

IU's class of 1881 not a favorite of Professor Wylie

When Indiana University Professor Theophilus Wylie sat down to write his diary entry for June 5, 1881, the behavior of young people was on his mind. Specifically, he was thinking back to his youth and how he was expected to occupy his time on Sunday — reading the Bible and studying his catechism.

But on that June day in 1881, Wylie reflected that times had changed. There is a strong possibility that some end-of-the-school-year behavior on the part of the university students had brought the subject of conduct to his mind. A small inkling of what was to come had ap-



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

peared in his May 1 entry. "This last week the Senior Class with whom I was not especially pleased said 'farewell.' "

As if the foreboding took on an energy of its own, the seniors rather abruptly brought themselves to

the notice of the faculty. On May 8 Wylie wrote, "On Friday AM the Seniors paraded in (to Chapel) and were received with hisses. Dr. M. (IU President Lemuel Moss) ordered silence, but the hisses continued; he then gave them a severe scolding."

It should be noted that in the IU Catalog under "Rules and Regulations" it plainly said, "Disorderly conduct subjects the student to reprimand or other punishment. Under the head of disorderly conduct may be named . . . talking or making noise in the halls or about the buildings in time of recitation, whis-

pering during class or chapel exercises, the cheering or timing (with disorderly intent) of persons entering chapel or other University rooms."

The seniors were not the only guilty ones during that May of 1881. Wylie took note of them in his diary. "Sat. A.M. the Juniors appeared with cocked hats and made quite a stir in the campus. When the (chapel) bell ceased as they were making a noise in the campus I told Mr. Spicer (the campus janitor) to go down and request them to be silent during worship. About one fourth of the students answered to

their names."

Remembering that it was the end of the year, Wylie was less inclined to be harsh with the juniors and sent them on their way with a mild scolding.

History Professor John Newkirk was not so fortunate. Students disrupted the class, asked to be excused, and when that was denied, some of them jumped out the window (which must have been on the ground floor in a building on the old campus in Seminary Square). Wylie recorded in his diary, refer-

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