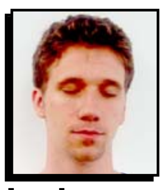
DEADLINE

Political ads loads of crap



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Political campaigns are like those commercials for weight loss drugs: all of them claim they couldn't say it on TV if it wasn't true.

Yeah, right.

Those baby-kissing, glad-handing, photo-opping familiar faces are back in action, and it's not going to be long before we're already tired of them.

We've got an election year on our hands, folks. Politicians all over the country, and even in the surrounding area, have their game faces on and their facades perfectly manicured.

This battle is starting to get serious, and you'd better believe it's going to be a long and over-funded fight.

Of course, you can read between the lines on that last comment however you want.

But back on the subject: It doesn't matter which side of the fence you're on, who you're rooting for or which election you're most excited about, you better know who you're going to vote for and why.

The first thing you need to do is throw away any campaign ads you get in the mail and change the channel when the mud-slinging starts.

You're not going to learn anything about a candidate from a flier or even a debate. These are all carefully constructed and masterfully orchestrated public relations campaigns designed to keep you and everyone else from seeing what exactly is going on.

Want to do your research online? Sounds great. There's lots of good information out there, but don't fall for any of those billboards claiming they know what Mitch McConnell is hiding. Don't even fall for those candidate Web sites. The only thing they keep you up-to-date on is the campaign, not the candidate.

Campaigners will make the case that their opponent has made an unethical move at some point in their career, but none of them will say that the campaigns they've run for themselves are more or less unethical. Leaving out details and fudging something here and there is common practice.

They seem to think if they're going to survive this game, they have to play it dirty.

They have to spend unfathomable amounts of money on advertising and a campaign trail.

Campaigners shouldn't be allowed to spend more than the annual salary of one of their average constituents. They shouldn't be allowed to accept contributions from companies as to avoid being bought out.

I'd like to see a mass mailing of each candidate's voting record. This would tell more about a candidate than anything they could ever put on television or the internet.

Politics is a dirty, dirty game. Don't think for a minute that one candidate is any less of a scumbag than the other. No matter how honest their intentions may be, they all have the capacity to turn into all of those ads you've seen on television.

Go to clerk.house.gov or www.senate.gov to take a look of your own.

You're just looking at the yeas and nays, not the dolled-up faces of politicians who are claiming to be your friend.

You're smart enough to do it, prove it to your candidates. Educate yourselves, it's better than trying to wade through the muddy bog they've created for you.

Home Cookin'

Campus drivers inconsiderate

Caroline Bryan

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I have a crappy car. Half of my windows work and those that don't are held up with shiny silver air conditioning tape. A Hefty garbage bag serves as my back door.

There is a cigarette burn in the back seat, the front passenger side door handle is hanging off and my check engine light is perpetually on.

Just when I thought it couldn't, thanks to the drivers on the IUS campus, my car looks even crappier.

It has acquired three very large dents and a two foot long Wolverine-like scratch on the back bumper, all while innocently parked.

With cameras in the parking lots and almost 6,000 students on this campus, I am amazed not a single person saw and reported any of these instances.

I've been told by people moving to the southern Indiana area that we are angry drivers. It seems as if that anger stems from this campus. After almost three years at IU Southeast I have come to the conclusion that the parking lots here are not a safe place for cars or people.

Not only has my car been hit, but I've almost been hit several times.

Since the mysterious dents and scrapes appeared on my car, I have made it a point to pay very close attention to drivers. I have seen some amazing things.

I have almost been hit by a girl rolling through a stop sign while intently staring at her iPod, the driving text-messenger and a couple making out while driving.

For those of you who think everyone is looking at you, and you're totally badass when you rev your engine while you impatiently wait for people to cross the road, and then burn rubber as soon as their toe hits the sidewalk, you're wrong.

Most of us are worried about the exam we're about to take or the one we've just taken, or lost in thought and disgruntled about our classes.

All you've done is scared us, annoyed us and almost run us over. Many of the drivers on this campus seem in such a hurry to get off it.

They speed to the stoplights, disregarding speed limits and pedestrians, only to get stuck in traffic on Grant Line Road.

Just because my car is a pile, it doesn't mean its OK to add to its collection of dents and gashes.

Whoever hit my car or any other car on campus, I hope the guilt you feel after reading this teaches you to calm down, have some patience, pay attention and get off your phone.

'Facts are the enemy of truth.'

– Don Quixote

LETTERS

Smokers need courtesy

Parking on the IUS campus is bad.

The Trustees want the natural beauty left intact, but have no qualms with adding to the prestige of IU Southeast, thereby increasing the body of people on our grounds at any one time.

I won't say I hate to be the one to point out this inconsistency just because a couple of years ago one of the founders was nice enough to bring me a large plate of jumbo shrimp during one of their functions, but I won't say that I enjoy pointing it out either.

