“How do I love thee?  
Let me count the ways.”  
—Elizabeth Barrett Browning

On the occasion of the magazine’s 5th anniversary we thought it would be fun to identify all the reasons people love living here. So for most of the past year, we’ve been making a list, with the help of writers and photographers who contribute to the magazine, our families and friends, community leaders, and people we interact with in the course of a day. We’ve checked over the list a number of times, but we just know we’ve left out something really cool, obvious, and important. No doubt, we’ll hear about it from you, our readers. So don’t hesitate to drop us an e-mail with your suggestions and we’ll print them in the next issue. Send your reasons to editor@magbloom.com, type “Love” in the subject line, and don’t forget to sign your name. Here’s our list in no particular order. We hope you get a kick out of what we picked. —the editor
Music! Music! Music!

Ours is a family-friendly town

Bloomington is, without a doubt, a fabulous place to raise kids. From stellar parks and playgrounds to full-scale theme producers even toddlers can enjoy there’s enough family-friendly fun to fill every slot on your calendar. Nursing moms are welcome in restaurants; the Banshee Community Center hosts free preschool programs; the YWCA offers fun day care; and a slew of summer programs; and the Monroe County Public Library has a giant collection of books, CDs, movies, and even toys to borrow—out to mention a playroom with an infant area. Bloomington has excellent sports leagues for kids—from baseball and basketball to ice hockey and soccer—and enrichment classes of every kind. We are known for our top-quality schools, with our two public high schools routinely sending graduates to the best universities in the nation. Those seeking an alternative to public schools will find attractive options from Bloomington Monroe School to the Harmony School—an independent K-12 school that’s leading a revolution in education. With Indiana University so prominently in our midst, the importance of education is practically in the air that our children breathe.

In studies and workshops around the city, Bloomington hands are busy crafting some of the most exquisite home furnishings and décor available. Textillery Weavers produces shuttle-loom woven blankets of extraordinary softness and beauty, appearing in the best designer showrooms of the country. Two dedicated spinners create a wide array of edibles, the Farmers’ Market features local, fresh produce and products, from sweet corn to mushrooms, squash, apples, and even purple, orange, and yellow pumpkins. Buford’s offers a wide range of fabrics, threads, and notions that feature artist Lara Moore’s signature luminescent colors and nature-inspired motifs. Nathan Hunter’s shibori clothing is inspired by his many years as a painter. Robert Harman’s striking seating features as many as 20 contrasting fabrics in a single chair. Nancy Hiller creates custom cabinetry that blends seamlessly with period homes from the Victorian and Arts and Crafts eras. Even if much of their work is beyond the average Bloomington budget—a Harman chair runs around $4,000—it’s nice to know we’re helping to inspire such elite artistry.

On Saturday, we go to the farmers’ market

Bloomington is known for its corn. But every Saturday from April through November at the Bloomington Community Farmers’ Market you’ll find not only fresh corn but also locally grown peppers (red, green, yellow, and even purple), mushrooms, squash, apples, tomatoes, kale, spinach, fresh bread, honey, jams, jellies, and pretty much anything else people grow, bake, brew, raise, or grow (fresh lettuce corn, anyone?)? Beyond the amazing array of edibles, the Farmers’ Market also features low music, street performers, and frequent arts and crafts exhibits. And, perhaps best of all, at the Farmers’ Market you see Bloomington and its residents at their most fun-loving. Amish vendors sell to long-haired, guitar-playing bohemians; young families checking out the produce alongside retired couples; and college kids shopping around for the summer. In cooler months, the Bloomington Winter Farmers Market continues the fun indoors with winter crops, dairy, soap, herbs, and more.

B-town artisans make things the world loves

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PHOTO CREDITS: Joshua Bell: Courtesy of Bloomingom Symphony; Sylva McNeil: Courtesy of Indiana University; Robert Harman: Courtesy of Indiana University; Menahem Pressler: Courtesy of Menahem Pressler; Leonard Slatkin: Courtesy of Indiana University; David Baker: Courtesy of Indiana University; Janos Starker: Courtesy of Indiana University; Nancy Hiller: Courtesy of Nancy Hiller; Bryan Park pool: Photo by Steve Raymer; Friendly Town Ours is a Family-Friendly Town: Bloomington Community Farmers’ Market: Photos by Daniel Orr; Robert Harman in one of his distinctive handmade chairs: Photo by Steve Raymer.
6

The Dalai Lama and Our Tibetan Connection

What brings the Dalai Lama to Bloomington? The spiritual leader makes frequent trips to our fair city to visit the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center, founded in 1979 by his brother Thubten J Norbu. Not merely an oasis of Buddhist religion amid quiet countrysides, the center also welcomes visitors to its 40-acre grounds, which include two traditional Buddhist stupas, a temple, teaching and retreat areas, and the Happy Yak Gift Shop. Ongoing classes and retreats in yoga, Dharmic art, and meditation are open to the community. Bloomington is also home to the Gaden KhashoeShing Tibetan monastery. It too offers public Dharma talks, concerts, and celebrations.

To round out the experience, Bloomington residents and visitors can shop at Yangkey’s Tibet Shop on Indiana Avenue and choose from fields, the center also welcomes visitors to its 90-acre grounds, which include two traditional Buddhist stupas, a temple, teaching and retreat areas, and the Happy Yak Gift Shop. Ongoing classes and retreats in yoga, Dharmic art, and meditation are open to the community.

