

SEXUAL ASSAULT AT IU  
IDS INVESTIGATES



PHOTOS BY MATT BLOOM | IDS  
Emily Smith, IU senior, 23, remembers waking up in her bed with a man on top of her. In the months after she reported her rape to the police she began finding ways to control her life again, after everything changed.

# Caught in the gray zone

When Emily Smith reported she was raped, a prosecutor believed her.  
But believing her was not enough to be able to prove it in court.

By Samantha Schmidt  
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Hours are missing from her memory of that Saturday night.

It was Sept. 28, 2013, and Emily Smith was starting her first semester as an IU senior. She can still recall the beginning of that evening, when she put on her favorite blue chiffon shirt before heading out to the bars with her roommate. She can still hear the loud music pulsing from the dance floor at Kilroy's Dunnkirk. She remembers sharing drinks with her roommate and other friends.

Then it all went black.  
When she came to several hours later, a man was moving on top of her, having sex with her in her own bed. She froze. Somewhere in the darkness, she could hear her phone vibrating. She wanted to answer it, but her hands were so numb she could not move them. Then she lost consciousness again.

\* \* \*

When Emily, 23, woke the next morning, the man was still in her bed. She recognized his face from seeing him on a couple other nights at Dunnkirk, but she had only fleeting conversations with him and knew nothing about him. Even though she couldn't remember what happened between them during the missing hours at the bar, one thing was clear to her that morning: she had been violated. Yet the man acted like nothing was wrong.

One year later, Emily has decided to share her story in the Indiana Daily

Student. By allowing readers to know her name and see her face, she said she hopes to show others that what happened to her could happen to anyone.

When the IDS contacted the man for his version of that night, he declined to speak on the record and asked not to be identified other than by his first name, Phil. Now 24, he lives outside Bloomington and has never been an IU student. Phil said he had no idea that Emily was as impaired that night as she describes. He said the sex was consensual.

The night after the incident, Emily reported a sexual assault to the Bloomington Police Department. For months, she worked with police to piece together what had happened and to provide any evidence showing that she had been unable to give consent.

When talking about rape, most people long for the clarity of a stranger jumping out of the bushes with a knife. But the majority of rapes are committed by someone the victim knows, in situations that aren't so black and white. This makes it much more confusing for the victim and much harder to prove in court.

"It's not stranger danger," Emily said. "It's your neighbor. It's your friend. It's the cute guy you met at the party who you're really hitting it off with."

Her case, like so many others, unfolded in a gray zone — a tangle of missing memories, mixed signals and unclear intentions.

Darcie Fawcett, the sex crimes

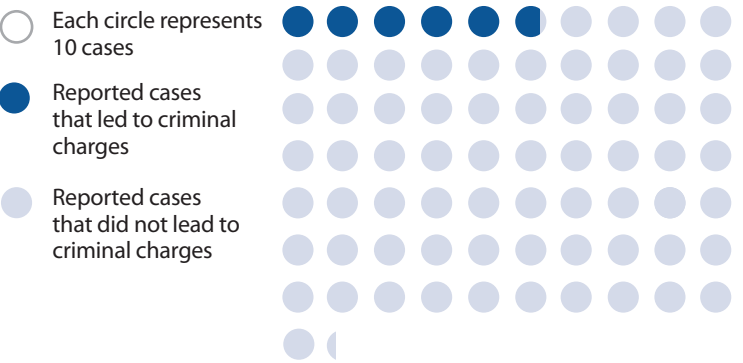
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Emily's nurse, Elizabeth Blauvelt, 38, opens a rape kit in Room 19 of IU Health Bloomington Hospital. "If (patients) felt like they could go through a four-hour exam, it's because they felt like they had been assaulted," she said.

### Sexual assaults reported from January 2008 to November 2014

From January 2008 through November 2014, 712 cases were reported to the Bloomington and IU police departments. Of those cases, 58 resulted in criminal charges.



SOURCE BPD, IUPD AND MONROE COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE  
GRAPHIC BY LACEY HOOPENGARDNER | IDS

## Editor's note

For the past four months, the investigations team has been reporting on sexual assault as part of the Indiana Daily Student's ongoing commitment to provide a deeper understanding about this complex issue. The IDS requested hundreds of police and university records and interviewed administrators, nurses, detectives, attorneys, advocates and experts to provide comprehensive accounts of the stories you'll read in this series.

In today's paper and Tuesday's, you will hear from two women who agreed to step forward, without a veil of anonymity, to share their stories.

Today, you'll meet Emily Smith, an IU senior. The IDS verified case information with available police report summaries, interviews with involved parties and correspondence with law enforcement. The reporters spoke with the two men who were accused of rape in both of these cases. However, because they opted not to be identified on the record, we have limited their accounts to information we could verify through other records and testimonies.

There's a problem on college campuses, and students across the country have cried out for change. We challenge you to take a hard look at our reporting and what's happening around you and start talking.

Michael Majchrowicz  
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## Performance honors late student

By Ashleigh Sherman  
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Senior Lexii Alcaraz stood in front of a crowd at Twin Lakes Recreation Center.

Alcaraz started taking aerial hoops and aerial skills seriously two years ago.

Six long silks hung from the ceiling. Alcaraz, however, ignored the silks and approached the silver hoop hanging alongside the silks. As the beginning notes of "Not About Angels" began to play, she grabbed the hoop to start her routine.

With a background in gymnastics and cheerleading, Alcaraz started practicing aerial hoop and aerial silks seriously at the Trapeze School of New York in Los Angeles the fall of her sophomore year, eventually switching to AsaBela Studio in Bloomington the fall of her senior year.

Both circus arts, aerial hoop and aerial silks require the performer to execute gravity-defying tricks, in the case of aerial hoop, on one steel hula hoop hanging from the ceiling or, in the case of aerial silks, on two strips of fabric hanging from the

ceiling, Alcaraz said.

When her boyfriend, Brian MacLafferty, passed away unexpectedly this September, Alcaraz said she turned to aerial hoop and aerial silks as a form of art therapy, creating an aerial hoop routine in his memory.

"Brian loved me doing aerial and watching me doing aerial," she said. "I had to send him a picture anytime I had a class. He was really supportive of it. We used to talk about

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### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## 13-0 first-half run sparks Hoosier win

By Brody Miller  
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With about four minutes remaining in the first half, the IU women's basketball team was barely leading 28-27 against the IU-Purdue University Indianapolis Jaguars.

What happened next?  
IU switched to a zone defense

and ended the half on a 13-0 run that involved four steals and four rebounds compared to the Jaguars' one.

That run translated to a 68-55 victory for the Hoosiers in Assembly Hall.

IU Coach Teri Moren thought

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