

Educationally Speaking
By Justin Harter
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Since my last column I have actually started to attend class. Many people were calling or emailing me under the assumption that I'm just sitting in this dorm room all day and not learning anything. That's not true, the History Channel proves time and time again to be very informative. However, I must confess I only attend classes on Monday and Wednesday. I have three classes on Monday; one at 9:30 in the morning, another at 1:00 and then my last one at 2:45. However, unlike Monday, Wednesday proves to be a rather long day. I have a class at 9:30, another at 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, and 5:45, which is my final class; "New Media" as it's called lasts until 8:30 at night.

So what do all those time slots consist of, you ask? Logic is my first class each Monday and Wednesday. Logic, for those of you not in-the-know, is a math class that doesn't involve numbers. Several, if not all, of my former teachers can attest to the fact that I do not like numbers. I even have a hard time typing the word "numbers". Logic is a class designed to analyze arguments such as "Rainbows have seven different colors" and what makes that true or false. There is more to it than that, but you get the idea. I'm not paying Professor Morton \$500 to sit around and talk about the colors of the rainbow. However, the class would certainly be much easier if she did.

My other classes are normally referred to as something like "N 110" or "I 100" because names like "Math" and "English" don't fit well here. IUPUI offers at least 30 different English classes. However, all the rest of my classes are computer-oriented. "N 110" is actually "Graphic Design Solutions" and "I 100" is actually "Informatics First Year Experience". But who wants to walk around all day saying, "Hi, I'm going to "Informatics First Year Experience, do you know which classroom that's in?" That's why we tend to stick with "I 100" and so forth. It just sounds nicer and easier.

I won't bore you with details about all of my classes and what we discuss (Stephanie only lets me type 800 words and she really gets angry if I go over). I will tell you about one of my most-loved professors though. Granted, I enjoy all of my professors equally and I think they have some of the most interesting things to say. Nevertheless, Mary Ellen Reed is like no one I've ever met. Professor Reed is 60 years old and she has a major in technology of all things. For that reason, I don't ever want to hear anyone say "I'm too old to learn how to use a computer." Professor Reed is also sarcastic. She teaches two different classes, one on Monday and a different one on Wednesday. Both are basically about graphic design and publication. She opened class last Wednesday by saying:

"Hi, my name is Mary Ellen Reed. You can call me Professor, Professor Reed, Mary Ellen or Miss Reed. You can call me anything else you want just so long as I don't hear it."

To the class of about 40 students, this was our first indication this lady was either serious or nuts. She went on to say:

“I’ve been teaching for over 20 years, and each year the same stuff gets turned in. The men always design about cars or naked women. The ladies always design stuff about butterflies and flowers. This year, surprise me...design a graphic with naked men or something.”

That alone was enough to convince me that I wasn’t in High School anymore and she was just nuts, but very in-touch with her students. I also had a harsh realization that I wasn’t in High School anymore Wednesday night when I was walking across the campus at 8:30 at night. I didn’t feel scared by any means, but I was new to the experience of not being home and having eaten before 7:00.

Speaking of eating, all of the restaurants and food courts on campus close at 5:00. This poses a problem for most students who eat late. Therefore, I want to meet the guy who decided to put a 24-hour McDonald’s on campus. That person is clearly a genius. McDonald’s is a popular location because of its convenient hours. Maybe I will have a stroke of genius as brilliant as that someday and retire at the age of 23.