8

Ivy Tech
It’s a heck of a community college.

Not only does Ivy Tech Community College provide more than 25 associate’s degrees (eight in the health services sector alone, and nearly all in direct response to the needs of local employers), it also leads thousands of transfer students into four-year degree programs; provides adult education and enrichment programs from computer literacy to clay modeling; runs four different centers designed to increase local commerce, innovation, and quality of life (the Garst & Bill Cook Center for Entrepreneurship, the Center for Civic Engagement, the Center for Lifelong Learning, and the Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center); and offers kids’ programming like the Ivy Arts for Kids classes and the College for Kids summer program. Whether you’re going back to school or coming to the city for the first time, you’re sure to appreciate how this hub of higher education puts the “community” in “community college.”

9

So, a Politician and a Comedian Walk into a Bar... ... and Here I Am!

Our Mayor Has a Sense of Humor

Running a bustling city like Bloomington is serious business, of course, but it’s refreshing to have a mayor who doesn’t take himself too seriously. Despite his weighty responsibilities, Mark Kruzan manages to have the last laugh: “Sure, laugh,” he told the crowd. “It’s very funny until you see I had all your cars towed.” Kruzan has done at Bloomington’s Comedy Attic two years running, taking in 2009 that “emcee” is French for “time waster.” Yet he still manages to have the last laugh: “Sure, laugh,” he told the crowd. “It’s very funny until you see I had all your cars towed.”

West Baden and French Lick

A decade ago, the spectacularly named West Baden Springs Hotel, located an hour south of Bloomington, saw little more than a rain. And it’s nearly as famous neighbor a mile away, the French Lick Springs Hotel, retained only a shadow of its former glory as a destination for the country’s rich and famous.

Today, thanks to a nearly $600 million restoration by the late Bill Cook (see page 101), the resorts have been restored to their former glory. The 120-foot, 500-foot diameters domed struts of West Baden and the elegant luxury of French Lick perfectly capture the the Arts for Kids classes and the College for Kids summer program. Whether you’re going back to school or coming to the city for the first time, you’re sure to appreciate how this hub of higher education puts the “community” in “community college.”

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From our restored docks to our expansive array of authentic ethnic fare, Bloomington cooks up a rich local foodie culture.

Those strong overtones are treated to meticulously crafted and artfully presented dishes made by Drew and Kelsey Tallent, who operate the highly rated Ivy Tech for Kids classes and the College for Kids summer program. Whether you’re going back to school or coming to the city for the first time, you’re sure to appreciate how this hub of higher education puts the “community” in “community college.”

Food Glorious Food
Our Thriving (and Sophisticated) Restaurant Scene

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IN BLOOMINGTON, WE LOVE OUR PETS

Bloomington’s human population has its perks, but our pets might have it even better. In fact, Bloomington was just crowned as the number one pet-friendly city in America by Pets & Vets Magazine. Where else can you enjoy an exclusive movie screening in one of the city’s best public pools, as you can at the annual “Dive in the Pool” event at Bryan Park? Besides its dog-friendly pool, Bryan Park is also a great place for jogging with your dog and meeting fellow canine enthusiasts. For off-the-leash fun, there are two official dog parks, one at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve and another at Kest Farm Park near the local airport. Bloomington has a bunch of dog-friendly hotels and inns, several dozen top-flight veterinary practices, and many quality pet-boarding inns, several dozen top-flight veterinary practices, and many quality pet-boarding options. And to help keep Bloomington’s pet population happy and healthy, the city supports Pets Alive, a nonprofit spay and neuter program. In February, Pets Alive fixed 971 pets during NeuterPAlooza! 2011.

OUR FESTIVALS

There’s always something to celebrate in Bloomington, whether it’s rainbow pride at the PRIDE LGBT Film Festival in winter or the Summer Festival of the Arts and the Summer Festival of the Arts. Art. From the Hill-Hilly Haiti Americans Music Festival highlighting roots music to the Dark Carnival Film Festival featuring Gore gore, every season offers several themed events showcasing spectacular music, art, performance, food, drink, and more.

The Lotus World Music & Arts Festival is Bloomington’s best-known festival, featuring top performers from all over the world. Downtown Bloomington transforms into a multistage concert venue for this unparalleled summer weekend. From Balkan Beat Box to Tuvan throat-singing, dozens of international musicians converge to get the whole city dancing. In addition to multiple concurrent concerts through which wristband-wearing festivalgoers can traipse on Friday and Saturday, Lotus includes several free, family-friendly shows throughout the weekend.

Other annual offerings include the Fourth Street Festival with more than 100 participating artists and craftpeople, the fiery Zero Hour Tango Fest, the popular Indiana Heritage Quilt Show, and Taste of Bloomington, which conveniently occurs the same weekend as the downtown Arts Fair on the Square.

WHAT COULD BE COOLER THAN THE KINSEY INSTITUTE?

The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction is a Bloomington treasure well worth sharing—though perhaps not on a first date. The only research facility of its kind, this cutting-edge institute is part laboratory, part library, and part museum. Visitors can stroll the halls and visit gallery exhibitions to see how Picasso, Chapell, and other artists have portrayed sex throughout history. Kinsey has been leading the field of sex research since 1947. Current research deals with sex in long-term relationships, attitudes toward condom use, and brain changes in women with post-partum depression as measured by MRI scans. Kinsey also serves scholars through its library and addresses topics of broad interest through its Kinsey Confidential online services. These discussions might make you giggle, but Kinsey’s educational mission is seriously cool.

