

Doctor fights HIV in Scott Co.

By Matthew Bloom
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Today marks the second week of Austin, Ind.'s new HIV clinic. Last week, the Indiana Daily Student spent a day with Dr. William Cooke, who is working to halt the virus's spread.

He rests his head on a filing cabinet.

It's 4:30 p.m. on March 31, and William Cooke has been up since 5 a.m. fighting an epidemic.

Last week on the clinic's first day, doctors and specialists from around the country were in Austin, Ind., working out of Cooke's practice.

Today is the second day for the small clinic, which is only open Tuesdays.

Doctors had confirmed 81 new HIV cases in the past three months, with more expected as testing continues. Gov. Mike Pence had issued a public health emergency in Scott County. Against his principles, he launched a needle exchange program in hope of stopping the virus from spreading.

Day one. Finished. Cooke lifts his head.

He is the only physician in Austin, a town two miles off Interstate 65 and about an hour from Indianapolis. He's practiced here for almost 10 years — in the town he always knew had a drug problem.

His next 12-hour shift at Scott Memorial Hospital, just three miles down the road, starts in less than two hours.

The doors of his practice, Foundations Family Medicine, are closed. Disease intervention specialists pack up the Nature Valley bars. On a folding table, Dr. Janet Arno writes the day's last prescription.

Two Center for Disease Control specialists, doctors Romeo Galang and Dita Broz, sit at their temporary desks on a conference call.

"I don't even know what to say,"

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Defining 'Opana' and 'needle exchange'

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OXYCONTIN AND OPANA

Opioids such as Oxycontin and Opana are generally prescribed for chronic pain conditions.

Opana is clinically known as "Oxycodone" and Oxycontin is clinically known as "Oxycodone."

Opana is twice as strong as Oxycodone. 20 mg of Oxycodone is equal to 10 mg of Opana.

HOW THE NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM WORKS

Citizens bring in their dirty needles that could possibly be contaminated.

Gov. Mike Pence's executive order allows the program to exist for 30 days. Some public health experts say that the program should be longer.

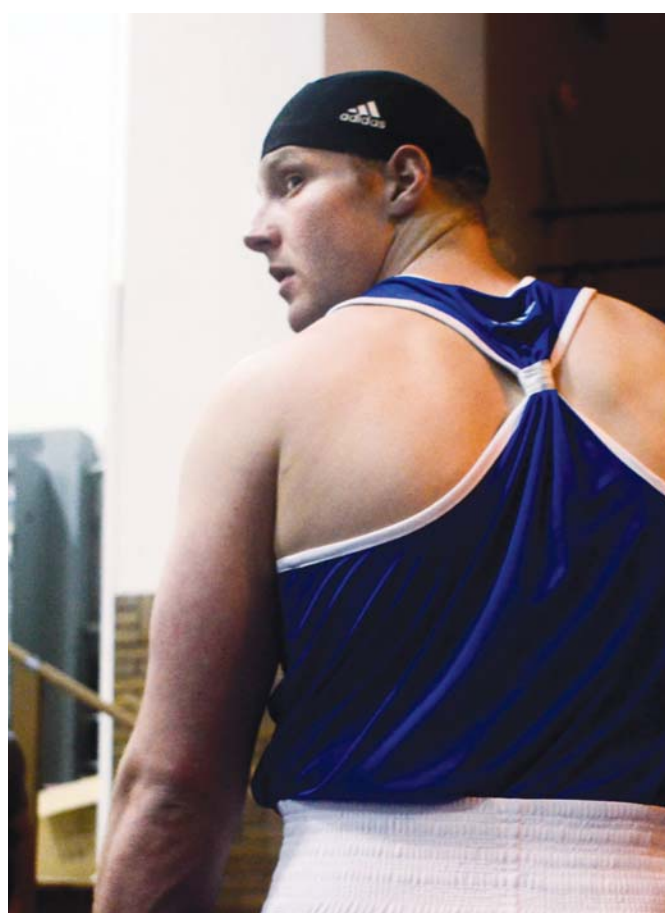
The needle exchange program is only open to Scott County residents and is only accessible through the clinic.

Each participant initially receives enough needles for one week. If needed, Pence's executive order could be extended beyond 30 days.



FILLING THE VOID

Former IU lineman Ryan Phillis has turned to boxing to replace football



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Ryan Phillis watches from the corner of the Tyndall Armory in Indianapolis as his teammate Josh McRoberts is knocked down for the second time. The crowd erupts as his body drops.

The 6-foot-3 Phillis punches his gloves together four times. Moments earlier, he said he was calm. Now he is pacing back and forth with a worked-up vigor.

