

Penn State Collegian

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Why are scraps? The Scraps question is a quite general one and many are the answers. Some there are who fail to see any reason at all for their existence; some are mildly enthusiastic just before the happy date and full of troubles immediately after; and others anticipate their coming with unbounded delight.

For all their apparent superficiality, however, scraps in common with hazing and other similar institutions serve a very good and useful purpose provided their practice is not abused. They afford an outlet for surplus energy which if restrained would find vent in some other and more dangerous channel; they strengthen class and college spirit; and they develop the distinctly masculine traits of aggressiveness and the desire for conquest which are at the bottom of every achievement.

The first point is self evident. The average college student is much given to demonstration, not for its own sake, but simply because he's young and full of a life, a strength and an energy that must do some sort of work. Scraps give him an opportunity for the legitimate use of this surplus energy.

Even more significant than this is the immediate result of the scraps. No one fully appreciates anything until they are forced to fight for it and a man's class is never a more worthy thing in his eyes than when its honor depends on the issue of a scrap. It is this element of mass spirit that differentiates the class scrap from mere fighting. The steps from this newly aroused class spirit to real, live college spirit are few and easy, and the immediate purpose of the scrap system is realized. Games, debates or contests of any sort are just miniature scraps—scraps in which the mass of men delegate their fighting to certain picked individuals, and the beauty of college spirit at its best is the ability on the part of this mass of men to sit on the side lines and yet to be heart and soul in the battle, to make the team feel that back of it are a hundred men or a thousand men who are fighting with it and fighting to win.

Most important of all, however, is the spirit of fight and aggressiveness which such an institution as the scrap tends to foster. Games and contests in which whole masses participate are unusual and yet the element of numbers is of much importance and difficult of realization. The scrap gives a man this feature. If he is at all inclined to

timidity, the presence and spirit of fellows about him brace him; the fire of struggle gets into his blood and is of more than passing effect. Under proper conditions it will thrive and prosper and bring independence and in due time a certain self reliance and self confidence which are all-essential in later life.

The spectacle of eight hundred men or more, stripped to the waist and ready to fight may seem like a reversion to semi-savagery; the sight of a tangled mass of men pushing, pulling, and struggling may be unusual and hardly to be expected in a college community, but still when the matter is fully threshed out; when impulses, conditions and results are traced out, the scrap can scarcely be called a little thing nor an evil. To live and keep on living means to fight and to struggle, and our games, our contests and our scraps are but miniatures of the greater battle for which we prepare.

In the past year at Class State there have often been gratifying exhibitions of class spirit. On the athletic field, especially, class teams have been supported with a display of union and enthusiasm that cannot help but have carried the impression that we have a loyalty for our class second only to our devotion to our Alma Mater. But, while such enthusiasm on the athletic field is to be commended, there is another way of showing our class spirit that is even more efficacious and more lasting than the voriferous assistance that we give to our teams. There is a duty and an obligation imposed upon every man to attend the class meetings and to lend his assistance in the business management of the class. Too often we find but one third of the class turning out to an important meeting. A low attendance is sometimes due to the fact that the men do not appreciate their duties and they do irreparable harm by this wilful neglect. The bad financial condition in which most of the classes are found in the junior year is due almost wholly to this neglect of class by the students themselves. The most efficient management and the most rigid economy cannot secure stable finances in any class unless the men in that class co-operate with the officers both by attending class meetings and keeping their dues paid. There is an opportunity, especially for the two lower classes, to get on a sound financial basis this year if the individual student will only realize that it is his plain duty to interest himself in class affairs. The class dues are but nominal if kept paid and the lack of interest shown by non-attendance at class meetings is sure to result in careless and in and inefficient management of class affairs. From the standpoint of both the class and the individual, we should endeavor to bring to our class affairs a greater interest and a more serious purpose, born in the conviction that the moral and financial support of the class is the embodiment of true spirit.

A reception was tendered to new members of the Faculty by the Board of Trustees last Friday in the Foyer of the Auditorium.

Musical Matters.

Professor Robinson is planning big things for our musical clubs this year. Among other things along the line of innovations, a Girls Glee Club is being very seriously considered. The combined Glee and Mandolin Club this year will have a total membership of only 35, the members of the Mandolin Club being singers as well. Competition for these places should be spirited and keen; and this together with the fact that we are getting some mighty good voices in the freshman class should assure us of the best club in our history. Trials have already been held, and work is well under way.

There are many trips planned. The boys will probably visit Erie and possibly Butler or Oil City at Thanksgiving time. Both the Sante Fe and the Panama trips are being considered again, and the prospects for a spring trip to Panama are especially bright. In case, however, both of these plans fall through, another tentative schedule will include Philadelphia and Atlantic City. The first home concert will be given December 5, and another will follow the Easter vacation. The officers of the combined clubs are as follows: Manager, E. A. Siegler, '15, assistant managers, C. M. Logan, '16, H. P. Vail, '16; leader of Glee Club, G. N. Fisher, '15; leader of Mandolin Club, J. E. Hannon, '15, librarian, G. J. Sauerhoff, '17.

Mr. W. O. Thompson, our new bandmaster, is living a retired life in 286 Main. He accepts the temporary inconvenience quite cheerfully, however, and hopes to get the band in good working order very shortly. So far there have been about 60 applicants, but as yet no eliminations have been made. If applications continue to come in as they have the last few days, we should realize our ambition of having a 60 piece band. Only about half of last year's crowd is back, and there are many gaps to fill; but lots of interest and hard work on the part of the men together with the services of so able and experienced a bandmaster as is Mr. Thompson, should give us the best ever. All men who are ambitious along this particular line of work are asked to tryout at the rehearsals Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:30 in the Old Chapel.

Westminster Saturday.

Westminster on past form should prove a worthy opponent for State next Saturday on Beaver Field. McLaughry, fullback, weighs 185 pounds and was considered last year to be the pick of western Pennsylvania fullbacks. Cannon is also an all western Pennsylvania man.

Westminster lost but one game last year and while they lost to W. and J., they were one of two teams to score on that powerful eleven.

The Liberal Arts Society.

The first meeting of the Liberal Arts Society will be held in Room K of the Library at 7:30 Friday evening, October 2. All members of the Liberal Arts school are urged to be present as this meeting is designed to be a "get-together" affair. The society is doing a fine work, and with increased membership, it hopes to do even more in the future than it has in the past.

Football Stands.

Freshman, according to college custom, may not occupy seats in either the grandstand or bleachers, until seats have been provided for upper-classmen and sophomores. The grandstand is for the exclusive use of upper-classmen.

1917 Class Meeting.

The sophomores held a class-meeting on last Thursday evening. Plans for Poster night were discussed and several men were admitted to the class.

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