SERIOUS ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY

Bike lanes connecting the city. Walkable neighborhoods and shopping districts. Hundreds of dedicated, active walkers to “green” our houses, businesses, public facilities, and everything else that’s green-able. Local nonprofits including Earth Cares, Southern Indiana Renewable Energy Network, and the Center for Sustainable Living (to name only a few) have initiated many successful sustainability efforts, including a faith-based initiative to raise awareness about climate change, and programs to educate people about alternative energy sources.

Bloomington city government has also pitched in, creating more bike lanes and programs offering free energy audits to homeowners. Meanwhile, hybrid electric buses transport the townspeople. And IU, through its Office of Sustainability, has gone to great lengths to make the university more environmentally friendly. University buildings hold an annual competition to see which can save the most energy, and students are encouraged to participate in Electronic Waste Collection Days—an event where students recycle their cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices.

So we have no ocean—our parks and lakes are spectacular! 

In all but the coldest weather, city parks including Bryan Park, Upper and Lower Cascades, and Olcott Park are teeming with children scambling over playground equipment, college and high school kids lounging on the grass, and athletic Bloomingtonians sweating away at tennis, basketball, soccer, softball, Ultimate Frisbee, and even the occasional cricket match. In the evenings, live concerts are as expected, as well as other entertainments such as outdoor movies and Shakespeare in the Park. Just a few miles outside of town, the 100,000-acre Monon National Forest, Yellowwood and Morgan-Monroe state forests, Cedar Bluff Nature Preserve (featuring red oaks clinging to dramatic limestone bluffs), McCormick’s Creek State Park, and Brown County State Park offer scenic hiking and biking trails, waterfalls, caves, campgrounds, and horseback riding. And although Bloomington doesn’t boast oceanfront property, nearby lakes allow for plenty of water-related activity. Griffy Lake Nature Preserve is great for canoeing and fishing. During warm-wet weather months, Lake Lemon and Lake Monroe (the state’s largest inland lake) are alive with houseboats, speedboats, sailboats, yachts, water-skiers, inner tubers, and every other type of water-sports enthusiast imaginable.

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Serious about sustainability...
Bloomington is a Midwestern oasis of first-rate live theater. Cardinal Stage Company, powered by a surprising depth of local acting, directing, and stage design talent, and an infusion of professional actors imported from New York and Chicago, Cardinal has staged plays and musicals of unflaggingly high quality since 2006. And Cardinal is not alone. For the past 30 years, the Bloomington Playwrights Project has championed new work, providing opportunities for established and up-and-coming playwrights to have their work produced. IU’s Department of Theatre & Drama is one of the best in the country, staging dramas and musicals throughout the school year and hosting the Indiana Festival Theatre every summer. The Jewish Theatre of Bloomington has brought the rich tradition of Jewish drama to town, while Theatre of the People produces experimental “performance art” pieces staged at Abravanel Hall, Sunsphere, and other “sites.” And Bloomington’s Youth Theatre gives young playwrights the opportunity to hone their writing chops in local versions of Broadway plays and musicals.

The Little 500 is the world’s greatest college weekend. But the Little 500 does much more than give undergraduates an excuse to party. During its 60-year history, the famous bicycle race has inspired the Academy Award-winning film Breaking Away, drawn visitors from Bob Hope to Barack Obama, raised millions of dollars in scholarships for working students, and provided thousands of young competitors with a healthy, rewarding experience they’ll never forget. Moreover, attending Little 500 is a family-friendly activity that can be enjoyed by all ages. Inside the stadium on race day, the sea of spectators is one giant, revved-up, town/gown mishmash, all cheering their hearts out for this one-of-a-kind Bloomington event.

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Bloomingtonians are proudly diverse. It may come as no surprise that, as a college town, Bloomington is pretty diverse. Still, for a city of 80,000 (including IU students), Bloomington boasts a remarkable range of people. Take a stroll downtown or through campus and you’re just as likely to encounter exchange students from China, South Sudan, Brazil, India, and dozens of other countries as you are homegrown Midwesterners. The city’s diverse neighborhoods include longtime residents, new arrivals, young couples, retirees, and families of many ethnic backgrounds. Various cultural centers, including El Centro Comunal Latino, the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, and the Asian Culture Center, connect IU students and community members. IU’s Department of Theatre & Drama is one of the best in the country, staging plays and musicals throughout the school year and hosting the Indiana Festival Theatre every summer. The Jewish Theatre of Bloomington has brought the rich tradition of Jewish drama to town, while Theatre of the People produces experimental “performance art” pieces staged at Abravanel Hall, Sumsphere, and other “sites.” And Bloomington’s Youth Theatre gives young playwrights the opportunity to hone their writing chops in local versions of Broadway plays and musicals.

The really good news is that Bloomington is a place where people of all ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds live, work, and play together in harmony, creating something uniquely Bloomingtonian.

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20 BLOOMINGFOODS
Come Hungry, Leave Healthy

THE COOK LEGACY
Entrepreneur and philanthropist Bill Cook, who passed away this year at the age of 80, had long been an angel to the Bloomington community. The generosity he and his family have shown transformed crucial sites in Bloomington and nearby areas from crumbling relics to revitalized centers of commerce.