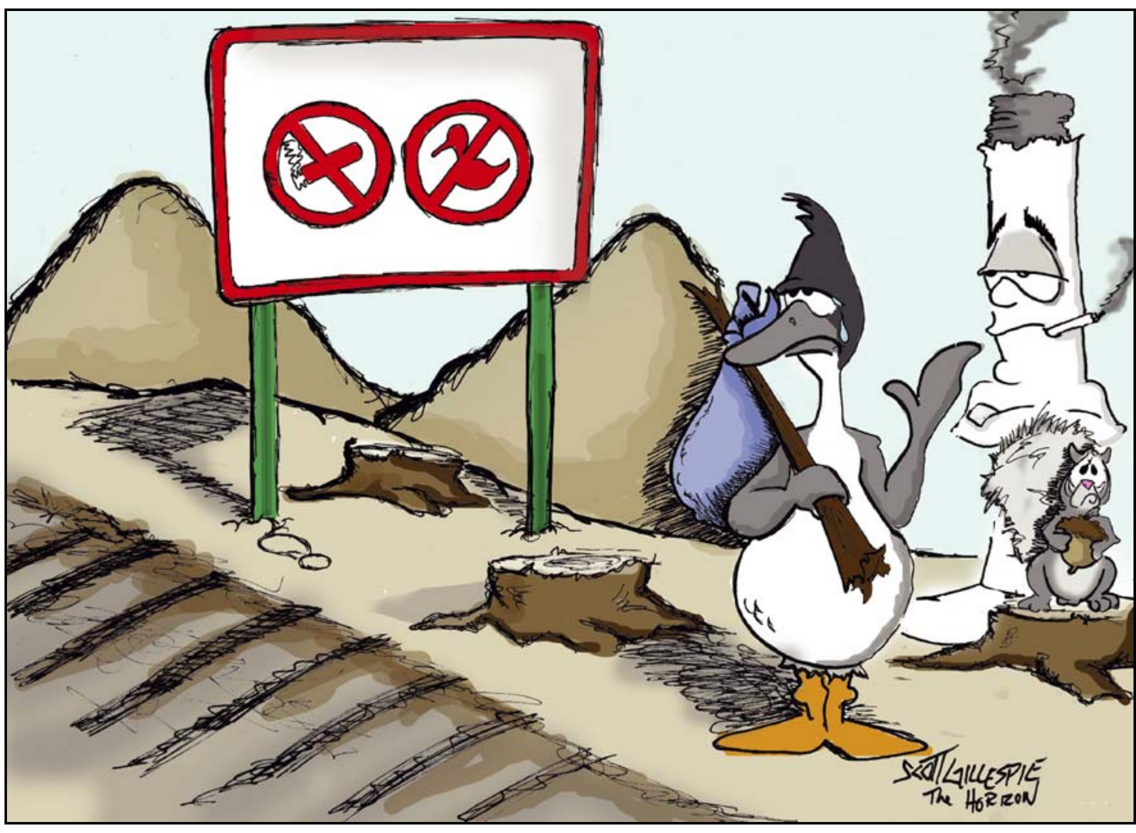
I wonder if a two- or three-story parking garage would raise our suicide levels. We should put a group of our sociology majors on that one.

Smokers, and their advocates, I take no issue with you smoking or even advocating for the right to smoke on campus, but one thing, do not use the logic of: "I paid such and such to come her, I should be allowed to smoke."

Seems like good logic, I suppose, but, "I paid such and such to come here and I shouldn't have to smoke."

I suggest you come up with a plausible argument, such as, "I promise I will be courteous in the future and will not stand outside of entrances and exits to smoke or light up in such an area where someone is forced to walk through me or behind me in order to reach their objective. I promise I will use the designated smoking area and will abide by the regulations set forth by this campus. Amen."

Shawn Hanes
A major of or in something…



10 Ways to…

Bribe your professors

Editor's Note: "10 Ways to..." is a humor piece. Follow the advice at your own peril.

1. Baked goods. I have yet to meet a professor who doesn't like cookies, cakes and pies — especially cookies. For the record, Allman likes snickerdoodle, chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, peanut butter and sugar cookies, in that order. Oh, and pound cake — everyone loves pound cake.

2. Rare gems. Checks can leave a paper trail, but diamonds and such do not. The professor can claim he inherited the gem from a dead relative to a jeweler and get clean money in exchange. I would start with at least two carats.

3. Electronics. Who wouldn't appreciate a nice 50-inch plasma screen HD-TV? No one. Televisions fall off the back of delivery trucks all the time, so why can't one end up in your professor's driveway? Easy like Sunday morning.

4. Top-of-the-line computer system. Dell has an XPS 720 H2C computer system that could turn an "F" into a passable "C" in a hurry. If your professor is more of the laptop-type, I have two words for you: MacBook Pro. I would imagine anything but a 17-inch model is in order. If you go to the Apple Store in the Oxmore Mall, ask for Ian.

5. Steak of the Month Club. If you choose Plan 9, your professor will get USDA prime every month for $1,499.99. A good chateaubriand is worth a "D" in any professor's book, but the 12-month plan is the way to go to a clean "B." Put the membership in the professor's dog's name. Vegetarian? Harry and David have a very nice Fruit-of-the-Month Club, but it doesn't rank up there with 12 Kobe Beef Steak Burgers. Or...

6. 1-800-BEERCLUB.COM. For $599.99, your professor can sample 12 different international beers. Your professor can't live in Kentucky — you can't ship beer to Kentucky, but the campus is located in Indiana, so that's a moot point.

7. Portable Inflatable Whirlpool Spa by Hammacher Schlemmer. Do I really have to explain the appeal of an inflatable whirlpool? A real professor would set it up in his office and spend every minute of his office hours in there. I'm not sure how you get 250 gallons of water to an office, but I'm sure it can be done.

8. Indianapolis Colts season tickets. I'm not sure how you obtain these tickets, but, if you can, I see passing grades in your future.

9. $640,000,000 in negotiable bearer bonds. This is what you need for a guaranteed "A+."

10. Indentured servitude. It's not much different from being a student, so suck it up and start cleaning his office. You get use to the smell after a while.