

After-hours IU party had serious consequences

Many of the Indiana University students were holding their collective breath while the Committee on Student Affairs was having an emergency meeting on March 12, 1908. The worried students were the only agenda of the meeting.

It was a fraternity party that prompted the gathering of faculty. Specifically, a Phi Gamma Delta "pig dinner" ran overtime.

In those days the female students at IU had a curfew of midnight on Friday and Saturday nights. Some of the men and women who attended the pig dinner lost track of time or hoped the late return to their boarding houses would be overlooked.

The *Bloomington Telephone* thought the story was important enough to include on the front page of the March 13 issue. There was a slight hint of the consequences in the headline: "DINE ON PIG, LOSE 2 HOURS."

The disciplining of students was meted out by a committee composed of John W. Cravens, registrar; Enoch Hogate, dean of the Law School; Horace Hoffman, dean of liberal



LOOKING BACK

By Rose McIlveen

arts; and Professors Warner Fite (ethics); Charles Hepburn (law); Harold Johnston (Latin); and David Rothrock (math). Dean of Women Louise Goodbody was a sort of ex-officio member, since female students were involved in the infraction.

It took the faculty some time to come to a consensus. Explained the newspaper, "The committee was summoned at 4 o'clock and left the executive offices at 6:30."

The first article in the *Telephone* informed its readers that the out-beyond-the-curfew scandal had hit the Indianapolis papers. Apparently, in his haste, the capital city reporter had not gotten all of his facts straight. "An erroneous statement in an Indianapolis

paper yesterday that Misses Anna McGee, Mary Bailey and Hilda Palmer, Thetas, and Miss Ruth Steel, Kappa, were the only ones to be punished was denounced semi-officially by the committee as unfair to the girls mentioned."

The truth of the matter was that the curfew was violated by about 15 other women and an equal number of men. The women were Gayle Blankenship, Edith Holloway, Margaret Neutzenhelzer, Leafy Davis, Hazel Scott, Ruth Keltner, Jess Riley, Zella Kinser, Nelle Aydelotte, Elsie Ashby, Florence Frazee, Genevieve Brown, Bess Van Valzah and Ruth Adams. All except Adams, who was a Delta Gamma, belonged to the Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma sororities.

There is a curious reference to the "faculty members who acted as chaperones," but no indication of whether they were chastised. The *Telephone* added, "Several of the guilty co-eds were on the green carpet last term for an alleged violation of another rule by attending the 'Rab' Hare dance which the football

player gave his frat brothers in the middle of the week." (Hare was an IU gridiron hero, who couldn't seem to make up his mind whether he wanted to finish college or not.)

IU President William Lowe Bryan was not on the committee, but it was his responsibility to follow through on its recommendations. The committee's statement spelled out his involvement:

"There shall be a reduction of two hours in credit from the record of each student who remained after 12 o'clock at the Phi Gamma Delta pig dinner given here Feb. 28. For the present this action will remain a suspended sentence until final action shall be announced by President William L. Bryan next Monday."

Concluded the *Telephone*, "This announcement of President Bryan is understood to refer to the manner and time in which the sentence shall be carried out."

Of the female students penalized, 10 chose to remain in school and receive their diplomas.

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