Cook, a trailblazer in the field of minimally invasive medi-cal devices, rose from humble beginnings to become one of the country’s wealthiest individuals, with a fortune estimated at more than $3 billion. Yet in Bloomington he and his wife Gayle continued to live in the modest three-bedroom home they bought in 1967. Cook is responsible for the revitalization of much of downtown, including Fountain Square Mall, Graham Plaza, Bloomington Antique Mall, Bloomington/Morgan County Convention Center, and the Showers Building. He also spearheaded the restoration of West Baden Springs Hotel and French Lick Springs Hotel, now back to their 1940s beauty. Through the Cook’s contributions supported everything from the local economy to the YMCA. Bill is perhaps best loved for the open-hearted attitude that found him, despite his billions, volunteering his time with such tasks as driving the bus for the Star of Indiana drum-and-bugle corps.

21 THE STONE AGE INSTITUTE
It rocks!

Guarded by more than a million pounds of stone that form walls, a tower, and reconstructed “ruins,” The Stone Age Institute is the site of groundbreaking investigations of our human origins. This nonprofit, independent research center is the only facility in the world devoted to Stone Age studies. Although its extensive library and artifact collection are open to the public, some researchers at the Institute study their findings through a number of exhibits and events in town. “From the Big Bang to the World Wide Web,” an ongoing exhibit at IU’s Mothers Museum, traces “The Origins of Everything” through objects such as moon rocks, Neanderthal skulls, a life-size replica of a T-Rex skeleton, and the first electric guitars. Talks on topics like rock, ancient architecture, and human evolution take place on the IU campus and in schools and other community spaces. You can even enjoy this look back through time at the most high-tech way possible: Visit The Stone Age Institute’s virtual exhibit online at fromthebigbang.org.

Anyone who puts thought into what they eat is grateful for the presence of Bloomington’s. This health-conscious co-op has been the community’s resource for organic, locally sourced, fair-trade, and cruelty-free grocery products since 1989. Vegetarians, vegans, and those with food sensitivities shop here, as do gourmets who swoon over the diverse array of exotic cheeses, spices, and oils. From bulk bins to canned goods, Bloomington’s stocks minimally processed foods to support optimum health. The co-op also caters to hungry, budget shoppers. Two of its three locations offer hot entries all day long, and all three boast salad bars, hot soups, baked goods, fresh take-away items, and deli counters with extensive sandwich menus.

22 OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ARE NEAT
Want to get an idea of what a city is like? Take a stroll through neighborhoods. You’ll be able to observe the variety and quality of the homes and gardens and assess the residents’ care and pride.

One of the very best things about Bloomington is its eclectic mix of neighborhoods. Just south of campus, Elm Heights features broad, tree-lined streets and a pleasing mix of homes dating from the 1850s, including a number of stunning limestone mansions with诚实, hand-carved facades. Just south of Elm Heights, the Ryes Park neighborhood’s mix of vintage and “modern urban” bungalows has its own quaint vibe. To the west, the Prospector Hill and Near West Side neighborhoods, both on the National Register of Historic Places, feature artisitic bungalows and stately Victorians in all the colors of the rainbow. For those who prefer their houses newer and their lawns larger, Hyde Park Village, Hossier Acres, Shevando Oaks, and other planned neighborhoods are complete with winding roads and stylish cul-de-sacs. As for taking care of and feeling pride in one’s neighborhoods—that’s practically embedded in the Bloomingtonian DNA.

23 CELEBS COME TO OUR TOWN
Compared to, say, New York or Los Angeles, Bloomington may be lacking in glitz. After all, it’s not like you can walk down Broadway and expect to see a movie star, rock star, or some other celebrity. Well, actually you can. Because if you’ve lived here for a year or two you’ve probably seen rock legend/resident John Mellencamp around town or someone else famous passing through. Bloomington is a regular destination for none other than the Dalai Lama, whose family and cultural ties to Bloomington’s Tibetan community are strong. Who else? In the past year alone Bloomington has played host to movie star Meg Ryan (Mellencamp’s current squeeze), TV journalist Jane Pauley, Oscar winners Meryl Streep and Richard Dreyfuss, film directors Spike Lee and Peter Bogdanovich, and political power couple Jesse Jackson and Harry Belafonte.

John Mellencamp, AP Photo/Tina Fineberg; Meg Ryan, AP Photo/Thomas Kienzle; Jane Pauley, AP Photo/Todd Plitt.
In 1991, celebrated writer and architect Thomas A. Gaines published *The Campus as a Work of Art* (Praeger Publishers), in which he critiqued more than 100 college campuses for their artistic merit. The campus of Indiana University Bloomington placed in the top five. Its limestone buildings, abundant green spaces, and pedestrian-friendly layout were among the features setting it apart. Gaines specifically mentioned the Indiana Memorial Union, IU Art Museum, Maxwell Hall, Showalter Fountain, the IU Auditorium, and the floral landscaping and wooded areas. Twenty years and many construction projects later, the campus is even lovelier. It adds immeasurably to the quality of life in Bloomington, whether daily traversed as an IU student or faculty/staff member or merely glimpsed through the Sample Gates during a stroll along Kirkwood Avenue.