McRoberts, the defending 132-pound champ, was being dominated in front of this year's Golden Gloves crowd. Phillis, a former three-year starting defensive lineman for IU, is about to compete in his first fight.

It won't be a warm-up fight,

either. Phillis will be matching up with three-time Indiana Golden Gloves champ Willie Jake Jr. The son of a former boxer who won 12 professional bouts, Jake had competed in Nationals and the Olympic trials.

And he is not worried about Phillis.

How much does he know about his opponent?

"Not much," Jake says stoically with Beats headphones on. "Here to work."

Phillis wasn't supposed to be here.

A Boardman, Ohio, native, he received some looks from Big

Ten powers such as Ohio State and Penn State before coming to IU. He was hanging around on some NFL Draft boards as a defensive line prospect and was a three-time Academic All-Big Ten selection. He had started 28 consecutive games for IU.

But football was taken from him.

Seven. That's how many surgeries Phillis underwent during his IU career.

A Lisfranc surgery on his left foot. Another one to get a screw removed. A navicular stress fracture in his right foot with two screws. Two surgeries for hernias. Another one on his abdomen and

Top Ryan Phillis stares down his opponent, Willie Jake Jr., in his first fight as an amateur boxer Thursday at the Indiana Golden Gloves in the Tyndall Armory in Indianapolis. Jake is a three-time Indiana Golden Gloves champion.

Right Phillis weaves through the crowd to receive his boxing gloves before his fight Thursday. Phillis' fight in the Golden Gloves was the first of his career after previously playing for IU's football team.

Middle left The referee lifts Jake's hand in victory Thursday at the Golden Gloves in Indianapolis. The judges decided 5-0 against Phillis in his first career fight.

Bottom left Phillis wraps his hands before a practice with B-Town Boxing on March 9, 2015, at the Warehouse in Bloomington.

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Panel at La Casa talks being 'macho Latino'

By Storme Dayhuff
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Students filled a room with couches and chairs. In the front, a panel of three diverse IU Latino men in leadership positions sat in wooden chairs and discussed what it means to be a Latino man in America.

On Monday, the La Casa Latino Cultural Center held a panel for students to attend and participate in a discussion concerning what it means to be a "macho Latino."

The panel consisted of Mike Szakaly, the senior associate director of Student Central and co-founder of the Latino Community Center in Bloomington; Maurer School of Law Professor Luis Fuentes-Rohrer; and Gabriel Escobedo, a graduate student studying anthropology. Escobedo almost became a music student because he plays the cello, he said.

The panel discussed three main topics: leadership, politics and masculinity. The panel began discussing role models, and Szakaly said though there are negative role models, focusing on the positive role models is finding someone who has established success.

"The perception is as important as the reality," Szakaly said. "Whether we like it or not, we are all role models."

Escobedo said he thinks of his father as his role model, because his father is a person who directly impacts his life.

"There aren't enough Latino men role models out there," Escobedo said. "You might see a few people here and there, Latino men, that are doing great work that you want to follow, but you won't see them on the news."

The next topic up for discussion

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Audra McDonald comes to IU

By Alyson Malingier
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A world-renowned actress, both on and off stage, will come to IU today to teach and perform for the community.

Actress Audra McDonald is taking stage at 7 p.m. at IU Auditorium.

Her performance will include a variety of songs she has performed throughout her Broadway career that have helped her become famous in her field, a small dialogue with the audience talking about past experiences in show business, and a compilation of highlights over the years in her career.

This is the first time McDonald will visit campus. Her performance is part of the "Audra McDonald in Concert" series where the actress performs at colleges and universities throughout the country.

Famous for her performances on Broadway stages, opera stages and on both television and movie screens,



COURTESY PHOTO
Audra McDonald will perform at the IU Auditorium during her first visit to campus.

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» HIV CLINIC

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Cooke says to Arno, putting his arm on her shoulder. "I'm touched."

Because no one else ever came to help, until now.

Before Cooke opened his practice, Austin didn't have a doctor's office. His building, the former site of a Dollar General and a long-forgotten furniture store, is now the heartbeat of an effort to eradicate the growing HIV epidemic in this southern Indiana town.

When he started his practice, he would go door-to-

door and talk to people about their health.

"I haven't done it in years," he says. "Until today."

So when the clinic opened its doors at 10:30 a.m. and nobody was there, he and Arno, an infectious disease doctor from Indianapolis, walked through Austin's neighborhoods together. Outside, the faint smell of trash hit their nostrils. They stopped residents to talk.

"How you doin'?" Cooke would ask. "Do you know about the HIV clinic today?"

