

Motivating with Brute Farce

61 YEARS AFTER THE FACT

Western Illinois U. — You can't teach an old dog new tricks, but the old dog can go back to school. John Newton is cashing in on a full scholarship he was awarded in 1933. At 75, Newton began taking classes last fall at

Western Illinois U.'s Quad-Cities campus. When he was originally awarded the scholarship, \$75 a year, he wasn't able to take advantage of it. "We had a money crunch, and I went to work," Newton says. Now, the scholarship value is \$1,300 a year. And with a B+ in literature his first semester, Newton proves he's still a spry ol' guy.

LET YOUR FEET DO THE WALKING, LAZY

East Carolina U., North Carolina — If you want to call someone at East Carolina U., don't look in the student directory for the phone number. Due to a mix-up, the phone numbers of all on-campus residents were omitted — and no one noticed until the books were printed and delivered. Supplements with the missing phone numbers were issued at the end of last semester. In the meantime, creative students rigged up those neat tin can/string telephones. The less creative called the campus operator.

GIMME YOUR NOTES, DILLWEED

Harvard U. — Huh huh. Guess who's the coolest addition to Harvard U.? That's right. A business professor has decided that *Beavis and Butt-head* may be educational. Students in the course Moral Dilemmas of Management were shown eight-minute excerpts from the show and were given information on the cable industry, the show's finances and arguments for and against the program. They then took part in a debate over the show's worth in society. "Some students thought it was dumb, and others thought it to have some wonderful subtlety," the professor says. Nobody asked Beavis or Butt-head, but we bet they'd say Harvard sucks.

HOLEY PROPHYLACTIC, BATMAN!

Kansas State U. — Kansas State U.'s health center says it's no joke that students' Lifestyles have sprung leaks. After 12 students complained about receiving faulty condoms, the health center decided to recall all Lifestyles condoms distributed since August. Tough break.

K APOW! Three huge musclemen karate chop slabs of concrete and ice to

pieces with their bare arms. One shatters slabs of concrete with his forehead. Another bends steel bars into upside-down "U"s with his teeth.

John Jacobs and the Power Team are seven men who perform around the world, exhibiting strength and motivation to draw crowds and deliver their message. Many of their stops are on or near college campuses.

Jacobs and two other Team members attracted more than 1,000 spectators, mostly Sam Houston State U. students, to a Huntsville, Texas, church last fall.

The message? They are all on fire for God. The cost? Nothing, according to fliers posted on campus. But all who attend are asked to "donate" \$2.

How does breaking blocks of concrete and ice fit in? To save people from an eternity in hell, you need to attract their attention.

"Not everybody can be a world-class athlete, but you can be a champion in life, a

champion for God," Jacobs says.

Toward the end of the performance, envelopes are passed around. The Team is headed for Houston and needs money to help bring thousands of students to God. After the envelopes are collected and the Team breaks a few more slabs of ice, the people are called to God (and to buy Power Team souvenirs).

As a grand finale, John Jacobs, his wife and their two poodles get into their pearly-white Cadillac and drive to their next destination, where they will collect more souls. And more money.

So did the show fire up Sam Houston students?

"It was neat to watch," says senior Carrie Haese. "Everybody was clapping their hands and singing, and it kind of makes you think about your own spirituality. But ... it was just a show."

Sophomore James Pharaoh didn't see a connection between the physical feats and the Power Team's message.

"People want to see destruction — that was their gimmick. But I don't see what it had to do with anything."

Maybe they should bag the bricks and go back to basics — we hear faith healers are back in vogue.

■ Christie McWilliams, *Houstonian*, Sam Houston State U.



Christie McWilliams, *Houstonian*, Sam Houston State U.

Power Team leader John Jacobs lords his strength over an unsuspecting license plate.

OUT For Funds

Marches against the Vietnam War. Protests of a university's investment in white South Africa. Demonstrations against a plan to sell university land to a toxic incinerator company.

In his 30 years at Indiana U., Chancellor Kenneth Gros Louis has seen student tensions rise more than once. But when he approved funding last spring for an IU office of gay, lesbian and bisexual student support services, he unknowingly created what he calls the most divisive student issue ever to hit the university.

"It was the first time in my years of administrating that I saw such antagonism from one student group to another," Gros Louis says.

During the fall semester of 1994, IU became a laboratory for an issue facing many of today's universities: how to maintain some semblance of a campus community when student factions can find no common ground.

Beth Zemsky, coordinator of the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender program office at the U. of Minnesota, says other universities have successfully established GLB offices with private and state funds — including the U. of Michigan, Ohio State U. and the U. of Illinois. "For us,

there was opposition, but it was not difficult in the long run," she says.

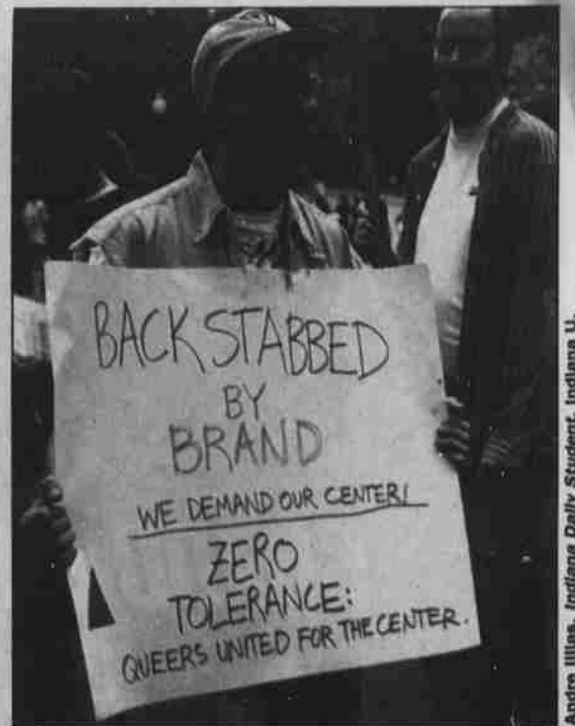
At IU, bringing a GLB office to campus has been an uphill battle.

The controversy began in 1994, when \$50,000 was allocated for an office that would handle GLB harassment on campus and supply information about GLB issues.

State money funneled into a GLB office did not sit well with some state legislators, who called gay students "a special-interest group." IU's College Republicans led the opposition — along with the now-former president of the IU College Democrats — to the proposed office.

The opposition created friction between campus conservatives and members of IU's branch of the gay, lesbian and bisexual student organization OUT.

"It's been one student group against another," says sophomore Jim Holden, president of IU College Republicans. "That's what happens when a university takes one group under its arm and feeds it."



Andre Illinois, *Indiana Daily Student*, Indiana U.

"It's a really emotional issue," says senior Sally Green, president of OUT. "A lot of people's religious beliefs are against [homosexuality], but it's part of us."

Opposition simmered when IU agreed to fund the GLB office with private funds. Whether OUT and College Republicans can coexist on campus after two semesters of dispute remains a question.

■ Amy Wimmer, *Indiana Daily Student*, Indiana U.