

THE BUTLER COLLEGIAN

"The Voice of the Dawgs"

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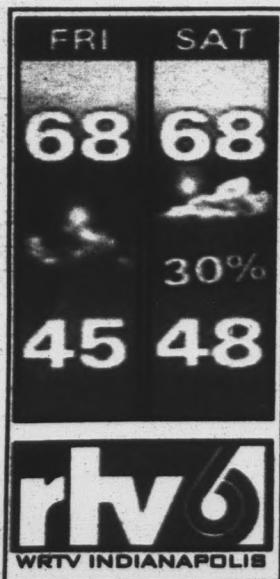


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Community wants peace and respect

Part II: The surrounding neighborhood members say respect is more of an issue than partying.

BY CARLOS MIGUELEZ
News Editor

The issue is not whether Butler students party or not, it is an issue of respect.

Residents of the Butler-Tarkington area said they want to focus their efforts on building good relations within the community and expect better behavior from students.

Margaret Brabant, associate professor of political science and director of the Center for Citizenship and Community, said the university and the community have to face challenges together.

For the past five years, the CCC has tried to improve neighborhood inte-

gration and citizenship, Brabant said. The center founded the Butler University/Butler-Tarkington Operational Team, which formally recognizes the need for neighbors, faculty, staff and students to find common solutions to their problems.

"We need to be engaged in effective and constant communication," she said.

Before Indianapolis Police Department released the Guide for College Students to Residential Living in the Butler-Tarkington area, BBOT released another document titled, "Community Minded: Fostering Positive Relationships Among Residents, Students and

See COMMUNITY, Page 6

Make like a tree and leaf



Collegian photo by Laura Centrella
The Labor Day storms not only caused considerable flood damage to university buildings, they also brought a large section of a tree in front of Ross Hall to the ground.

Plans in the works for new wellness center

BY KATIE ENGEL
Staff Writer

The Hilton U. Brown Theatre, also known as the Starlight Theatre, may be seeing major changes if university officials continue their plan for constructing a new wellness center and housing facility in its place.

Butler's Board of Trustees voted this weekend on a contract to enlist the help of Brailsford and Dunlavy, a facilities planning firm, to conduct a study on the feasibility of a housing and wellness center.



Collegian photo by Kimberly Davis
The Hilton U. Brown Theatre, once a venue for musicals and noted performers and speakers, now remains vacant most of the time.

"They'll be interviewing with focus groups to see what needs are being met, and which aren't," Levester Johnson, vice

president of student affairs said.

Johnson said the university should receive a report in February analyzing the

results of the survey. He said this report would then be used to seek a third party to help finance the project.

Within the new center could potentially be housing facilities, to help ease some of the problems created this year, as well as a new health and counseling center. A recreation center including basketball courts would be open to students and the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood.

"The university, in my opinion, needs to work harder to be a good citizen to the community," Johnson said.

The theater, built in 1955, is located on the east side of Hinkle Fieldhouse. At one time, it was a place for both the students and community to enjoy various events, including speakers, celebrity performers and the famed "Starlight Musicals." Commencement ceremonies and addresses to the University have also been featured there.

The theatre began to lose business as other venues, such as Clowes Memorial Hall, were developed and the admittance fees, which were once abundant, did See STARLIGHT, Page 6

COMMUNITY: BTNA wants to compromise with students and Butler University to encourage appropriate behavior from students

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Butler University."

The brochure explains the expectations of residents, students, Butler University, BTNA, property owners and the police.

Brabant said it was good that IPD came up with the new document as an additional source of information, but that BBOT did not get enough credit for trying to build good relationships between all the parties involved in the issues.

She said she is familiar with the constant complaints of the community, which include excessive noise at inappropriate times, trash, students urinating on the neighbors' lawns and other things they consider belligerent behavior.

Carole Bracken, a neighbor in the area, said residents constantly address issues related to the relationship between students and the community.

"We discuss the Diversion Program, parking issues, ways to improve relations and other important issues at hand," Bracken said.

