

## T.J. Brown

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**From:** T.J. Brown [tbrown@mohawkmfg.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 01, 2004 9:39 AM  
**To:** 'iupres@indiana.edu'  
**Subject:** Take me off any donor lists

President Herbert,

I am contacting your office so that every IU-related fund that hits me up for money will stop contacting me. I am uninterested in giving to the Alumni Association, IUSF, the library, the School of Journalism, the Varsity Club, the athletic department and any other Indiana University-related endeavor until further notice.

My alma mater has been great at asking me for money from the day I graduated in May 1997 until today. I thought I was so charitable when I'd scrounge up \$50 here and there to give to various IU funds back when I was making as little as \$310 a week as assistant sports editor at the LaPorte Herald-Argus in the first job my vaunted IU journalism degree delivered me.

As I made more, I gave more, even with other worthy charities such as my (Catholic) high school, the Red Cloud Fund, the American Cancer Society, Catholic Charities and others merited donations. Forget it now. Figure out how to fund your own damn university.

I'd like to soften up my stance, but nothing warms my heart more than seeing IU fire Gerry DiNardo after just three years on the job (and he had a short recruiting year his first season), and two years left on his contract. As unfair a decision I believe it was, it was even more fiscally irresponsible. Just how many coaches and ADs have been fired over the past seven years with significant money left on their contracts? Ron Felling, Jim Izard, Bob Knight, Kris Kirchner, Clarence Doninger, Michael McNeely (the man who spent beaucoup dollars to radically redesign the IU logo -- from an interlocking I and U with drop shadow to an interlocking I and U *without* drop shadow), Cam Cameron, and now DiNardo.

I had high hopes when you came in as IU President, and I still hope you can lift the sagging academic reputation of the school. But when you allow an athletic department to swallow as much money as it does, I have to wonder how committed you, the trustees, the chancellor or anyone else at the school cares about what the mission of the university should be.

I hope you and Greenspan find that special football coach that will lead Indiana to the promised land of the Motor City Bowl, because nothing is more exciting than a bunch of university boosters spending Christmas Eve in Detroit. As your athletic director expected bigger miracles from DiNardo than Notre Dame's Kevin White expected from Tyrone Willingham, let me recommend a Franciscan Friar or a Carmelite priest. Perhaps they can summon some divine intervention to rescue the Hoosiers from the basement of the Big Ten and hopefully deliver them to the glorious mediocrity of late-December bowl games. As an added bonus, they would keep expenses down as they take vows of poverty.

If that doesn't work out, consider me. I'll work for half as much as you paid DiNardo. I didn't play organized football at any level, but at this point, does it really matter?

Thomas J. Brown

B.A.J. Journalism 1997

P.S. I enjoyed watching my wife's alma mater make the Sweet 16 in both men's and women's basketball. While her school's football team needs some work, they're no worse than Indiana. Her school at least had the good sense to swallow the athletic department into the university's control. Costs are down. And Vanderbilt doesn't get public money.