

## editor's message



# A Column About Nothing

Jerry Seinfeld used to say that his eponymous television show was about nothing. Well, this particular column is more or less about nothing—just a few things that I've seen around town and thoughts that I have.

Despite the heat, Bloomington looks beautiful. The flower plantings around the downtown Square, on West 3rd Street, on the B-Line Trail, at city hall, and elsewhere are gorgeous and so well cared for no matter what the temperature or precipitation—just one more reason to feel proud as one walks, bikes, or rides around town.

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Whether one agrees or disagrees with the decision to install parking meters downtown, I think the city council made a wise choice with the meters they picked. The meters, of course, have all the techie bells and whistles, and they accept coins and debit and credit cards. But most important to me is that there's a meter at every parking space. I hate those meters where you have to walk to a corner box, get a receipt, and then go back to your car and place the receipt on the dashboard. This is particularly annoying in a heavy rain.

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By just watching IU basketball games, can you tell what kind of people the players are off the court?

Jordan Hulls dropped by the office a couple

of weeks ago and we had a nice chat. He is an impressive young man—respectful, intense, honest, self-effacing. He loves Bloomington and no matter where he goes or plays, he intends to come back here when his playing days are over. The main reason: This is where the Hulls family lives, and Jordan is all about family—just the way he was all about team.

Talking about Victor Oladipo, Jordan described him as hardworking, intelligent, and joyful. No surprise there, for those who watched him play. And Will Sheehey, also smart and diligent, but someone, says Jordan, who speaks his mind no matter what the circumstances. Yeah, that's Will on the court, too.

Jordan is going to email us dispatches from Poland where he will be playing this year, and we will share them with you. I think like all of Bloomington, we wish him the very best.

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If I were the parent of a high school junior or senior—especially a parent of moderate means—I'd be taking a good, hard look at Ivy Tech Community College for my kid, for at least the first two years.

It is incredible how, since the recession hit, the profile and status of community colleges have risen nationwide and perhaps nowhere more so than here in Bloomington. From President Obama on down, the value of community colleges has been extolled, while locally, under the leadership of Chancellor

John Whikehart, Ivy Tech has become for many students a respectable alternative to state universities. As well, with the Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center, the O'Bannon Institute for Community Service, and the Gayle & Bill Cook Center for Entrepreneurship, among other endeavors, it has become an important contributor to our quality of life.

With the recent go-ahead from the state for Phase 2 expansion of the college, Ivy Tech's initiatives and positive influence should only increase.

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I happened to be in the Courtyard by Marriott the other day and was pleasantly surprised to see framed photographs of iconic Bloomington scenes all throughout the lobby and common areas. Most chains, hotels and otherwise, install corporate art selected by people far away. It's nice to see a management company making an effort to connect with the community.

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It's been nearly eight years now since I moved here from New York City, yet people still ask me what I miss most about the Big Apple. My answer: just two things—my New York friends and a good Italian restaurant.

Ciao!

**Malcolm Abrams**  
editor and publisher