

Football hero's dance sidestepped the rules

In the summer of 1907, Frank Hare, a former quarterback on the Indiana University football team and a college dropout, visited Bloomington and set off a minor firestorm in the Dean of Women's office. Hare, who had been a football hero, still maintained his ties to his fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi.

What Hare had in mind was a little entertainment to liven up his visit. According to the *Bloomington Weekly Courier* of July 15, 1907, he got more than he bargained for.

Explained the newspaper, "On his recent visit he gave a dance to about thirty of his friends. It was not given at the Phi Psi chapter as that would have been against the University rules as well as those of the fraternity. Hare hired a hall up town, and the dance was given."

It is likely that the young man thought the IU rules had been successfully circumvented. He did not reckon upon the long arm and stern eye of Louise Goodbody, dean of women.

The *Weekly Courier* article listed the rules (requested by the girls, themselves, in



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

1906): dancing was permitted only on Friday and Saturday nights, all dances properly chaperoned and end at midnight. Hare's dance was considered a violation of the rules.

Twenty eight students — 16 Phi Psi, and seven Kappa Alpha Theta and six Pi beta Phi girls — found themselves in the awkward position of having to explain to the Student Affairs Committee and the dean of women, respectively, their participation in the dance.

Some students grumbled that Dean Goodbody had arrived at the university in 1906, with the express intention of wiping out sin on the campus and elsewhere in Bloomington. Actually, that was an exaggeration,

and the serious side of her duties entailed the prevailing feeling that the university authorities should act in the place of the parents while the students were enrolled.

As laughable as that seems today, parents and university officials took it very seriously. So serious was Goodbody, that she requested that the university keep a horse and buggy available at her disposal so she could check up on students at a moment's notice.

(There is an old joke about a dean of women, which may date back to Goodbody's time. It went like this: At an assembly of all students, the dean of women announced, "The dean of men and I have decided to stop necking on the campus." When the audience started laughing and she realized to her embarrassment how that sounded, she hastily added, "That is to say, all this kissing that's been going on under my nose has got to stop!"

Goodbody did not think Hare's private dance was a joke. She may have wished that she had known about the dance in time

to arrive downtown in her buggy like an avenging angel.

Students are frequently smarter than the general public gives them credit for being. No doubt the students involved in the dance downtown spent a lot of time sifting and sorting through the wording of the rule.

At last, the students were able to breathe more freely. The *Weekly Courier* reported to its readers, "After due deliberation the participants agreed with the committee that it was a violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of the rule. Under these circumstances the participants, through a special committee apologized. The Committee on Student Affairs accepted the explanation and notified the young men and women that there would be no penalty inflicted."

Committee member Enoch Hogate, a law professor who insisted upon being called "Judge Hogate," had the last word. "This must not establish a precedent, and in case of further infractions, the offenders must not expect to be so lightly dealt with."

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