

Educationally Speaking
Justin Harter
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I'm So Much Nobler Now

At the time of this writing I just came back from jogging along the White River Canal. The canal has become a popular place for students and citizens alike to walk, run or bike along. It's located just a few blocks from my dorm, as are most downtown attractions. After I lose twenty or thirty pounds from running I come back to my little dorm, have a little drink of water from my little refrigerator, then watch a show on my little TV, and have a little snack. Noticing a pattern of behavior here yet? Everything about my dorm is little; little showers, little living space, little privacy and so forth.

My dorm is bigger than most other rooms in this residence hall though. Because I'm a genius, IUPUI granted me a so-called "single deluxe" room. It costs roughly \$1,700 a semester. That might impress those of you who live in small huts made entirely of manure, but the rest of you that live in traditional housing units are probably laughing out loud and spewing hot coffee all over yourselves.

Most rooms here are just slightly larger than the beds, which are actually hospital beds propped up by a few twigs or cinder blocks. I think if it were possible for IUPUI to make a room smaller than the bed, they would try to stick people in those rooms. I'm sure the campus has their top physics students working around the clock to crack that nut.

My television's remote control doesn't have a power button that works well, but that doesn't matter because you can reach the TV with your hand from almost any location in the room.

The "closet" is just large enough to walk into sideways. It consists of a metal pipe that sticks out from the wall, suitable for hanging upwards of three or four garments. Below the shelf is plenty of space for your shoes, assuming you have the same shoe size as G.I. Joe.

Don't get me started on heating and cooling. Cooling consists of a cold bottle of water and a fan (that you have to provide) and I don't know how the heating is here. We have the old-fashioned radiators, but the main valves haven't been turned on yet. I'm told they have unexplainable noises every five or ten minutes that sound like gun shots. That's just the sound you want to hear when you're trying to sleep in downtown Indianapolis.

The showers here have several playful features. If you're lucky enough to get one of the showers with a working door and lock, you probably won't get one that has a decent shower curtain. Most of the curtains are hanging by two or three hangars and the water takes at least five minutes to warm up; nothing like a snoot full of cold water to get your day going.

However, those days are gone. At the time of this writing I am spending my last week here at IUPUI. I haven't dropped out, I've just managed to find an apartment off campus. My friend Jeremy has wanted to move out of his house for a long time, and I was tired of having cold showers so we decided we could share an apartment and split the bills. However, when he said he wanted an apartment off campus, he wasn't kidding. He called me one day and asked if I wanted to check out an apartment in Noblesville, Indiana. I thought Noblesville was probably just a little suburb of Indianapolis, but is actually the county seat of Hamilton County. A completely new county! Who knew!?

The more I checked out the apartment and the surrounding city I was becoming more impressed. The apartment is at a decent price – even with all the utility bills and it's in a safe neighborhood. I figure since I have to move out of the dorm in May (they are just for first year students), I might as well get an apartment while it's there. I'll have to drive about 25 or 30 minutes to get to campus, but considering apartments in Indianapolis charge by the hour, I don't think I have much choice. In addition, I'll have a place to live close by over Christmas break and the summer if I get a job or want summer classes.

The fall semester is complete December 19th, and the dorms close December 20th at 5:00 PM. I haven't paid for the Spring semester yet so I've cancelled my contract and I'll be moving a few days from the time I'm writing this column. I'll get my own bathroom and bedroom, as will my roommate Jeremy and I'll have a kitchen where I can cook again! Since I know you're preparing a Christmas card for me with oodles of money inside, my new mailing address will be:

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