Phoenix

INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTH

May 5, 2010

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SAAB Takes Out the Trash

Photo/John Norris

Members of SAAB, Donald Luckett Sr. (left) and Bobby Marsh work together to clean along Gary's 35th Avenue.

More Budget

By Don Sjoerdsma

IU Northwest's baseball program
renewed, and the Northwest Phoe
schedule cut by half in conjunctio

Due to shortfalls in the budge
dent Life and Athletics is makin
The Office of Athletics declar
bership to the National Associa
(NAIA) for their volleyball and
teams, however, they will not do
gram. The NAIA, whose goal is
development of students throug
tion," is way of legitimizing an a
common ground for competitio
compete in national tournament
Director of Student Life and A
said, "The elimination of baseb
designed to begin to address the
Although no official decision
newspaper, the Phoenix, will
say the Phoenix's budget will be
ic year than it has been in the p
were previously paid for their
compensation. It is possible the
form of a stipend.
To coincide with the launch o
may also be cutting the publica

By John Norris

Imagine looking out behind your house one night. You live in Gary, less than a mile away from campus. You see a mound of trash in the alley behind your yard. Despite keeping a clean yard and a cheery disposition about your neighborhood, that 8-foot-high pile of garbage glares at you every night when you go to sleep. Imagine now that you wake up the very next morning and look out your window to find 20-30 random strangers cleaning up this pile of garbage and they stay there for hours until the job is done. It may not make the neighborhood safer, it may not help pay the bills, but at least you don't have to look at that damn pile of trash every night before you go to sleep.

This could have been the reality for some citizens of Gary on the morning of April 24th. The Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), partnered with Brother 2 Brother, had their 2nd Annual Cleanup in honor of Earth Day. The City of Gary pitched in by providing dumpsters, IU Northwest provided supplies and Ivy Tech supplied food for the workers.

Bright and early at 8 a.m., SAAB members started on 35th Avenue, by IU Northwest's campus and moved all the way down 35th until they reached Ivy Tech's campus. The work that they had planned to do was done by 11 a.m. and everyone took a midday break to eat at Ivy Tech. After finishing their grilled energy boost, SAAB members proceeded to the gas station at the intersection of 35th and Georgia Street.

That was where they met their major challenge for the day, an alley overloaded with trash. There were small piles along the fence line the whole length of the alley, and to top it off, there was a monstrous trash pile that seemed to contain enough stuff to fill an entire house. Couches, mattresses, children's toys, wood, mirrors, glass and shelving all heaped into a soaking wet, (it had rained the night before) disgusting eyesore. The SAAB members looked at each other and someone muttered, "When's the backhoe getting here?" I thought this was a joke, but after a half an hour of picking up smaller debris a giant dumpster was dropped in the parking lot of the gas station. Then a few minutes later a woman drove a backhoe into the alley like a proverbial knight in shining armor.

Even with the backhoe, it took a considerable amount of effort on everyone's part to clean up the alley. Amidst the labor, the SAAB members plotted how to make such events bigger and better. Bobby Marsh said, "There's 500 churches in Gary. Even if we just get ten people out from every church in Gary, we'd have 5,000 people to do this." Other members agreed saying, "We could have this done in a day for the whole city." As the day wore on, a few citizens of Gary showed up and put work gloves on to pitch in for the effort.

After the day was concluded, the entire group gathered around Dr. Coopwood, the Director of the Office of Diversity and Equity. Dr. Coopwood addressed all the men and women there saying, "We are the best chapter in SAAB. We just recently won an award that proves that, and days like today are just exactly why. You came together and you made a difference in this community. I'm so proud of the chapter that we have here at IUN." After a quick prayer, SAAB officially ended their day. As usual, that did not mean a total end. For at least 45 minutes smiling faces and laughing men stayed in the parking lot. Talking, sharing, laughing and planning for another day of service.