

Collector: Kyle Blythe

Informant: Tyler Weldon

Title: The Legend of the Showalter Fountain Fish

Genre: Legend

Subgenre: Historic Legend

Text:

"Alright let me think for a second:

Behind me is the scene of one of the greatest legends, in my opinion, at Indiana history. Uh this is Showalter Fountain. Technically it depicts the birth of Venus, but in my opinion I've been here three years, all I see is it looks like Venus is giving birth to a fish but that's not where the legend comes from, if you look around Venus in the water there are five fish posted around her. Now if you look at that fish over there, it is actually a lot smaller, probably about half the size, than all the other fish. And there is a reason for that and it has to do with the last time Indiana University won the national basketball championship. Does anyone know when that is? (And then they would raise their hand and say '1987' 'cause there is always alumni in the group and I'd be like "yeah! You're the best!" and yeah in 1987, winning shot goes through the hoop and IU just erupts. It turns into this madhouse. Everybody is ecstatic and crazy and excited. This is incredible; IU basketball is an entire culture here: everything revolves around it. Everybody is just going crazy. They run out of their apartments, their dorms, their houses, wherever they were, everybody runs outside hands in the air screaming, running through campus and it call kind of culminates here in the fine arts plaza and in Showalter Fountain. My dad was actually here when it happened so he can confirm this. People were climbing all over each other. It was shoulder-to-shoulder. Pretty much just this massive mosh pit inside the fountain. People were climbing over Venus. It was insane. Uh and the authorities were there. They kind of kept it under control. There's not much you can do at that point. They made sure people weren't doing anything ridiculously dangerous. Uh, but eventually the night calmed down and that was the end of the night. The next morning though people come outside and all five of these fish surrounding Venus are gone. And you can't really tell by looking at these but these are solid all the way through and they weigh nearly two tons. That's a true fact. All five of these fish were somehow taken out of the fountain in the middle of the night they weren't like unscrewed or anything. I'm pretty sure they were cut. And they were just gone. So never doubt the capabilities of determined college students because they removed these two-ton fish. So what happened is IU was kind of pissed off. But they were also pretty happy that we just won the national championship, so they just released a statement, saying like, "hey, hahaha very funny. Return these fish soon and there won't be any like major repercussions." So what started happening is that over the next couple weeks to a month. They started turning up in very interesting places. One of the fish was found off-campus. Nobody really knows what happened. The authorities just turned up with it one day and we got that one back. Nothing special about that one. I get that one out of the way first. Another one of the fish was found in the basement of one of the fraternities on campus and they were

actually worshipping the fish. So we had to take that fish away from them before things got out of hand. Uh another fish was found by the president of the university when he went to go to work in the morning and he goes to pull into his parking space and smack dab in the middle is this giant metal fish. So he found that one. And the next one is my favorite. This is the craziest. A little bit later on the tour you're going to see Ballantine hall. You can't miss it. It's the biggest academic building on campus. Just this giant needle shooting into the sky. I'll point it out to you as we go. Somehow, they took this fish and put it on the roof of Ballantine hall. How they got all the way up there nobody has any idea. But I mean it's just crazy and hilarious where these fish started turning up. But you may notice I only said 4 fish. 1 of them we never got back. That fish is still missing to this day. Nobody knows where it is. And there are 3 myths regarding that missing fish. 1 is that IU basketball will never win another national championship until we get that fish back. And so far that's held true. The second is on the other side of it. People think that we won't be able to get that fish back until we win another national championship. Uh so it kind of goes both ways. You have people on both ends of the spectrum. But the last one is my favorite. Some people say, and you have to know a little bit of basketball history about this one, that Bobby Knight, I'm pretty sure that everybody here's at least heard of Bobby Knight. He was a famous basketball coach here he no longer works here, I'm not going to say much, but there is a reason that the chairs are chained down to the floor in assembly hall, uh he's no longer with us, but they say he is holding that fish hostage in his basement, uh and he won't give it back until IU publicly apologizes to him, which will probably never happen so we may never see that fish again."

