

# College seeks blend of various disciplines

*"Indiana College — The claims of this institution to the attention of the friends of Science, Literature, and Religion, in this and the neighboring States, are, it is believed, peculiarly worthy of their regard."*

Bloomington Post, Jan. 8, 1836.

The editorial which *Post* editor Marcus Deal wrote in 1836 began very much like the descriptions that can be found in early Indiana University catalogs. A closer inspection of the entire article, however, gives some interesting insights about the College's claim to fame at that time.

Deal pointed out to his readers the high moral tone of the school, but, at the same time, he wrote, "A multiplicity of vexatious rules is not resorted to in the government of the college. The students are taught that they have a character to form, not in a formal lifeless manner, but after the diversified and pains-taking method of a parent in his own family, to the honor of the students, their sense of duty,



## Looking back

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of propriety, of decorum, of interest."

A more important asset of the College, in Deal's estimation, was its ability to exclude from religious subjects, "every thing of the nature of a narrow sectarian bigotry..." (It should be noted that Indiana Methodists had leveled a charge that the largely-Presbyterian faculty was not as unbiased as it could have been.)

What impressed Deal most about the College was quite the opposite of what the Methodists were saying. Claimed the editor, "Science, Literature, and Religion, it is honestly believed, may be made to grow and thrive

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