

Young IU searches for funding

"The university is not a beggar nor a pauper, or if it is, so much to the shame of the people of the state. It has claims which can not be disregarded; it is the child of the state; the Commonwealth of Indiana, its originator and founder, is alone responsible for the position it may assume among the colleges of America."

Bloomington Telephone, Jan. 13, 1883.

Indiana University was originally funded by the proceeds of the sale of the land in Monroe County's Seminary Township (later merged with Perry Township). But as the university grew there came a time when the money generated by the land sales was not sufficient to cover the expenses of the growing state institution.

Hoosiers certainly understood the financial mechanics of a pri-



Looking back

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vate school. Parents were expected to pay the fees required for their children, and the money went directly for teachers' salaries and buildings. The concept that all Hoosiers, through their taxes, paid for the support of the state university — whether their children attended or not — was a philosophical adjustment that the people of Indiana were yet to make.

It was as if they had not heard or didn't understand the lofty words of the state constitution: "Knowledge and learning gener-

ally diffused through a community, being essential to the preservation of a free government, and spreading the opportunities and advantages of education through the various parts of the country being highly conducive to this end, it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide by law for the improvement of such lands as are . . . granted by the United States to this state, for the use of schools and to supply any funds which may be raised from such lands, or from any other quarter, to the accomplishment of the grand object for which they are or may be intended."

Having set up the arrangement whereby IU was funded by the sale of public lands, the General Assembly conveniently forgot about the matter and left the
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