

Penn State Collegian

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1918

NEW LEGISLATION NEEDED

The past year has witnessed very little in the way of new legislation by the student governing bodies, undoubtedly due to the great national crisis which has demanded more attention than local matters. And in a way, there has been little need for new legislation for the year has served to test such things as the Interclass Constitution and the Budget System as they have never been tested before. The Honor System, while not a new thing has also received considerable testing this year.

And now that the year has almost reached a close, let us review these various articles and see just how they have proved their worth to the student body. If they have proved successful during a year like this, it is probable that they will always prove so, but if they have fallen down in any particular, then they should be remedied. And in the criticism that must follow, we can overlook the Budget System, for it has without doubt proved its worth. At no time in the history of the institution have the classes at Penn State been on such a financially sound foundation as they are this year, when with decreased numbers, the opposite was to be expected.

But the Interclass Constitution has not been quite so successful and in our opinion, a few remedies are needed. The chief defect seems to lie with the election of officers and particularly with the election of class president and vice-president. By the terms of the constitution, the runner-up for the former office automatically fills the office of the vice-president, and that is where the defect appears to be.

For example, three good men might be nominated for the office of president, two of them from the same school. According to the present arrangement, the ballots would be cast for one man and on the first vote, the two highest would be selected. A second ballot would then be taken to elect one of these two as president, while the third man is dropped out entirely. The third man would undoubtedly prove to be the one from the same school as one of the winners.

Now if separate ballots were taken for each office, it is quite probable that this third man, running against the defeated candidate for president, could defeat him for the vice-presidency also and in that way he would be deserving of the job. Under the present system, however, there is absolutely no chance for this to occur and we believe that some change made in the election provisions would be of great help.

It is not our intention here to offer any further criticism of the Honor System, only in so far as it is connected with the Interclass Constitution. That is simply in the provision that the vice-president of the Senior Class become chairman of the Honor Committee upon his election, and if a change is made to the constitution it would probably remedy the other matter. These suggestions are made at this time, not with the idea of encouraging any legislation in the few short days that remain, but with the hope that the new student governing bodies which will organize in a very short time will keep them in mind for consideration next fall.

A SERIOUS OCCASION

The coming week promises to be an exceedingly important one for Penn State, in as much as it will witness the choosing of the officers who will handle the reins of student government next year. The Seniors and Freshmen must elect their executive heads and the leaders of the Athletic Association will also be voted upon tonight. Since the fate of the student body practically rests upon the shoulders of these men, it is readily to be seen that the coming elections are indeed momentous and that great care must be exercised in the selection.

Naturally the office of Senior Class president is the most important one to be filled. This one man is the official head of the student government, consisting of Student Board and Student Council and a strong man is needed for the job, and this election is no time for experimenting, because experiments are costly and often prove dangerous. A man who is untired may rise to the occasion and exhibit unexpected executive ability, but there is always that chance of a failure which is lacking when a proved and tested man is placed in command.

While the A. A. head and the Sophomore Class president are not overburdened with responsibility, they form important cogs in the machinery of student government, and a machine is only as strong as its weakest cog. Hence, it is essential that dependable men be elected to those offices also; and in the case of the former, it is hoped that it will be possible to obtain a representative student vote, something which is usually lacking.

WHY NOT?

College is to close in less than two weeks time, and we are all going to be quite crowded with work between now and the end, but we cannot fail to make a little suggestion that might go a long way toward making the closing days more like they were in former years before the nation became involved in the great struggle that is raging across the ocean. Can we not still have a little of the Campus Singing for which Penn State used to be so famed? We believe that such a thing is possible and the head of the department of music is ready to do his share in the matter.

Why do soldiers take to singing in the camps and in the trenches? Because it keeps their thoughts away from other matters over which they might be brooding. Music, particularly singing, is an excellent method of getting rid of excess energy, and apparently the students have plenty of the latter. But Campus Singing is not only a pleasure to those who are singing, but there is nothing prettier than to hear the words of the college songs on a still night in early spring.

Penn State has always been famed for its Campus Singing, but it must be admitted that during the last two or three years, the practice has died out to a great extent. Efforts have been made to encourage it every year, but for some unknown reason, the attempts have met with very little success. Of course the early closing this year is a great handicap, but we must remember that this is the year of the "Get-Together" campaign. Campus Singing forms an inseparable part of college life and college spirit, and if the old Penn State Spirit has returned, why can't we bring about the return of this old custom also?

The weather has been ideal so far and it is to be hoped that it will remain so. The lengthening of the daylight hours affords an excellent time for the singing and apparently all that it needs is a start.