**The Beauty of the IU Campus**

Judging from our more than 400 nonprofit organizations, we are clearly a community that cares. From the Shalom Community Center that assists those experiencing homelessness to Bloomington Area Birth Services with its focus on childbirth education and breastfeeding support, our town is dedicated to doing good. Whether you’re passionate about preservation or concerned about computer literacy, learning a new language or struggling with substance abuse, there’s an organization to match your needs and interests. For all those who want to help but aren’t sure where to begin, the city of Bloomington runs a Volunteer Network to connect people with the many opportunities to give back, and the annual Get Involved Bloomington Expo gathers a diverse array of organizations under one roof, making it easy to make a difference.

**We Are a Community That Cares**

Musi cally speaking, is it fair to call Bloomington the Austin of the Midwest? That may be a bit of a push, but not by much. To the outside world, Bloomington owes its musical reputation largely to the IU Jacobs School of Music. But we natives know that the B-town music scene has much more to offer. In the mood for jazz? Bear’s Place and Malibu Grill will hook you up. If rock, folk, bluegrass, klezmer, reggae, or pop are more to your liking, venture out any evening to catch local and national acts at The Bluebird Nightclub, Players Pub, The Bishop, Serendipity Martini Bar and Restaurant, Max’s Place, Rathskeller’s Cafe, Café Django, and other venues. Plus B-town is crawling with homegrown talent. It’s not uncommon to catch nationally headlining singer-songwriters, including Carrie Mezzmer, Krista Detor, Jason Wilber, Tim Grimm, Jenn Cherry, Tom Raimondi, Craig Brewer, and Michael B. White. Look out Austin, Bloomington is coming after you! 

**The Music Scene**

**IU Kelley School of Business**

Having one of the country’s top business schools in town is nice; benefitting from the time and energy of its students and faculty is even nicer. Through classes and in student organizations like Net Impact, Kelley Cares, and Civic Leadership Development, students at the IU Kelley School of Business gain real-world experience by taking on projects for local businesses and nonprofits, from designing marketing campaigns to solving accounting dilemmas. They’re overseen by a faculty with not only research expertise but also high-level business backgrounds at some of the most successful companies in the world. Kelley houses more than a dozen nationally recognized research centers, including the Indiana Business Research Center, which provides economic data for the state, the Center for the Business of Life Sciences, leading the industry in Indiana and beyond, and the Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, which helps IU commercialize its innovations and research. From building a house for Habitat for Humanity to bringing in speakers like Craig Newmark of Craigslist and Jerry Greenfield of Ben & Jerry’s, having Kelley on campus is like having a world-class consulting firm working pro bono for Bloomington.
Even if you’re not into basketball, you’re an IU Basketball fan. If you’re reading this magazine, if you live in Bloomington, if you’ve ever lived in Bloomington, you’re an IU Basketball fan. Even though the team hasn’t been at the top of its game recently, or made it to the NCAA March Madness tournament lately, you’re still…well, okay, you get the point.

Why are we all inevitably infected by the Hoosier b-ball virus? Five national championships have something to do with it, as does a colorful history of legendary coaches and players.

But beyond that, IU Basketball has saturated the DNA of our town to such an extent that if you live here, IU hoops just becomes part of your genome. The best way to make sense of the phenomenon is to go to a game and soak in the songs, the cheers, and the slightly clownish but somehow still cool red-and-white-striped warm-ups worn by the players. Whether the team is a national juggernaut or a young squad struggling to live up to the glorious legacy of IU champions past, the pageantry, raw energy of the players and die-hard fans, and electric atmosphere will nudge you to the edge of your seat.

IU Basketball… is a lot like a love affair—only worse. It’s irresistible, joyful, painful, gut-wrenching, glorious, and there’s no known cure.

**THE IU CIAENA**

Taking the whole artmovie theater thing to another level.

If you still haven’t been to the IU Cinema, we strongly suggest you pay a visit. Why? Because, finally, Bloomington has its very own art movie house. Yes, B-town has benefitted hugely from 25 years of The Ryder Film Series’ unflagging efforts to screen Hollywood classics, documentaries, and foreign films. IU Cinema, though, takes the whole art-house thing to another level, with state-of-the-art sound and projection technology housed in a beautifully detailed theater with cushy seats and stylish drinking fountains (no popcorn, though). Beyond offering a steady smorgasbord of art films, classic films, and documentaries, the Cinema also brings in top-flight directors to talk about their work and host film conferences. It’s open to the public and many of the screenings are free.

**BLOOMINGTON NATIVES GO ON TO BIG THINGS**

There must be something in the water.

People born here go on to the most incredible careers. There are the athletes like NFL quarterback Rex Grossman, NBA star Jared Jeffries, and cancerar driver Steve Kimmer, the authors like crime novelist Michael Koryta, Meg Cabot, author of *The Princess Diaries* and more than 50 other books, and Ross Lockridge Jr., whose *Raintree County* was made into a movie starring Elizabeth Taylor; and the musicians like violinist Joshua Bell and rockers John Mellencamp and David Lee Roth. You’ll also see the work of Bloomington natives on the big and little screens: Angelo Pizzo wrote *Rudy* and *Hoosiers*; broadcaster David Shuster appears on *Countdown with Keith Olbermann*; and writer and producer Jeri Taylor worked for many years on *Star Trek*. Not bad for a town with about 40,000 non-student residents.

