If you build it, they will come – maybe

By ZACH HESTER
Staff Writer
zwhester@ius.edu

IU Southeast is rightly concerned with recruiting more students and keeping the students we have. The university is expanding and trying to figure out ways to be more attractive to students. We are well on the way to being bigger, but what about being better?

Our last retention rate was 61.5 percent. IU President Michael McRobbie has ordered IU Southeast along with the other IU campuses to do something about it.

So what is the plan to keep students around for more than one semester? More free pizza.

I know this comes as a shock to some of those in power, but free food is not the answer to everything. Not only is it silly to think students can be bought for four years with Papa John's, but it is even more ridiculous to think that it is an original idea.

I transferred to IU Southeast from Western Kentucky University, and I had free food there even more often than at IU Southeast. It was delicious and convenient, but it wasn't worth sticking around for.

How about spending money on something a little more enduring. Like, oh, I don't know, paying better salaries for professors so students don't have to be subjected to torturous adjuncts. I've had some great adjuncts, but, man, when they're bad, they're bad.

Hiring some more full-time and, more importantly, quality professors is just what some programs need. Having enough well-qualified, talented teachers takes money, but it's worth it. Wouldn't it be better to focus on students' experiences *in* the classroom than to focus on feeding them in between?

Speaking of being in the classrooms, maybe students would like being there better if it didn't rain on them at their desks. It's exciting to have new buildings on campus, but what about the ones we already have? Most of them leak like a sieve. Would it be too much to ask to have buildings that stay dry on the inside?

And even if the outside is sealed, there are problems inside, too. Most of the buildings on campus were built at the same time, so the systems are failing at the same time. Once some of the bigger systems fail in unison, it's going to be a huge cost for the university.

The dorms will largely take care of themselves through funds raised by rent, but was it really wise to build new structures when the ones we already have are deteriorating?

I realize that building maintenance is largely supposed to be funded by the state government through rehabilitation and repair funds, but eventually a university has to take on some responsibility themselves. The state has been under funding IU Southeast and practically every other school in the state for 10 years or more, and with the shape the economy is in, that is probably not going to change.

At some point, the university must stop pointing fingers and do what needs to be done.

Here's another idea: how about fixing all the stuff that's broken across campus, besides the buildings, of course.

If IU Southeast wants to attract and to keep students, they should strive to create a better university and not spend their time, money and effort on gimmicks like pizza.

I hate you, I really do

By IAN HOOPES
Editor
ihoopes@ius.edu

'Where, pray tell, did you go to school? Crap Sandwich Academy? That's the only place I can imagine.'

Do you drive a six-ton, explosively large, gas-guzzling pickup truck and ride my ass when I'm driving? Hi! I hate you.

I'm minding my own business, driving down the street in excess of the speed limit, and you still seem to have a problem driving behind me.

All I see is your hell-bound, white-trash stare in my rear view and your 12,335-gigawatt headlamps and my blood boils.

Also, just exactly what do you ever "pick up" in your truck, anyway? You're wasting my gas and simultaneously behaving like the biggest dick in the world.

Do everyone a favor and get off the road.

Hey. I saw you yesterday standing in line at Panera Bread.

For some wild reason, you seemed to have the idea that you should be in the front of the line, even though you were behind me.

Was there a problem in your scheduling? Were you late for something?

Perhaps you shouldn't have been standing in line at Panera Bread, moron. Maybe you should have just gone straight to the appointment you had to keep instead.

Assuming you weren't late, you're just impatient and can't be bothered to wait in line, is that right? That's cool.

Don't ever walk outside of your house again, then. I think I'd rather you just sit in your house and slowly rot, because I hate you.

So, I know I don't usually go to McDonald's very often, but I just love the iced coffee there.

I was having a pretty great day last Friday, and for some reason, you decided to take a massive dump all over it.

You managed to give me the wrong size beverage, and I informed you of it. Your response was a blank-faced stare and an earthy grunt.

Where, pray tell, did you go to school? Crap Sandwich Academy? That's the only place I can imagine. At most schools, you get taught how to use words to communicate.

I was even kind enough to say, "Thank you," and you gave me the biggest dopey face I've ever seen. I hate you.

How much did you spend on that purse? Oh, $600? I hate you.

How much did you spend on your earth-raping, gas guzzling SUV? Oh, $50,000? I hate you, and I also want to destroy your car.

