

Penn State Collegian

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Wednesday, February 18, 1914

Student government and the Honor System at Penn State, and it is often said that our system is one of the most efficient, and at the same time, one of the fairest of its kind. But is there not an excellent opportunity for an extension of student government at Penn State into a new field, following the example set by most of the leading colleges and universities in the country?

Our student councils in the past have prescribed college customs; we compel freshmen to keep off the grass; our student organizations try students for certain kinds of offense—yet a man who commits the great offense of cheating in examinations is not responsible to the student government, is not reported, as is a freshman who walks on the grass, but, on the contrary, is often freely assisted by his neighbors in the examination. It is this condition of affairs which puts a premium on cheating, which, in many cases, compels instructors to watch men closely during examinations, sometimes causing a man to cheat for the mere satisfaction of getting the best of the instructor, who, he feels, is spying upon him.

Other institutions have found that the best remedy for this condition is the introduction of the "Honor System". The system itself is simple, involving, first, a signed statement to the effect that no help has been given or received by the student in the examination in question; second, the institution of a student tribunal to which all offenses must be reported, and which will try in the greatest secrecy all cases of violation of the Honor System. These are the "material essentials"—but even greater than these must be the spirit of co-operation among students in enforcing the system.

The introduction of such a plan of dealing with examinations would

be only consistent with the progressive Penn State policy. The possibilities of such an innovation are being considered by the Student Board and, if approved, will go before the Student Council. Every man in college should carefully consider the advisability of introducing the Honor System.

To one interested in the welfare of athletics at Penn State, our athletic laws present a strange mixture of severity and laxity. In certain branches of sport the coveted S is most difficult to obtain while in others the standard is much lower. Probably no college in the country requires the rigid scholastic requirements for her athletes on the one hand and yet on the other we constantly find ourselves criticized for playing freshmen. Along with the rest there are two obvious inconsistencies which should be remedied and it is the aim of the present article to call attention to these features with the hope of having action taken upon them.

In the first place in regard to the one year migratory rule, we bar for a year any man entering from another college as any institution granting a degree. This is obviously unfair, as numerous secondary institutions grant degrees and in many cases are classed as colleges and yet in reality are "prep" schools in every sense of the word—as for instance St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia. When Pennsylvania and Cornell accept men from Grove City, Westminster, Albright and Brigham Young University why should we class these same institutions as colleges and bar them under the same conditions? The one fair remedy would seem to be a carefully prepared list of the schools which we should reckon as of true collegiate standing.

Moreover at the present time, a man who plays in an athletic contest for even one minute goes on record as representing the College for one whole season. Most institutions count the winning of the letter as one year's participation, yet here at Penn State should the humblest substitute play one minute in a practice game and not be able to finish his course in the scheduled time he is barred from his last year because he played in his first year. Men, let's get busy on these deficiencies.

The concert and lecture given in the Auditorium last week by Major Morton and the Hampton Quartet, did not prove to be a financial success on account of the poor attendance.

The proceeds of the performance are to help in the up-keep of Mr. Randall, who is doing missionary work among the colored people in the South, but as they are so very small, money will have to come in from other sources. Several students and townspeople have already given and promised donations so as to increase the fund for Randall. This man is doing commendable work in the South and deserves our support, and any gift from you will

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Mr. E. L. Bowman spoke on Manual Training before the Parent Teachers Association at Allentown, February 18th.

The plans and specifications for the new Dairy Barn which are being prepared by the Department of Architecture are nearly completed and the work will soon be open for bids.

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