

# Penn State Collegian

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Wednesday, March 4, 1914

Varsity teams in the past have been known, on numerous occasions, to cite our student body as a model for clean sportsmanship in the bleachers. Reports of the actions of student bodies of certain colleges to our teams when on a trip are invariably bitterly censured by us.

In spite of our comparatively high standard there has been creeping into the bleachers at the Armory this winter an element that should be checked at once. During the last two contests remarks presumably were heard intended for a joke at the expense of the visitors. From the visitors standpoint a derisive remark followed by a laugh at his expense is fully as cutting and as bitterly resented as one prompted by momentary anger or more so. In the latter case it is to a small extent often justified as it is often resulted from the dirty tactics on the part of the visitors but in the former comes merely from a desire to say something funny to provoke a laugh, in other words it is pure selfishness.

Now is the time to check this undesirable feature. If it is not stopped now it will be carried to our outdoor sports and passed on to the coming years. Those remarks may come from those students as yet unacquainted with our former standards but anyway watch the man sitting next to you.

Next Friday evening Debating will witness the universal debate of the Inter-collegiate Debating League on the live question of Womans' Suffrage. Our affirmative team will debate at Swarthmore, while our negative team will meet the Dickinson delegation in the Auditorium.

This debate represents intellectual contest, as opposed to physical endeavors. Our athletics are firmly supported, and there is consequently a very weighty reason for sustaining the intellectual victory

or defeat of our representatives on Friday evening. Too little interest has been shown in the past few years, and when we consider that the chief functions of a college are to develop the intellect, this lack of interest can hardly be justified. Argumentation and debate are absolutely essential for success in the political and the business world of today, and the sooner a man acquaints himself with the fundamental principles of argumentative reasoning, the sooner will his success be augmented.

An appeal is hereby made for every Penn State student to appear in the Auditorium on Friday evening March 6th, to support our representatives of the forum. Let us prove that our interest in, and our appreciation of the intellectual is equal to our admiration for physical prowess.

The fact that Honor System that the Honor Development System, as proposed for Penn State, has passed both the student board and the student council makes it exceedingly probable that the matter will finally be brought to a vote of the student body. The only intermediate step necessary is approval by the Faculty council of Administration, and this body, it is understood, favors the plan.

The principles of the Honor System have been discussed at length in these columns, and are receiving considerable attention about the college at this time. However, it may be well to make a few suggestions to the student body concerning one phase of the system which perhaps most frequently is brought up, namely, the provisions for enforcement of the rules.

These provisions, which simply call for the reporting of offenders to the Honor Committee, are a necessary and final safeguard to insure punishment to those who arbitrarily disregard the rulings of student government. However, it has been found in other colleges that there has been very little need of reporting offenders for the simple reason that there have been no offenders to report. The very principles of the Honor System are its chief enforcement: a man when placed upon his honor will keep his word regardless of results. A man—one of the infinitesimally small percentage of the total number—who will deliberately violate the confidence placed in him by his instructors and his fellow students, should be punished; and, to be punished, must be reported. It is for these few men that rules of enforcement must be provided in an Honor System.

The various alumni organizations in Baltimore have been figuring on a plan to start a new University Club in that city with a membership of about a thousand men. The old University Club in that place is composed mostly of old Hopkins grads and is way behind times. The new club would consist of younger men and would, in time perhaps cause the old club to pass in its checks. The Penn State alumni, expect to take an active part in the work.

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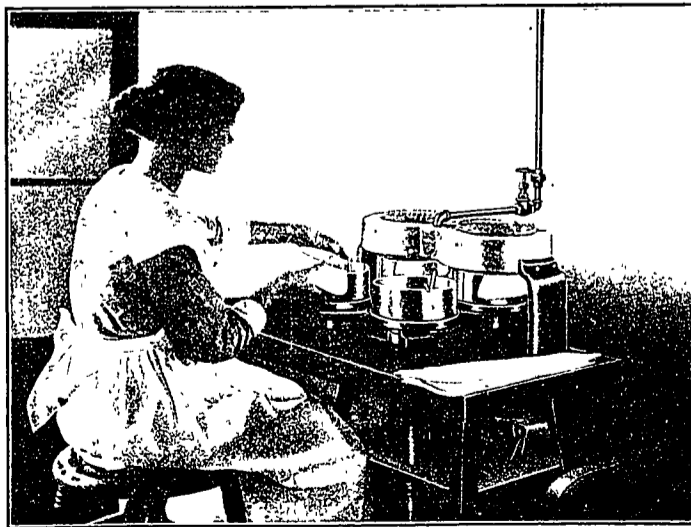
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