

editor's message



On the Occasion of Our 10th Anniversary

Thank you readers. Thank you advertisers. Thank you subscribers. Thank you writers, photographers, artists, and designers who contribute your talents. Thank you all who have worked at *Bloom* and all of you who have supported us over the past decade.

It has been a privilege to bring this magazine to you. I hope that in some small way it has added to the quality of life in this town that we love.

As this 10th anniversary issue approached, I struggled mightily with what I would write. A look back seemed the natural thing to do, except that I keep thinking about the future and what I hope the coming years will bring for Bloomington. Here are a few of those thoughts.

GUNS & SUGAR

I hope that we get a state government that will allow municipalities more self-rule, in particular relating to guns and sugar. I don't want guns visible. I don't want military weapons available. Heck, with the exception of hunting rifles, I don't want guns in the hands of private citizens at all. As for sugar, I want Bloomington to have the ability to tax sugary beverages like other progressive communities in this country. The tax would help fight obesity, especially among children, and at the same time raise funds for social programs.

THE INTERNET KILLS LOCAL BUSINESSES

I hope that 10 years from now there will still be plentiful quality local stores in our city. Chances are there won't be if the worldwide trend to shop online continues unabated. Can Bloomington resist the trend? If we don't, a decade from now our downtown will be mostly bars, restaurants, mattress stores, and boarded-up storefronts. Shopping on the internet kills local businesses that support the community and kills local jobs (see page 50).

WELCOME REFUGEES

Nobel Laureate and humanitarian Eli Wiesel said that you can judge a nation by how it treats refugees. The same is true of communities. The newly formed local Refugee Support Network plans to bring 60 refugees from Syria and/or the Democratic Republic of Congo to Bloomington beginning in 2017. This will require widespread community support. I have no doubt the Bloomington citizenry will meet the challenge and help these families fleeing war and persecution.

A HOME FOR CARDINAL STAGE COMPANY

Bloomington has long been a cultural center, but over the past decade, Cardinal Stage Company has taken local theater to another level. The quality is sometimes as good as seen on Broadway and almost always the equal of major regional theaters in this country. Cardinal's productions bring added economic vitality to the downtown and educational opportunities to schoolchildren in Monroe and surrounding counties. It's time Cardinal Stage had a brick-and-mortar home so it can truly become a regional theater and an attraction for the entire Midwest.

GREATER RECOGNITION FOR INDIANA UNIVERSITY

In the past nine years, since Michael McRobbie became president, IU has made giant strides in many areas, including international engagement, research, and academic restructuring. I believe this progress will, in the not-too-distant future, result in IU being counted among the most forward-looking universities in the country.

Here's to the future and, I hope, to another 10 years of *Bloom Magazine*.

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