
STATE COLLEGIAN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1906.

EDITORIAL.

Another column of this issue states the attempt to inaugurate a new custom at "State." A movement has now been begun which ought to have been firmly established long ago. At first glance it may appear that it is but a reflection on the greenness of the Freshmen, but a little consideration will show that it is but for their own advantage. At the beginning of the college year a new Freshman can be immediately picked out by a Sophomore, but the former cannot recognize his own classmates. The new custom will accelerate an early acquaintanceship which is so valuable, especially in the Freshman year.

The class of 1909 has just suffered its first loss by death in the passing away of their beloved comrade, Francisco L. Herrera. In his quiet and loving way he won a place in the hearts of his college mates during his short stay in State College. A short time ago he contracted pneumonia, and although cared for well, he passed away from our midst, leaving a mourned vacancy in the college roll.

Some Reform Suggestions.†

Why cannot State assume the lead among colleges of her class in accepting this splendid "one year rule," which Penn and Princeton have adopted, and Yale and Harvard are seriously considering? Surely we are big enough to recognize its value. Some may ask how we students may go about securing its adoption at this place. Simply in this way,—we can approve the measure by a vote at the next meeting of our Athletic Association, and recommend its adoption to our Faculty Committee on Athletics, which will surely do whatever is wisest and best for the future interests of the institution. Here is the rule, briefly:—"No student shall be eligible to a 'Varsity team unless he shall have completed a full year's work at our college, and shall have passed satisfactory examinations for advance with his class. No student shall compete as a member of a 'Varsity team for more than three years. This rule shall go into effect September, 1906 with the understanding, however, that it will not apply to men now in college."

How does this look to you, men of State? Is it not a square deal to our college, as well as to our incoming athletes, who will thus be able to get a year of solid foundation in their college work previous to taking up their time in athletics? There can be no argument as to the equity and value of this ruling, but there simply remains the question as to whether we, the men of Pennsylvania State, are willing to take upon ourselves the responsibility of adopting such an important and far-reaching measure. Few of our sister institutions give us credit for a strict and honest code of athletic laws, but now is our golden opportunity to show the college world at large exactly where State College stands with regard to clean and honorable methods in athletics. Are we big

enough to seize the opportunity?

It may be very reasonably said that the passage of these measures will place State College at a great disadvantage; in the first place, because no other institution of the same standing has adopted such rulings; and in the second place, because next season's 'Varsity teams will be severely handicapped for material. As an answer to such objections it can readily be seen that mere present success in athletics is not the object in view, but rather a true uplifting of athletic purity at State for the years to come. No college in the great Keystone State, outside of the University of Pennsylvania, has, in recent years, attained a higher prestige in general athletics than State, therefore it is her plain duty to follow the lead of the "Big Four" in the adoption of these beneficial measures.

The mere fact of next season's 'Varsity teams being crippled is a secondary consideration when compared to the broad minded principles of athletic reform involved in these proposed measures.

The general adoption throughout the college world of this "one year rule" will prove the grandest reform since college athletics has become such an important feature of our national life; and it will be putting into good practice that favorite maxim of President Roosevelt, "A square deal for all."

Along with the adoption of these measures should go a tacit understanding among colleges that all this foolish bombast concerning "professionalism" and "summer base-ball" be stopped. What right has any college to dictate to its students what they shall do to earn their living during their summer vacations? To take extreme cases, consider the average wealthy student who spends his entire summer lolling about some fashionable summer resort; while over against such a type we have the