**TAKE A STROLL ON THE B-LINE TRAIL**

Is there anything more conducive to community cohesiveness, outdoor family togetherness, and healthy living than a pedestrian walkway? We think not, and as of 2009, Bloomington has been fortunate to have its very own walkway—the B-Line Trail, currently running from West 2nd Street by Kroger north to West 10th and Rogers streets. Where once there lay a dilapidated railroad track, there now is a wide, smoothly paved pedestrian trail populated by bicyclists, joggers, walkers out for their daily constitutional, little kids running ahead of their parents, and a multitude of Bloomingtonians of all stripes. The trail is festooned with art installations and miniparks along the route, as well as plenty of benches and newly planted trees. For now the trail stretches just more than half a mile, but once completed it will run for three miles, from Country Club Drive south of town to Adams Street in the north.
If a criminal mastermind were scheming to plunder the city’s riches, she would be wise to start at The Lilly Library. Housed in a solid-looking limestone building across from the IU Art Museum, the Lilly’s holdings include nearly 450,000 rare books, more than 100,000 pieces of sheet music, and at least 7.5 million manuscripts of immeasurable cultural (and monetary) value.

The library’s collections cover an eclectic range of thousands of items from around the globe. Mathers Museum of World Cultures holds tens of clothing and accessories; and The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction has extensive collections of erotic artwork from Roman fresco fragments to 19th-century Japanese pillow books as well as works by famous artists.

The campus is full of museums and other caches of incalculable worth: The IU Art Museum has works by Picasso, Pollock, Monet, Matisse, Redon, Duchamp, and Warhol; the Mathers Museum of World Cultures holds tens of thousands of items from around the globe and across time; the Elizabeth Sage Historic Costume Collection captures both common and couture fashion in more than 15,000 pieces of clothing and accessories; and The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction has extensive collections of erotic artwork from Roman fresco fragments to 19th-century Japanese pillow books as well as works by famous artists.

Beyond the campus, Bloomington boasts the Monroe County Historical Society, rich in photographs, and records detailing the history of our incredible town. Moreover, the Lilly is not the only treasure trove at IU. The Lilly Library’s head of special collections preservation, Jim Lingle, and Kevin Montague, the campus’s curator of rare books, are two such keepers of the heritage.

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In almost any field, you’ll find Indiana University grads—a star—or so the careers of IU grads might suggest. Spend a few years in Bloomington, and you turn into a place where kids can get their hands on really neat stuff and not get in trouble.

THE WONDERS OF WONDERLAB
A place where kids can get their hands on really neat stuff and not get in trouble.

The most wondrous thing about WonderLab, The Museum of Science, Health and Technology, is that a children’s museum of its caliber exists at all in a small city in southern Indiana. Anyone with young kids is already well acquainted with WonderLab’s cool, interactive exhibits, such as a room dedicated to the magic of bubbles; a wildlife area featuring a working beehive, snakes, and giant cockroaches, among other critters; and the elaborate, multifloor, Grapevine Climber. And best of all, everything is hands-on. Spend an afternoon at WonderLab and you’ll see kids (and parents) jumping, climbing, building things, taking things apart, and making music, all while learning about physics, aerodynamics, acoustics, mechanics, and everything else under the scientific sun. No wonder the museum was named one of the 40 best science centers in the U.S. by Parents magazine.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION
Bloomington drivers are so spoiled that a 15-minute distance between home and work is considered a “commute.” We possess a land quite literally in the country—with the chickens and squirrels to prove it—yet still be only a few minutes away from every modern amenity one could need. Settle closer to the center of town and you can easily walk, bike, or bus your way to a carless existence.

Our History
In the early 18th century, Bloomington was literally at the center of the U.S. population, reflecting the pivotal role the community has played in American history. In the mid-1800s, it was a stop on the Underground Railroad. After the Civil War, quarrymen began harvesting Limestone that was eventually used to build the Empire State Building, the Pentagom, Yankee Stadium, and Chicago’s John Hancock Tower; not to mention the Monroe County Courthouse and many of Indiana University. Meanwhile, “T.C. Steele made his mark on 20th century impressionist painting; Hoagy Carmichael lit up the music scene during the Jazz Age; and Herman B. Wells made a lasting contribution to higher education both at Indiana University and by his prescient emphasis on global intellectual collaboration, which he developed through international work during and after World War II that earned him a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The present town reflects this rich history—many 19th- and early-20th-century buildings still standing. The downtown, square laid out in 1826, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It contains the building that housed the 1847 Faulkner Hotel (now the Walnut Street Inn and Roots Restaurant on the Square) and the Wells Building, part of which dates to the 1850s. The courthouse itself was built in 1907 and the fish atop its weathervaned dome dates to the 1890s. Meanwhile, the world’s largest furniture factory and is now the world’s largest furniture factory and is now Bloomington’s City Hall.

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WINERIES AND BREWERIES

Picture yourself relaxing in the sun, chatting with friends while you sip a locally brewed wheat beer crowned with a crisp slice of orange...or savoring a glass of estate-grown cabernet sauvignon as you look out over an idyllic pond and garden. Whether you’re a beer drinker or aspiring sommelier, you'll find much to love among Bloomington’s handcrafted wines and ales. Microbrew fans adore Bloomington’s two brewpubs, the Bloomington Brewing Company and Upland Brewing Company. Both offer a wide range of award-winning drafts, from the pale ale to deep, dark stouts. Oenophiles enjoy sampling dozens of Indiana wines in Bloomington’s two tasting rooms at Oliver Winery, with the aforementioned beautiful pond and garden, and Butler Winery and Vineyards. Among the locally grown standouts are Oliver’s Traminette and Pinot Grigio and Butler’s Chambourcin, but there’s something for everyone, from mouth-puckering shiraz to candy-sweet fruit wines in flavors like blueberry, mango, and even watermelon. Bottoms up!