Word got around fast in Austin, and everyone knew someone who was using

needles.

An hour before the clinic closed, dozens of patients waited inside for HIV tests. With the blinds shut and TV cameras chased away, they swabbed their mouths in exam rooms and waited for results. They wondered if they would be the next confirmed case.

"We're not here to judge them or arrest them," he says. "Most people know who I am, and I just want them to meet me on that level so they know it's okay to come in."

Many in Austin don't have access to their birth certificates or medical records,

Cooke says, so the Indiana State Department of Health has set up mobile "one stop shop" units for residents to get immediate access to insurance.

He says he's glad the government is finally involved. He says he saw this coming years ago, during the rise of Opana, a powerful opioid painkiller. Many users began switching from crushed Oxy-cotin pills to injecting Opana straight into their veins.

"I've been asking for help, and help has been slow in coming," he says. "But we have the momentum now."

The doctors gather to

debrief the temporary clinic's first day.

"No, no," Arno says to Cooke. "Thank you for letting us use your practice."

Until the epidemic subsides, IU Health doctors along with the Indiana State Department of Health officials and CDC specialists will run the clinic every Tuesday, offering free HIV testing, counseling and needle exchanges.

Black text decorates the clinic's wall.

One who has health has hope.

As he heads to the back door he stops one of his

colleagues.

"Love you, bro," he says, hugging him,

"You're the man," the doctor says back.

Cooke laughs.

"I'm not the man, I'm 'a' man. There's a difference."

"Whatever you say, man." Cooke is soft spoken when asked about his work, but he makes sure people know when he's talking by putting his hand on their shoulders.

"It's been frustrating for a long time," Cooke says of working in Austin. "And this feels different, feels like a little bit of hope."

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groin. And a last one for internal bleeding because of a hematoma.

He had to quit — his body couldn't do it anymore.

"It was tough," he said. "But that was just a part of my life that I had to push through."

After he recovered, he was offered a job with the IU football strength and conditioning staff.

But how does someone go from committing his life to competition to taking a day job? His life once revolved around football, and now something was missing.

"I think it kind of scared him," said David Blackwell, a former IU running back and Phillis' roommate.

Considering Phillis' NFL aspirations, Blackwell said, the transition hit him hard.

Phillis longed for adrenaline.

He used to box in high school and trained from time to time at the IU football complexes. Then, Phillis saw that the local gym, B-Town Boxing, had trained Josh McRoberts to a Golden Gloves title in 2014.

It was a faith-based organization, which he appreciated. So he reached out to its coach, Rob Scardina, who is McRoberts' stepfather.

His body couldn't withstand the torque on the body that comes with football. The full speed collisions were no longer sustainable. Boxing, on the other hand, is based on punches to the face and stomach. His surgeries were primarily below the waist.

Scardina said Phillis was a natural. His defensive line background provided him with tremendous skills, including quick hands and feet. Phillis credited Scardina's training.

In terms of preparation for Golden Gloves, Phillis kept comparing boxing to Big Ten football. The rush of a boxing match, in his mind, would be no different than facing off against Ohio State.

"I'm not going to approach it any different than I would lining up across from the best offensive tackle in the league."

Phillis wasn't chasing the adrenaline because he wanted it — he needed it.

This is where you start if you want to make it in boxing, a crowded, old, musty armory in downtown



Ryan Phillis ties his shoes before a practice March 9, 2015, at the Warehouse in Bloomington. Phillis played for the IU football team before he graduated in 2014, but injuries sidelined him for the majority of his senior season. He is now testing his defensive lineman skills in the boxing ring to make up for his broken football career.

BEN MIKESELL | IDS

In preparation for Golden Gloves, Phillis kept comparing boxing to Big Ten football. The rush of a boxing match, in his mind, would be no different than facing off against Ohio State.

Indianapolis.

People are settling in for the fourth weekend of the Indiana Golden Gloves tournament.

Golden Gloves is the premier amateur boxing circuit in America. The winner of the state tournament advances to nationals. Most Olympians and professionals can trace the beginnings of their careers back to their Golden Gloves days.

The Indianapolis crowd didn't even quiet down during a tribute to a member of the Golden Gloves community who died recently. Drinks were still being spilled and conversations ensued while the woman on stage choked up as she said, "Rest in peace."

During the fights, the coaches are as captivating as the boxing.

Sugar Ray Seales, a 1972 Olympic Gold medal winner, is coaching one team. He is legally blind, but his loud, deep mid-fight instructions can be heard from the furthest rows of the balcony.

Another is Sarge Johnson. Sarge is fun, the combination of a drill sergeant and motivational football coach.

Phillis is the last fight of the night.

