

STATE COLLEGIAN

Published on Thursday of each week during the college year by the students of The Pennsylvania State College in the interest of the Students, Faculty, Alumni and friends of the college.
Entered at the Post Office, State College, Pa., as second class matter.

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\$1.50 per year or \$1.25 if paid within 30 days after date of subscription.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1906.

EDITORIAL.

Spring vacation closed on Wednesday of last week and immediately we were launched upon the third term on, figuratively speaking, the home stretch of our college year. Doubtless many of the fellows used vacation to rest up from strenuous college duties while many others are now resting up from the strenuous duties, social and otherwise, of vacation.

Communication.

To the Editor of the Collegian:

You have in your paper a column which you very appropriately head with the title, "Kicklets." The following is not a "kicklet," it is a full grown kick, and it is registered against what seems to an observer to be an lamentable lack of college spirit on the part of the college body.

We hear a great deal about "State spirit." What is this much vaunted spirit, anyway? How should it manifest itself? In our teams it is the spirit which "fights to the last ditch," which never gives up, which makes a man go into a game forgetful of self, thinking only of Alma Mater, and fills him with a deter-

mination to win. No one can have any criticism of our teams in this respect; they have and display always the true State spirit. But how should the college body show their spirit? By supporting the college organizations, by turning out to the practices, by standing on the sidelines during games and cheering on the teams when they are winning and by cheering twice as hard when they are losing, in a word, by supporting each and every one of the college organizations in every possible way and on every possible occasion.

Now right here, some of you are patting yourselves on your several backs and flattering yourselves that you are as full of State spirit as an apple is of juice. You are saying, "Don't I go out the practices? Didn't I howl myself hoarse at Williamsport? Surely, I show the true spirit." My dear friends, let me ask you a question. Did you go to the Band Concert in the Auditorium on the 24th of March last? There are about five hundred of you, students and instructors, who will be forced to admit that you did not. Why didn't you? Because it was Lent? Not one in fifty of you ever had a thought of that. Because you could not afford it? How much did you leave behind that same evening at the Drug Store, at the Tobacco Store, at the Lunch Room, at the Billiard Room? You didn't have a conceivable excuse for not being there, and you know you didn't. Would you like to know the real reason why you stayed away? You did not have the right sort of college spirit.

Down on the main floor that evening, there were not above two hundred people, and a goodly portion of them were not students. In the Balcony were perhaps three fourths that number, mostly students. Those who were in the Auditorium that evening had a big treat. They

heard a concert better than any that has been heard here in the last four years, at least. The Band had worked hard, and the results were evident. The two excellent overtures were rendered with precision and finish. The "Selection from the Prince of Pilsen" was well-nigh perfect. A friend of mine, who has heard that particular opera five times, said he never heard the music rendered better. In fact, there is scarce a word of criticism that can be offered on the whole program. One does not expect "Sousa music" from a college band, but those who attended the Concert were more than agreeably surprised at the quality, not to say the quantity, of the music they heard that night; music that made one feel ashamed to have paid only a paltry "two bits" to hear it.

Now my self-satisfied friends of the muchness of State spirit, let me add just a word or two more. The Cadet Band is a college organization. It works just as hard, in its own way, as does any organization in the College. It is just as much entitled to your support. You go to the foot ball games, the base ball games, the basket ball games with regularity, and claim that you show your spirit in so doing. You DO NOT go to the Band Concert and can give no good reason for not going. The Spectator is forced to this conclusion; that your college spirit is a matter of dollars and cents. You pay an athletic fee which entitles you to go to the games with no extra charge, and so you go to get your money's worth. When a college organization which deserves your support equally with foot ball teams asks you to pay twenty-five cents to hear the results of its hard work—that is a different story, and your muchvaunted State spirit goes up in smoke.

THE SPECTATOR.