Bracken said IPD Officer Benjamin Hunter, the community liaison, created the Diversion Program to get students to do

community service instead of arresting so many underage drinkers. The BTNA Board then decides whether students have done a sufficient amount of community service and whether or not IPD can drop the charges.

Bracken graduated from Indiana University and said she knows what it is like to be a college student, but that she also has expectations.

"Everybody goes to college and knows what appropriate behavior is. Nobody cares whether students party as long as they behave themselves," she said.

Janet Burch, a member of BTNA, said she has tried to avoid calling the police on Butler students because she understands they're young. However, she said loud noise has awakened her many times after 1 a.m.

"They need to learn to respect the community," Burch said. "It is a very sad thing. I've lived here for six years and I have seen the situation in this neighborhood worsen every year, especially these last two years."

Bracken said most neighbors want to work with students jointly to build community relations.

One of the reasons for the emer-

gence of problems between neighbors and students has to do with the ownership trends of the last years.

"Families used to own most houses in this area, but now, a few buyers that own everything rent only to students, which has deep social impacts," Bracken said. "Most Butler students are white, which takes away the diversity there used to be."

Regarding the way the police have dealt with the challenges, she said she's never had problems with BUPD and that its officers have been cordial to her.

However, she said other community members feel BUPD is biased toward students, which resulted in the constant pressure that BTNA and the Berkeley Homeowners Association put on IPD to take over the conflict.

Bracken said she's happy with the way IPD has dealt with problems between the community and students.

Brabant said she agreed that law enforcement is essential for protecting people's rights.

"Law enforcement is necessary, but our students have rights that are guaranteed by the Constitution," she said. "I don't



Collegian photo by Chris Peric

The area where more law enforcement has taken place is the area around Berkeley Place, commonly known as "the grassy knoll."

important," she said.

Brabant said BTNA wants to have good relationships with Butler students and that she hopes it can create a joint community with them.

"Dr. Fong is moving the university towards that direction," Brabant said.

Brabant said because Dr. Fong and his wife live in the area, good relations within the community are fostered because they face the same problems any other resident faces, with the difference that they also represent Butler University.

Lessons in Leadership

Laying the Foundations

This series includes five separate interactive seminars. The sessions will cover the concepts of personal and leadership development as well as community involvement.

The series is designed for anyone who would like to get involved.

All sessions will be held in the Library Auditorium.

Tuesday, Sept. 23 7 p.m. Lessons in Leadership: Understanding yourself

Tuesday, Oct. 14 7 p.m. Lessons in Leadership: Using the energy

Tuesday, Oct. 21 7 p.m. Lessons in Leadership: Keeping it level

Tuesday, Nov. 11 7 p.m. Lessons in Leadership: Leading your crew

Tuesday, Nov. 18 7 p.m. Lessons in Leadership: Maintaining the foundation

Students interested in the series should contact the Student Affairs Office, 300 Atherton or ext. 5330.

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STARLIGHT: Historic theater could soon be leveled to make way for a housing and wellness facility to benefit students and neighbors.

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not compare to the repair costs.

Johnson said that the presence of the Starlight is more of a liability issue now.

"There are no official plans for upkeep and renovation of Starlight," Johnson said.

Though a new theatre will be built behind Lilly Hall as part of a series of renovations and additions to campus, the issue of Starlight being a landmark is

still prevalent. It had long had a presence in the community and has been important to alumni, including Diane Lacy, who attended musicals and heard Frank Sinatra sing at the theatre.

"I realize the competition now with Clowes and the theaters downtown, but I would love for the school to hang on to it just for the fond memories," she said.

Johnson said he hopes everyone can be content with what will replace it.

"I think some people will have nostalgic feelings about it," Johnson said. "For the most part, within those feelings, there will be an understanding that those days have passed and there will be excitement as to what could be in its place."



Collegian photo by Kimberly Davis

While the Starlight Theatre holds fond memories for members of the community and alumni, it has become a liability concern.