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Voices: A year after #IUPattys2014, students are still puzzled

By: Kayla Ihrig March 17, 2015 7:43 pm

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Students at Indiana University of Pennsylvania are still rolling their eyes over the highly publicized events of St. Patrick's Day 2014.

Students were flogged by the news media after videos circulated of stumbling patrons filling a major traffic artery, fighting and blocking traffic. A video uploaded on WorldStarHipHop.com accumulated more than 1 million views. It caught the eye of local and national news media, websites and blogs.



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"They don't even go here!" [#IUPattys2014 pic.twitter.com/xgMHUTt1FR](https://pic.twitter.com/xgMHUTt1FR)

— Ashley Renee (@ashly_rnee) March 10, 2014

One of the worst reviews was a story from BroBible.com titled "[Did IUP Just Throw The Most Ratchet College St. Patrick's Day Party In The County?](#)," published March 10, 2014.

As Pittsburgh news stations began filming in town and [#IUPattys2014](#) was regionally trending, some students received phone calls from concerned parents. One student even said he had friends from other countries who saw the news coverage.

"I heard from my friends overseas who were worried about my safety, because they that there were riots going on," the senior said. "To most people, when they hear 'riot' it means people dying."

Many students do not feel the media coverage accurately depicted the weekend or the university's image.

"Everyone makes it seem like that tiny 10 minute video was how the entire weekend was," Zachary Kinter, senior, said. "My fraternity got 70 hours of community service in the day of the 'riot' but you didn't read that anywhere."

The university responded to the heat by creating a network between the university, medical services, police forces and landlords to help prevent history from repeating itself.

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Yooo #IUPattys2014 had me like pic.twitter.com/jOdTx6iOHA

— Jake wiser (@The_borio) March 10, 2014

“Administration cracked the whip after IUPatty’s,” Kinter said. “It’s hindered the party scene a lot, and the cops have been extra strict.”

IUPatty’s emerged after administration repeatedly scheduled spring break over March 17. It was traditionally celebrated the weekend before spring break. This year, spring break was moved up a week, so most students would be out of town during that weekend.

Bars and students are calling the weekend after St. Patrick’s Day IUPatty’s 2015. In response to last year’s media reaction, one student made and sold shirts that say “IUPatty’s 2015 – let’s riot.” The student said she sold more than 100 and didn’t place a second order.

This university-tailored trend possibly began with Penn State’s State Patty’s Day, which began in 2007. In 2014, police paid bars to close during State Patty’s, essentially cancelling the entire holiday.

It’s unclear why IUPatty’s 2014 attracted such a crowd, but some students and university administrators credit the closing of Penn State’s event.

Kayla Ihrig is a senior at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

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