



Welcome Aboard, Mike



Mike Leonard.
Photo by Shannon Zahnle

For those of you who might not have heard the news, Mike Leonard has joined the staff of *Bloom Magazine* as executive editor. This is his first issue and he hit the ground writing.

You'll find his column, the first of many, on page 12. Over Labor Day weekend, he visited with reclusive John Mellencamp and penned our feature story on the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer (page 88). He also wrote stories on Lil Bub (page 72), the celebrity cat; James Wimbrush, IU's new Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs (page 15); and drummer Kenny Aronoff, who appears in an upcoming movie with Al Pacino (page 18). Not bad for starters.

But writing is just part of Mike's job. He's also assigning and editing other reporters' work and doing a myriad of things that the #2 editorial person on a small magazine must do—like find interesting stories, represent the magazine at community events, mentor interns, help stock the fridge, and occasionally take out the garbage.

Since founding *Bloom* in 2006, it has been my goal to make a great magazine in our small city—one in which we all feel pride. Mike's addition is a significant step forward in the endless pursuit of that goal. For nearly 35 years, he worked as

a reporter and columnist for *The Herald-Times*, doing much of the heavy lifting when it came to big stories and thoughtful commentary.

It can't be easy taking a new job after decades working in the same place. You leave behind close colleagues and the comfort of knowing exactly what is expected of you.

It's an adventure to be sure—not unlike skydiving or having a child.

So if you see Mike out and about, wish him good luck. And if you have a story idea or two for *Bloom*, bend his ear. Among his many journalistic attributes, Mike's a good listener.

Malcolm Abrams
editor@magbloom.com