Former long-time

Indianapolis Star sports writer John Bansch, who knew of Phillis during his football prime, reads the lineup card.

"Ryan Phillis," he says, perplexed. "Boxer?"

Phillis weighs in and is evaluated by a doctor. He receives a pair of blue shorts.

"The blue corner has been cleaning up lately," says Jeremy, a middle-aged member of the team with a blonde Mohawk and a strip of facial hair hanging several inches from his chin.

Emmett Dillon, a teammate boxing at 152 pounds, walks back first.

"I got the pretty lady doctor," Dillon said with a grin.

Phillis was stuck with the 20-something overweight man that just barely squeezed into his scrubs. The man would waddle with each ensuing task.

Scardina sits in the corner as he interacts with Jeremy.

"Waiting is the hardest part," Scardina says.

Phillis doesn't fight for another five hours.

Scardina's wife, who works in the gym with him, goes to get a hot dog. She needs to eat when she is

nervous. Scardina can't until the day is done.

"It's a big risk, what we're doing," Scardina said.

The risk is having Phillis' first fight be against one of the most experienced and talented boxers in the tournament.

"He's passed every test so far," Scardina said. "I got a hunch."

Willie Jake Jr. never looked worried for a moment. Phillis did from the start.

Phillis turned to put his head down in his corner and closed his eyes. Jake walked around the ring, placing an authoritative stomp on each end of the ropes. This was his ring.

With his parents in from Ohio and a balcony full of at least 20 friends and former teammates cheering, Phillis looked hesitant. He wasn't attacking; the first round was him trying to find his comfort zone. The first time he made an aggressive move, he slipped and fell on both of his knees.

In the second round, punches were flying arcade-style like a "Fight Night" video game. But Jake was in control. From time to time, he would lean in, unamused.

After a short stoppage by the referee, Jake tossed in a cheap shot before the fight had fully resumed. The crowd was up in arms.

Phillis was clearly the fan favorite. But it didn't matter.

Jake controlled the fight.

The judges decided five-to-zero. Jake advanced.

Jake walked around the ring again and placed another series of stomps around the corners.

It was his ring.

Phillis stood in the same corner of the armory that he watched McRoberts lose in.

His pale face was covered with the assorted cliché combination of blood, sweat and tears.

"I'll be back," Phillis said. "I'll be back in the gym Monday."

He had no regrets, he said, it was a humbling experience. He was more embarrassed than angry. All of these people had come out to support him, and he fell in his first fight.

"Coming off of what football had and my disappointment in it, and my disappointment here, I'm winning at life," Phillis said.

He said he had been raised on the mentality that he had to be the strongest and toughest. He called his parents, Jim and Kelly, hard-nosed, tough people. But maybe Phillis didn't need to be the strongest and toughest. He seemed content.

As he walked back to his corner after the loss, he looked up to a standing ovation from the balcony populated by those who wanted to come support him. He had lost, but he was going to keep going.

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McDonald is the recipient of a total of six Tony awards and two Grammy awards, among other accolades.

She was most recently in Lanie Robertson's musical play "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill," portraying Billie Holiday. An adaptation of the musical play will appear on HBO in upcoming months from a live performance set in New Orleans filmed in December.

Songs will include numbers from the American song book, standards worked on over the years and other favorites that McDonald has previously selected.

"The level of her performance caliber is very exciting," said Drew Bratton, arts administrator for the IU Department of Theatre and Drama.

During her visit at IU, McDonald will teach a master's class for promising Theatre and Drama students. Four undergraduate students, previously selected by the department, are invited to the class. McDonald will sit in on the class and act as a critic of their work. Each student will perform one song from their individual rehearsal portfolios then will receive feedback from McDonald on their performances.

"McDonald will contribute something that only a seasoned performer can," Bratton said. "The opportunity for our students to work with someone with this much seasoned talent is a great addition to their careers."

Bratton said he is a huge fan of McDonald and is looking forward to this special opportunity. Having the opportunity to see a conglomeration of McDonald's work has been a dream of his for a while in the musical theater field, Bratton said.

"I am most excited to see McDonald translate her experience to help students," Bratton said.

The visit to IU will be a quick trip for McDonald. She arrives today to teach the master's class and then is allotted some time to explore the campus and experience Bloomington. This evening, following her performance, McDonald will meet with President Michael McRobbie and other University dignitaries to receive gratitude on behalf of IU for coming to visit the campus.

Ticket information

Tickets can still be purchased online at IUAuditorium.com or at the IU Auditorium Box Office. Tickets range from \$55, \$45, \$35 and from \$45, \$35, \$25 for IU students.

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