



A Town With Talent Beyond Its Size

Bloomington is a town teeming with talent. That's one of the joys of living here—everywhere, and all the time, you meet creative, productive people and interesting characters with stories to tell. The breadth of their expertise and the abundance of their skills is way out of proportion for a place of Bloomington's size.

The university community certainly contributes a lot to stocking this cornucopia of talent, but not all. Others have come because they are attracted by the presence of IU, the town's liberal reputation, and its stimulating lifestyle. And, of course, Bloomington has a generous supply of talented homegrown artists, craftspeople, musicians, farmers, chefs, entrepreneurs, athletes, pundits, and more.

With this wealth of energy and creativity, it's easy for a magazine editor to find good subject matter. But turning an interesting idea into a great story requires genuine journalistic skill. My goal for this magazine is to seek out the writers and photographers who can meet the challenge of chronicling life in this remarkable city.

Fortunately, I've found many, including several who have contributed to this second issue.

Steve Raymer, one of the world's most respected photojournalists, took the pictures for our cover story "Diary of a Diva." Steve is a man of unusual intelligence, curiosity, and humanity—traits that distinguished his 25-year career as a *National Geographic* photographer. In our December/January issue, we will feature a retrospective of some of Steve's most compelling images.

Screenwriter Angelo Pizzo grew up in Bloomington, exploring the town and the campus on his bicycle and following the fortunes of his beloved IU basketball team. There could be no better interviewer than Angelo—*Mr. Hoosiers*—to pair with coach Kelvin Sampson for our "20 Questions" feature.

Christine Barbour's "A Spa Fantasy Lived" is a departure from her regular subject, food, but she brings to it the same delight in sensual experience. In my quest for local writers, Christine was an early, obvious choice. The food column she authored for the *Herald-Times* was exceptionally well-written, insightful, informative, and, at times, downright funny.

Patrick Baude and Moya Andrews, two local "fnds," appear in every issue of *Bloom*. Patrick, a law professor and Harvard grad, blends his love of the grape, an interest in pop culture, and his knowledge of Bloomington in such a way that you'll be entertained by his "Wining" column even if you're not a connoisseur. Moya, IU's former dean of the faculties, has for some time been delivering gardening commentaries on WFIU. Her column "In Bloom" is distinguished by her eloquence, her passion for gardening, and a gentle sense of humor.

I've been told that a city magazine should hold up a mirror to the community it serves. With contributors like Steve, Angelo, Christine, Patrick, and Moya, I think Bloomingtonians should feel good about the reflection they see.

Malcolm Abrams
editor and publisher