going to make them stew in silence. But how exactly do you work on changing

their beliefs?

As part of his punishment, Rocker is undergoing psychological testing and "sensitivity training"—another way of saying "learning how to say things that make people feel bad."

Which does nothing more than

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Which does nothing more than

"fix" the only good part of Rocker's comments—that he made them—without bothering to try and change the flawed beliefs underneath them.

Something needs to be done to penetrate that frighteningly large skull. This isn't it.

How do you react to the mentality that drives most racist, sexist, homophobic and other offensive comments?

For most people, it's with another emotion-fueled, irrational response, which serves no purpose whatsoever.

Maybe if the outrage at offensive comments was focused on how to combat misconceptions instead of silencing them, we wouldn't be treating speech as such many free speech arguments.

In honor of Black History Month, how about doing something to really combat racism? Offer this invitation: Bigots, come out, come out, wherever you are.

Let's all speak. But what will we say in return?

GUEST EDITORIAL

DEAN BRAUER
DAILY NORTHWESTERN
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

ACTIVITIES

THE IUPUI SAGAMORE • MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2000 • PAGE 8

IUPUI Homecoming 2000 Saturday, Feb. 19 When Jaguars Attack!

Students Invited:
Free Homecoming Brunch
11:00 am

Student Activities Center of the University College Building

Join IU President Myles Brand, IUPUI Chancellor Gerald Bekko, and men's head basketball coach Ron Hunter in the pregame event. Reservations are needed to attend. Brunch will include lambalaya, quiche, pizzas made to order, salad, chicken tenders, brownies, cookies, and drinks.



HOMECOMING BRUNCH RESERVATION FORM

Return this coupon to Student Life and Diversity Programs (LY 002) for free admission to the brunch.
(Deadline is Thursday, Feb. 17 by noon)

Name: _____
Student ID: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Spring dance and celebration slated for Friday, March 24

The IUPUI Student Activities Programming Board and University College Student Council invites you to be part of the continuing tradition by attending the 12th Annual Spring Celebration Dance. The dinner dance will be held on Friday, March 24, 2000, from 7:30 p.m. to midnight in the Indiana Roof Ballroom.

Tickets may be purchased beginning Feb. 1 at the Student Life and Diversity Programs, which is located in the Student Activities Center (UC 002). Ticket prices are \$20.00 for undergraduate students and their guest or \$15.00 if purchased by March 10 \$25.00 for graduate students, faculty and staff and their guest, and \$30.00 for community guests. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Monday, March 20. There will be no tickets sold at the door.

Entertainment will be provided by the Flip Miller Band. The buffet dinner will be catered by Crystal Catering.

Questions may be directed to Student Life and Diversity Programs at 274-5200 or by e-mail at flkluers@iupui.edu.

Activity updates can also be found on the web at www.sagamore.iupui.edu

Gadget Competition 2000

Institute for Electrical & Electronics Engineers



Your objective is to launch a green army man into the air and keep him airborne the longest
Go solo or join a team up to four

Competition takes place Saturday, Feb. 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the second floor lobby of the ET building. Cost is \$4 per team.

Sign up at SL 159, SL 153, or at ieee@iupui.edu. Registration must be made prior to Feb. 18.

Lunch documentaries set

The Interactive Dialogue Series will be presenting the following documentaries from Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. from noon to 1 p.m. in LY 132.

- Monday, Feb. 14, and Thursday, Feb. 17
— "The Road to Timbuktu"
- Monday, Feb. 21, and Tuesday, Feb. 22
— "Lost Cities of the South"

Each documentary will be shown twice. Please direct any questions to Claude Warren III in the Dean of Students Office at 274-5199.

Carnaval Dance 2000

Latino Student Association •
Friday, Feb. 18 from 8:00 p.m.
to midnight

Union Building Cafeteria

Contact Christopher Davis, Vice-President at kadavis2@iupui.edu or 274-3907 ext. 5



Golden Key National Honor Society

Information Tables

Monday, Feb. 14 • UC Lobby • 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 15 • Library Corridor • 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Want to know what's really
happening on campus? Visit the

IUPUI Web Calendar
<http://events.iu.edu/iupui.html>

Your link to all campus events
Academics • Arts & Entertainment • Athletics •
Careers/Workshops • Lectures • Recreational Sports
• Student Organizations • Wellness

The activities page is a paid advertisement. Information for this page must be submitted through the office of Student Life and Diversity Programs — located in LY 002.

weekly events

Honors Club — Blood Drive

Tuesday, Feb. 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in LY 116.
Contact Shanit Lall at 275-6310 or slall@iupui.edu for more details.

Newman Club

Sunday Mass — religious worship service

Sundays from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Newman Center
801 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St.

Valentine Dance for senior citizens

Saturday, Feb. 12, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.
at Goodwin Plaza, a senior citizens apartment
house at 801 W. St. Clair St.

Shower for St. Elizabeth House

Sunday, Feb. 20, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Newman Center.
Bring in new baby items, diapers, rattles, bottles, pacifiers,
shampoo and baby oil.

Spring Retreat to St. Gerard Archdiocese

The event will take place March 13 and 14. Registration is required. Reservations can be made by calling Sherry Ballard,
Campus Ministry Secretary at 253-7861. Cost for is \$25.

Lutheran Campus Ministry — Listening Post

This is your invitation to visit with students from various cultures and faiths. Find new meaning during your lunch hour. Feb. 15 and Feb. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in University College Upper commons.

Campus Crusade for Christ — Prime Time

The weekly meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 16 at University Library Auditorium (UL 0130). The meeting will start at 4:00 p.m. and will end at 5:00 p.m. For more information call 955-8824 or email rkpayne1@iupui.edu.

Phi Alpha Delta — Exam Practice

Free LSAT, MCAT, GRE and GMAT practice on Saturday, Feb. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall. Registration is required before Feb. 18 at the PAD desk in the basement of University College. Email Andrew Abdul at awabdu@iupui.edu.

Eating Disorder Screening

IUPUI Counseling and Psychological Services will be offering information and screening for anorexia, bulimia, and binge eating disorders free of charge on Tuesday, Feb. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in LY 131.

Phi Mu — Carnation and Bake Sale

Monday, Feb. 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. between the library and business building.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity — Spring Interest Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 27 in at the Atherton Union, Room 302 on the campus of Butler University. Business attire is required. Contact Rodney Rivers at 570-0254 or rodneyrivers@hotmail.com for details.



Kelly School of Business Marketing Club

Club Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 23

12:15 - 1:00 p.m.

LY 115

Speaker —

Duncan Alney

Director of Marketing,
DGS Group



Cupid's CONNECTION

Session on communication skills

FROM MARS AND VENUS
TOGETHER FOREVER

(sequel to Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus)

Monday, Feb. 14

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

LY 115

IUPUI Election 2000

Canadidate information packets
will be available beginning at noon
Feb. 4. All information is due by 5
p.m. on Feb. 31.

A canadidate meeting will take
place Feb. 25 at 11:30 a.m. in LY 139.

Voting will take place March 6-9 via
phone and computer.

Genesis

Student publication accepting submissions

\$100 AWARDS FOR BEST
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Deadline is Friday, Feb. 16

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For details
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CARIBBEAN CARNAVAL

• IUPUI International Club and the Latino Student Association •

International Culture Hour

Friday February 18 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30
p.m. at the International House
Community Room located within Warthin
Apartments (second floor).