Context:

This was performed by Tyler during orientation trips. He was a tour guide so he was telling it to parents and new incoming students. This is a way to give the incoming freshman a sense of history and connection to the campus by relating stories to the landmarks around the campus.

Points of Interest:

Important parts of this legend include the details about where the mischievous students left the fish. At least two of the fish ended up in places to try and mess with the administration by putting it on the roof of Ballantine and in the president's parking space. Another important thing is how much of the legend revolves around basketball. The championship win is what caused the chaos. Also, all three of the myths regarding the fish revolve around what basketball in some way. Two of them mention the basketball championship and the third mentions one of IU's former basketball coaches who is undoubtedly the most famous of them.

Collector: Kyle Blythe

Informant: Tyler Weldon

Title: The Gazebo

Genre: Legend

Subgenre: Historic Legend

Text:

"This is the oldest Part of IU's campus called "Old Crescent" pretty simply because all of the building are aligned in a crescent around these woods and it is the oldest part. In fact these were the original buildings used when IU was founded back in the 1800's. Right in the middle of the old crescent you will see that really beautiful pavilion gazebo structure right there. That is the Rose Well House. That is where all of the water was ran to back in the day and it is nowadays transformed into this kind of scenic view. But back then that is where you got your water from in Indiana University. If you look right behind me you'll see these two brick buildings those are Owen and Wiley Hall and those used to be the original boys and girls dormitories. The boys all lived in one and the girls all lived in the other. Now I like to stop here and tell a story. Because there is actually a famous IU legend pertaining to these two buildings. If you wanted to be considered a true college coed at Indiana University back in the day, the only way to do that is to kiss your lover under the Rose Well House for the twelve strokes of midnight. So this was a great big tradition that you would have. So on any given night if you looked outside at midnight you would see two people kissing under the Rose Well House. And they would have one of their friends hold open the doors, because what actually happened is that the doors to the boys and girls dormitories both locked at midnight exactly so unless you had somebody watching your back you would see people sprinting across the lawn at midnight trying to get back inside which was pretty much impossible because by the time the twelve strokes were over the doors were locked. So they always liked to joke that before, well uh, we always liked to joke that before there was Facebook or anything you would know that a couple was official, you would know that two people were dating is you would wake up early in the morning and see two people laying together on the grass because they couldn't get back inside their dorms."

Context:

The context is about the same as the last legend. Tyler told this legend to the incoming freshman and their parents over the summer. It provides a sense of history and connection to the campus and by connection to the university.

Points of Interest:

This is sort of a whimsical legend. It is very different from a lot of the legends in Elizabeth Tucker's book. I think this sort of deals with one of the things that a lot of college kids experience when they come to college. The subject matter of the legend is that of the dating couple and them staying out underneath

the starlight together, just the two of them. It is sort of a romantic notion. Many college kids come to college nervous about meeting people. They want to meet new friends and many meet significant others. This legend deals with that nervousness by expressing how even back then people have been finding people to date.

Collector: Kyle Blythe

Informant: Michael Boom

Title: The Teter Porn Shoot

Genre: Legend

Subgenre: Rumor

Text:

"There was a pornography video shot in Teter. I think it was in the building across from Boisen though I can't be sure. I can't remember the name of it. I believe it was also a part of the "Campus Invasion" series. Although, I can't remember the director. I have looked for it though. Someone might have gotten in trouble for it."

Context:

This was told to Michael because he lived at Teter. It is a story told at a party or other social gathering that is a casual setting.

Points of Interest:

I think there are at least two important parts to this legend. The first is that the college setting is one that is known for being a wild time. The fact that this legend is about porn being shot in one of the room addresses that fact and tries to present it as true. The second part is that there is often a case made know that anything too rowdy or wild that you do will eventually be found and brought out into light. This sort of shows that by saying that though it may have been a secret or hidden, people still talk about it and bring it up. Michael even mentions that somebody may have gotten into some trouble because of the whole thing.