

Educationally Speaking  
March 13, 2005  
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## **Oops! I Made a Friend**

This may come as a shock to some of you, but I really do have friends. They're not imaginary either. Most of the friends I have at IUPUI came about because of accident or coincidence. The coincidental ones are those that share the same classes as me. The accidental ones are more fun because you never know how you'll meet. Ironically, the accidental friends and the coincidental friends seem to work together to spawn more friendliness. Take for example the start of this semester. I went to my first class on my first day back from Christmas break and a guy I had never seen or spoken with before sat down next to me. The professor had yet to show up and I was speaking with my coincidental friend Travis sitting behind me, whom I met at orientation last fall. We were talking about our schedules and I looked over at the guy sitting next to me and said, "I like your shoes." We then had a lengthy conversation about how many shoes each of us have (I won by four pairs, in case you were wondering). I then learned the guy's name was Tavis. Travis and Tavis are two of my coincidental friends.

After that class Tavis and I coincidentally walked to the food court for lunch. Turns out, our lunch break fits the same time. After we sat down, Tavis' friend Mia came in. Mia works with Tavis on weekends. Mia and I introduced ourselves to each other and we ate our Subway sandwiches. I pulled out my schedule to see where and when my next class was, which was English. Tavis then realized his next class was English class in the room next to mine at the same time. Mia then realized her next class was the same English class as me, in the same room and at the same time. This makes Mia both an accidental friend and a coincidental friend because we met by accident and we share a class together by coincidence. I think that makes her a friend-friend.

Mia and I have become rather close friends, mostly because our lunch break is two hours long. It's a big campus, but there isn't much to do in two hours besides eat and read books. Since we can only afford to eat so much and books are stupid (I'm a media arts major, I have the right to say that), we mostly just walk around laughing at random people. For instance, take the incident of a couple weeks ago. Mia and I were leaving the campus food court to go to another building on campus. It was raining that day so we decided to take the tunnels and ped-ways on campus to avoid stepping outside. We casually walked up a flight of stairs and saw three women coming down. What we heard went something like this:

Woman 1: "So Jean, what did you do?"

Woman 2: "Well then Jeralyn, I realized I forgot to have kids!"

Woman 3: "Oh dear."

In all likelihood those three women felt a breeze from how fast our heads spun around. I've learned not to trust women walking in groups of three anymore.

Mia and I have other adventures though. We think they would make for a good television series. For example, we also have a tendency to sit at the largest table in the food court (with seating for at least six) just for the two or three of us. Since we have a large table, we invite people to sit with us at lunch that are walking around alone. We don't have any idea who they are, but we invite them to sit down anyway. We consider ourselves "The Lunch Bunch". We may also sit outside on a nice day and say "Hi!" as loud as we can to random people, then ask how their day was. We enjoy the looks on people's faces. I'm surprised neither of us has been shot yet.

Since our adventures aren't just limited to lunch time, we have a good time in English class as well. Mia and I both have a difficult time remembering everyone's name in that class so we just figured it would be easier to rename everyone according to what we thought they looked like. We were only doing it to kill time and to make our lives easier. Sadly, the names we've given everyone have caught on. After several weeks of calling people by the wrong name, most people have no idea what anyone's real name is. Our favorites being a girl named "Ruth" and a guy named "Cornelius". We even renamed our professor from "Cheryl" to "Denise". This has been so successful in our class of thirty that we're thinking of renaming every student on campus.