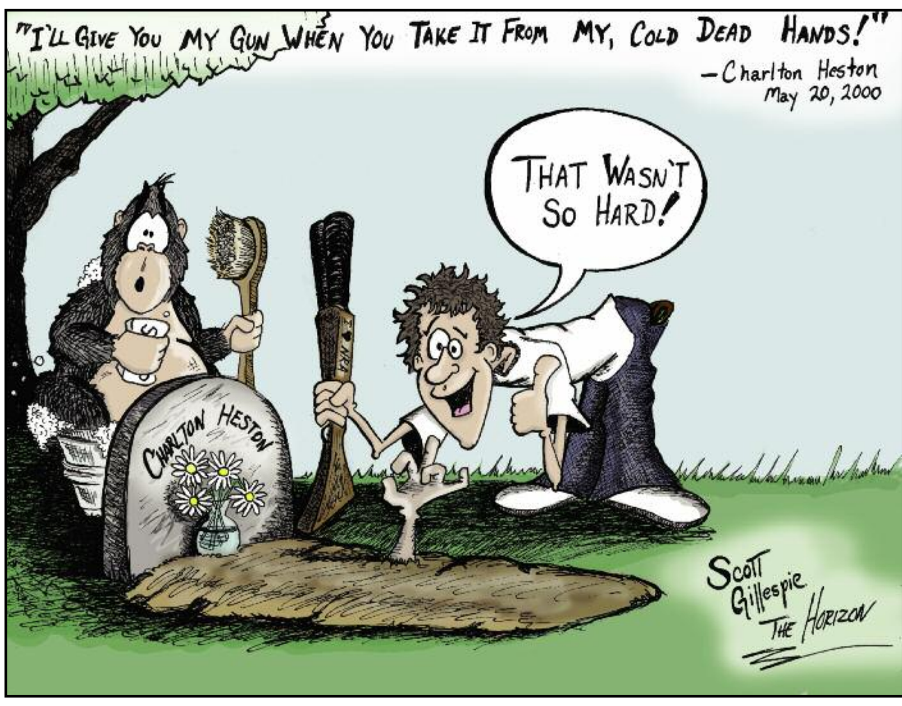
I hope you take your gun and shove it right up your butt. Guns are the most worthless pieces of garbage ever invented. Someone will break into your house and kill you with your own gun someday.

And, yeah, I know I play video games. Quit giving me crap about it. I, unlike you, still have a life. I don't read gossip blogs during my free time and spend three hours a day on Facebook.

Also, you know what? I have tremendous hand-eye coordination, and my reaction time is better as a result.

In addition, have you read any of the things I've typed before this? Video games probably keep me from going out and beating the first random person I see into bits. Yay for video games!

But I still hate you.



Who are the truck people

By MARIA BARNARD
Editor
mabarnar@ius.edu

'The truck people are mysterious and strange.'

The trees by the clock are flowering and will soon shed their petals to litter the ground with remnants of spring.

The air is fragrantly scented by the daffodils and the breezes come light, feeling like an embrace.

My mouth won't stop smiling and the sun makes me euphoric. Vitamin D is a fantastic thing. I find myself humming the sweet Beatles song, "Here Comes the Sun," as I walk to class and, for the first time in a long time, I feel warmth in the air.

There aren't in windows in my cubicle where I work, or in the newsroom for that matter. And yet, somehow, the simple fact of knowing the sun is out there makes me feel light and airy and ready to do every possible thing I want to.

Even though I'm frequently exasperated on the highways by slow moving mini-vans and chronically caught behind the infamous pick-up truck drivers who don't know what a schedule is, as I commute to school on the twisting country roads.

The truck people are mysterious and strange. And by trucks I mean pick-up trucks, or those gargantuan, freakish trucks of shiny blue or shiny black or some other shiny colors. The kind of truck who operators sometimes drive 70 miles an hour and smack into my freshly paid off Toyota Camry at 8 a.m. when I least expect it.

But, for the most part, these truck people drive at an excruciatingly slow pace. They look from side to side while driving, put on their breaks every time they drive down a hill, use fog lights no matter what, and drive in the middle of the road to make sure I can't pass them. They adore making me 15 minutes late.

I wonder about these truck people and even envy them a little bit. The always look glassy-eyed and stoned.

Being stuck behind a creepy slow driver kind of puts me in a fugue of immensely spaced out weirdness. So to all you truck people, speed it up kids and make everyone's life a lot less stressed.

It seems like the people of the world are so concerned with saving time. And yet, with all the saved time, why is there never any time?

'I may not know much, but I know the difference between chicken shit and chicken salad.'

– Lyndon B. Johnson

10 Ways to...

Get more students in the dorms, lodges

1. Make it really expensive. This will keep the riffraff out. You know, the other 90 percent. If you wanted to live with ugly people, you can live at home.

2. "Rock Band" in all the lodges. Hook up an Xbox 360 to those widescreen TVs and let the house rock! There is nothing more educational than video games. With enough practice, maybe everyone won't look like a windup monkey playing the drums.

3. Naked Sundays. This idea comes from Christina Aguilera who spends Sundays naked with her husband. She seems happy. He seems happy. That's what the dorms need — naked, happy people.

4. All day, every day paintball battles. No where on campus is off limits, including classes and the woods. If you hit a police officer and don't get shot, your lodge gets bonus points.

5. Weekly STD screenings. Know which 25 percent of the lodge population has genital herpes, then drop by the GSA office to pick up some condoms. Just because your partner doesn't have herpes doesn't mean they can't get it, Valtrex or no Valtrex.

6. Free admission to campus sporting events. What? Really? Never mind. How about free admission to all Ogle Center events. Now, we're talking! Bring back Vicki Lawrence!

7. Free pizza! The university is going to have a lot of Recruitment and Retention money to spend, and, apparently, they can't spend it on anything that may work. So, there will be a lot of free pizza to go around. Oh, and more of the usual campus events that get an average attendance of five.

8. Flood insurance. It's going to happen sooner or later, so the university should buy some insurance for the lodgers. Maybe furnish the rooms with shelves off the floor so personal belonging won't get soaked — like they do in professors' offices.

9. Happy hour. Every day at 7 p.m., have special prices on drinks in the lodges. The chancellor has the power to declare areas on campus alcohol zones, so it's doable. For underaged lodgers, they will have to have someone bring their drinks to their rooms.

10. To help keep the lodgers occupied when classes are not in session, fill the dorms with bright, shiny objects and pot machines — you know, like the ones they have in Japan. That should keep everyone mellow and fascinated.