
STATE COLLEGIAN

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EDITORIAL

An effort is being made to show that A. L. Smith, formerly a student here and now at the University of Pennsylvania, is eligible to play another year on the foot ball team of that institution. We are not surprised that it is desired to retain the services of a player who will undoubtedly be made full-back on the All-American Team for 1904 but the grounds upon which the claim of eligibility are made are decidedly questionable. We quote from the Philadelphia Press.

"If A. L. Smith, the full-back at the University of Pennsylvania, wishes to return to Penn for a post-graduate course he can play foot ball another year. While his especial case has not been taken up, the Faculty Committee on Entrances has decided that the four years' course at State College where Smith prepared, is only equal to three years at Penn. Therefore the two years Smith played at State will only count for one year, according to long-established rule and precedent at Penn."

As a matter of fact Smith entered State College as a Freshman in September, 1901, and had no credit in advance of his class. Only by completing

twenty (20) hours a week of recitation work for four years and maintaining satisfactory standing throughout his course could he have graduated here in 1905. As his rank at the University is now *the same as it would have been, had he remained*, it would seem that the requirements for a degree, in his course at least, can differ but little, if any, at the two institutions. It is NOT TRUE that four years at State College are but the equivalent of three at the University.

It is difficult to explain how such a question can be raised at this late day. A complete record of Mr. Smith's work here was furnished the Registrar of the University when he matriculated there, and an explicit statement was sent to their Athletic Association and other officials when his case was under discussion in the fall of 1903. We have no desire to criticize the interpretation of the University's eligibility rules and are interested in the discussion only so far as it concerns Mr. Smith's relations to this College.

It will be recalled that Mr. Smith played throughout the greater part of the season of 1903 and that only after the Harvard game did the Athletic Committee of the University discover that he was ineligible, although all the evidence was accessible throughout the entire season, and the question of his eligibility had been raised on several occasions. It would be unfortunate for the University authorities again to place themselves in a similar position through a failure to investigate the facts of the case.

We regret to announce that Mr. Wm. B. Hoke '05, hitherto Editor in-chief of the staff of this publication, has resigned from the Board. Mr. Hoke served for three years on the editorial staff of the *Free Lance*, having been elected Editor-in-chief of that paper in his Junior year. He did all that was possible to revive interest in that publication and when it was plainly seen that the *Free Lance* had to go, he was the prime

mover and worker in the institution of its successor, the STATE COLLEGIAN. It is largely due to his efforts that the COLLEGIAN has attained the position that it now occupies in the estimation of all right thinking students. It is with sincere regret that the Board views the departure of Mr. Hoke from among its number.

We would like to again call your attention to the fact that our columns are always open for any reasonable communications, "kicks," or criticisms which any of our subscribers may have to offer. If you are not satisfied with our publication tell us so and why; if you have any suggestions to make, they will be gladly received. It is our aim to make this paper of interest and value to its subscribers in general, and to the alumni and students of The Pennsylvania State College in particular. You can help us if you will. If you know of any interesting items concerning your friends, either alumni or class-mates, drop them in 323. Use the COLLEGIAN instead of the bulletin board.

The peculiar form of campus decoration used by the Freshmen Saturday night in celebrating their victory, is something that ought to be prevented by the upper-classmen from occurring again in the future. No one objects to good clean fun, but such stunts as the one in question show a very low degree of thought and sentiment. Our campus is one of the finest in the country and we all take a just pride in its beauty and size. As in all other colleges, we attach a certain degree of sentiment to it and the traditions connected thereto. To have it decorated in the manner that greeted the eye on Sunday morning, outraged not only public decency but also that sentiment which exists to no small degree at State College. This is the second time it has occurred, and in both instances lower classmen were the offenders. It is time to call a halt.