B-TOWN’S BROADWAY AND OFF-BROADWAY

MUSICAL ARTS CENTER (MAC) The 1,460-seat Musical Arts Center at Bloomington’s Indiana University is the venue for hundreds of performances each year, including Broadway shows, dance, and music. Previous lineups have featured musicals like Les Miserables, Chicago, and A Chorus Line. Music concerts run the gamut from Josh Krajcik to Bob Dylan to Vampire Weekend. Dance troupes like the Joffrey Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, and American Ballet Theatre Studio Company have graced the stage.

BUKBIRK-CHUMLEY THEATER The city-owned Bluemont Canal Theater seats more than 360 public events each year. Stars like Lyle Lovett and Joan Baez have made appearances, and equally popular are the town’s signature events like the Bloomington Chefs’ Challenge and Dancing With the Celebrities. The acclaimed Cardinal Stage Company also performs here, with hits like The Sound of Music, Oliver!, and My Fair Lady. The 1,400-seat Musical Arts Center, the Jacobs School of Music auditorium while smaller plays, concerts, and dance recitals are within reach at the intimate IU Auditorium. Previous lineups have featured musicians, and dance companies.

THE 100,000 Square Feet of downtown, not only boasts a beautiful block-long building containing copious collections including audio, video, and online resources but also a stellar staff, an auditorium, meeting spaces, and a bargain bookstore. The children's area, covering most of the first floor, boasts our books, music, movies, and even toys, and is equally beloved for its sizable play areas complete with puzzles, trains, madraps, and puppets. IU Libraries, meanwhile, have been named toys in the country by the Association of College and Research Libraries. Indiana residents are eligible for borrower’s cards to take advantage of IU's incredible resources like the rare books and manuscripts at the Lilly Library and the digital music archives through the William & Gayle Cook Music Library. It’s your own roots you seek, head to the Monroe County History Center’s Genealogist, where you’ll find all the help you need to map out your family tree.

OUR POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS

When you call for help in Bloomington, you get one heck of a response. In addition to the multiple emergency vehicles that will likely arrive within minutes, you can expect courteous, informed, and dedicated personnel—something we don’t ever want to take for granted. Bloomington police and firefighters have access to the city’s state-of-the-art Public Safety Training Center, which trains the public officers from throughout the Midwest. Both departments are also committed to educating residents through courses like the Monroe Hills Career Center Fire Science Program for high school students and the very helpful web page on “What to do if stopped by a police officer.” Beyond the city limits, the Monroe County Sheriff’s forces do an excellent job of patrolling our rolling hills.

OUR LIBRARIES

How do we love the Blooming Heartland Rolling Hills? Let us count the ways:

**THESE CHICKS kick butt in a knock-down, drag-out, skate-so-fast-it makes-your-eyes-water style. Their bouts are thrilling, heart-pounding events that get spectators pumped and proud!**

**OUR TEAM** is comprised of the Flatliners and the Code Blue Assassins, representing every corner of Bloomington society and are made up of nurses, professors, teachers, business executives, and full-time moms. Some are former professional athletes, some are totally new to sports, but every Rollerlady is ready to rock when she enters the arena.

**ROOTS ARE FAMILY FRIENDLY** dressing crowds of men, women, and children in equal numbers. What could be a better role model, after all, than a social worker in a helmet charging through her opponents?

**IT’S ONE HECK OF A SPECTACLE.** Between the outstanding outfits (think tulle skirts, striped tights, and leather), the witty pseudonyms (Terror d’Bits, Hell-No Kitty, Felanie Charges), and witty repertoire (think tulle skirts, striped tights, and leather), the witty pseudonyms (Terror d’Bits, Hell-No Kitty, Felanie Charges), and witty repertoire (think tulle skirts, striped tights, and leather), the witty pseudonyms (Terror d’Bits, Hell-No Kitty, Felanie Charges), and witty repertoire (think tulle skirts, striped tights, and leather), the witty pseudonyms (Terror d’Bits, Hell-No Kitty, Felanie Charges), and witty repertoire (think tulle skirts, striped tights, and leather), the witty pseudonyms (Terror d’Bits, Hell-No Kitty, Felanie Charges), and witty repertoire (think tulle skirts, striped tights, and leather), the witty pseudonyms (Terror d’Bits, Hell-No Kitty, Felanie Charges), and witty repertoire (think tulle skirts, striped tights, and leather), the witty pseudonyms (Terror 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d’Bits, Hell-No Kitty, Felanie Charges), and witty repertoire (think tulle skirts, striped tights, and leather), the witty pseudonyms (Terror d’Bits, Hell-No Kitty, Felanje Charges), and the entertaining color commentary, the event is one big party.
**The Art Scene**

It’s a little like SaFo and a little like Chelsea, only nicer. If you like art, you’ll love Bloomington, where fine art is not only abundant but also accessible. At any given moment, there are a score of free shows around town and at IU’s Art Museum and Henry Badgford Hope School of Fine Arts Greensdale Gallery of Art. A prime example is Bloomington’s biosynthetic Gallery Walk, during which 11 galleries open their doors from 5 to 8 pm on a Friday, offering wine, hor d’oeuvres, and a no-pressure viewing of their collections and featured exhibits. There’s something for every taste, from photography at picture gallery to textiles, woodcarving, and pottery at By Hand Gallery. Our exhibited local artists number in the hundreds and include renowned limestone sculptor Amy Brown, ceramicist Shu-Mei Chan, and house-inspired painters Wayne Manns and Ann Washington, and dimensional weaver Martina Celen. They never seem to run out of inspiration, and they’re always happy to chat about their work. Basically, it’s like Chelsea, without the attitude. CA

**The People**

We have a mishmash you won’t find anywhere else.

