

# Town-gown conflicts recorded at play and 'college scrap'.

In May of 1911, there was another setback in the fragile relationship between Bloomington residents and Indiana University students. The encounter was plainly described by the *Telephone*.

"The students and the police force had a few difficulties last night previous to the performance of 'The Flirting Princess,' and as a result Policeman John Altop has a black eye today and three stray teeth were found this morning in front of the Coyle restaurant where the argument took place. The teeth are supposed to have formerly belonged to students and to have been



## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

knocked out by the maces of the policemen."

The mayor and police chief had made a trip to the theater to try to get the students to quiet down during the performance. When they did not succeed, a particularly unruly one was hauled off to jail. It was on

their return to the theater that Altop and the police chief were confronted by an angry mob of some 200 students at Coyle's restaurant.

The IU football team's "great showing against Minnesota" was the impetus for another demonstration of student exuberance. The Bloomington *Evening World* of Nov. 9, 1906, reported students staged a night march from the men's gymnasium to the north west corner of the courthouse square.

The celebration included the usual bonfire and speeches. Continued the *Evening World*, "After speeches were made some one sug-

gested that the crowd go to the opera house on the south side of the square. Here, yells were given and later Manager Loudon reported that these should stop as they were disturbing the meeting."

All but a handful of students took the hint. Louis Simons of Louisville and Otto Grisier of Columbia City were a little slow on the uptake and ended up in jail. The two young men found an unexpected ally in the mayor's court in the morning.

The *Evening World* explained that coach James Sheldon represented Simons and Grisier, who pleaded guilty. The mayor's little

lecture to them included an admission that college students should have fun, but destruction of private property was an entirely different matter. Simons and Grisier got suspended sentences.

In his history of IU, Thomas Clark related that the drinking of alcohol had a lot to do with an event downtown in October of 1909. A student parade "... around the town square was disrupted by a drunken Monroe County bully who drove his horse and rig at full gallop through the parade lines."

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