It’s an overworked expression to say that what one loves most about a place is “the people.” But when applied to Bloomington, the praise really does fit. We are, by and large, a town of high achievers, with skills as varied as developing sports rankings (Jeff Sagarin), knitting miniature clothing (Althea Crome), golfing on the PGA tour (Craiz Bavin and Jeff Overton), and discovering unknown ships (Charles Bevis). We are glassblowers, bread bakers, school founders, goat farmers, violin makers, poets, artists, and surgical pioneers. Many of our talented residents could find more fame and fortune in New York, Los Angeles, or Chicago. But like acclaimed writer Scott Russell Sanders, screenwriter Angelo Pizzo, and singer/songwriters Carrie New- comer, Kristen Davis, and Tom Bosworth, they choose to live here for the quality of life. With so much talent in one little city, you might expect some snobbery or aloofness; but that’s just not the case. Instead, what you get when you pass someone on the street is a smile, a nod, a “Good morning,” or a “How are you?”—Midwestern humility and friendliness at its best. CA

**The Radio**

Don’t take our word for it—read up on the ratings and you’ll find that everyone in the know has been singing Bloomington’s praises. The city was named one of the top college towns in USA Today, one of the best small places for business and carriers by Forbes magazine, and one of the lowest-stress cities by Psychology Today. Men’s Journal called Bloomington one of the top places to live, National Geographic Adventure magazine named it among its top 50 adventure towns, Bicycle magazine placed it among the top ten best places to bike, and advocate.com designated it as the st. gay- and lesbian-friendly small town in America. Bloomington has won the America in Bloom competition, the National Gold Medal Award for its parks and recreation department, the Indiana Green Community of the Year, and Prevention magazine’s designation as the state’s best walking city. We could go on and on, but we’re already blushing. CA

**Our Reputation Is Outstanding**

The accolades just keep pouring in. We can’t help it!

OTO'S PREVENTION MAGAZINE'S DESIGNATION AS COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR, AND PICTURES OF尊貴的女士和先生 這是一種在華盛頓的表現。但是當提到布林莫爾時，這種評價真的很合適。我們是一個由高成就者組成的鎮，他們的技能各不相同。例如，Jeff Sagarin 是一個著名的體育排名開發者，Shu-Mei Chan 是一個知名的陶瓷藝術家，Wayne Manns 和 Ann Washington 是一種房屋風格的藝術家。他們從來不會缺少創意，並且總是願意與人交流他們的創作。基本上，它是像切尔西，但沒有時尚的態度。CA

**Congratulations, Bloomington!**

In Bloomington, radio is alive and well and much loved by the populace. You might even say our local stations are like glue, helping to bind the community, as well as representing its diversity and interests. There’s something for everyone. Anchoring the radio scene are public radio’s venerable WFIU and our community volunteer run station WFHB. WFU 103.7 FM is the NPR affiliate where you can hear national shows like All Things Considered and Car Talk, local programs including Just You and Me and A Moment of Science, national and local news, and a whole lot of classical music and jazz. WFHB (92.3 FM) features local news (for which the station has won numerous state journalism awards), programs focused on the gay/lesbian/honorary/biennial/transgender, African-American and Hispanic communities, and local music scenes. WGCL 1370 AM, meanwhile, offers more conservative voices, including talk radio heavyweights Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity. And for rockin’ out, Bloomington radio has the goods: alternative on WRTS 98.3 FM, top-40 hits on WBWB 96.7 FM, WCLS 97.3 FM for classic chart toppers, 101.5 FM serving up the best in contemporary country, and IU’s student-run station, WTIU 93.5 FM, playing the hippest college radio tunes. CA

**We Like to Bike**

People who’ve never been to Bloomington but have seen the classic movie Breaking Away (about the Little 502 bicycle race) might assume that Bloomington is bicycle-friendly. And they’re right! Everywhere you go you see people on bikes riding to and from shopping areas, peddling to the park for a little R&R, or out for a serious, miles-long workout. The city’s love affair with biking hasn’t gone unnoticed by the larger bicycle community. Bloomington’s burgeoning network of bike lanes and paths earned the town a school-level “Bicycle Friendly Community” designation from the League of American Bicyclists in 2010. To make the leap to platinum-level, the city recently proposed a funding initiative to build even more bike lanes, shared-road markings, and bicycle boulevards. If you’re into riding with a group, you can join the Bloomington Bicycle Club. And if your bike breaks down, you can take it to one of the city’s many stellar bicycle shops, including the Bloomington Community Bike Project (BCBP), which provides free access to tools and parts. BCBP also runs the Earn-a-Bike initiative, where participants can earn a donated bicycle by volunteering three hours of time working at the project. JS