Naturally, this start must be given by upperclassmen and as a suggestion, we would ask the Seniors and Juniors to stop on the campus after their next class meeting and spend a few minutes in an attempt to bring this custom back to Penn State.

WHAT IS PENN STATE DOING?

The following article on the food situation was written by one of the Senior girls in the Home Economics Department and we believe that it is well worth reading:

"Abandon Food Prejudices, 'Conserve Meat,' 'Don't be Finicky,' 'Use Meat Substitutes.' Such head lines as these we find in every newspaper today. What are they meaning to the students of Penn State? Certainly we all think we are patriotic and are proud of our large service flag as it represents the boys who are in the many camps here and abroad. We are proud of what they are doing and are glad that they are still keeping the old Penn State spirit alive.

"But is this all it means to us—do we ever hear any one on the campus complain of the hash they are getting at the boarding house and object when meat is not served once or twice a day? Where is the Penn State spirit when we go to the restaurants and decide to have a 'square deal'—no meat substitutes for me here?"

"Let us stop to consider the real meaning of patriotism—Does the above illustrate it? Do you know—that the food producing animals of the Allies have decreased by 33,000,000 head since the war began? Thus the source of their meat production is decreasing, while at the same time, the needs of their soldiers and war workers have increased the necessary meat consumption?"

"Do you know that the needs of the Allies will steadily increase, because their own production of food animals will steadily decrease on account of lack of feed for them? Since we already know the shortage of meat, and the great necessity of using meat substitutes, let us give them a fair trial and remove 'don't like' or 'can't eat' from our vocabulary. Should we not be willing to make a little sacrifice for our country and the boys who are 'over there' and need the food, especially since we know that the per capita consumption of meat in the United States is almost half as high again as in the United Kingdom, and fully twice as high as on the continent of Europe."

"Just think what it would mean if each of the 2000 students would eat three ounces less of meat each week or over 375 pounds. This alone would feed 300 soldiers for one day, or would be enough meat for one soldier for 300 days, according to the present rations in the army. What could the 'Get Together Movement' in Penn State do along this line? Let's demonstrate our real patriotism."

On the Corner

PROBABLY THE LAST CORNER OF THE YEAR

"Ye ancient colyum was revived last week with its or I success, so we are tempted to try it once again before excommunicating ourselves forever from this cruel, cruel world

One of them 'ere w. k. h. p. q. s. once slipped it to us that this was the first colyum she read when she received the paper. And we thought we were publishing a new paper. Can you beat it?"

"Oh, we almost forgot! Have you by any chance failed to notice those newspaper articles that have made their appearance upon the campus? We haven't, no sir, we don't miss much—like that

"Ye editor fainted dead away yesterday and the paper almost failed to make its customary appearance. No, he wasn't sick but a man came in and offered to pay his subscription for next year and the blow almost proved fatal

"We must admit that the man's trust

in us is unbowed for next year is a long way off. And it some of those who have so far failed to produce for this year's subscription stall us out a little longer—well, there may not be any next year.

.....
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word "war." But the members of the R. O. T. C. are unanimous in saying that Sherman must have been a minister—he put it so mildly!

"They say that clothes do not make the man, but from our recent observations, we deduce that they go a long way toward that end—when they are olive drab

"Say! It doesn't seem natural up around Old Main any more does it? Why we actually went past there about midnight and there was not a bit of noise. 'Tis rumored that the co-eds are protesting about the deathly stillness.

"We have seen some prize letters in our day, but the one printed below which was sent to the president of the college is given undisputed first place by this board of judges. Here it is—

April 4, 1918,
Atlantic City, N. J.
219 N. Vermont St.
Penn. State College,
Penn. Pa.
Gentlemen.

I wish to inquire for full particulars and money extracted per sucker. Now I have never lived in Penn., but have been in Phila. several times on short visits. Also state if grub goes along with tuition

After carefully reading this letter you will be able to decide whether or not you desire me to be in or around the College. I can get plenty of references notwithstanding the fact that my present employer says that anyone who would give me a recommendation ought to be shot.

I would desire if possible that a young ladies Seminary be near or close by the College that I should in any way be connected with.

Hoping to receive an extraordinarily favorably reply, I remain,
Yours Savagely,
Chas. R. Gale

Barnum was right!

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During twenty-four consecutive working days EARLY last season employers asked us to recommend 1647 teachers for positions in thirty-two states. No enrollment fee necessary. Easy terms. Department of Education, Western Education & Bond Association, 742 Scoville Bldg., Kansas City Mo

BUYING U. S. S. ONE WAY OF SERVING COUNTRY

The Treasury of the United States has a great deal of money to raise and it can not be raised by bankers alone, says Secretary McAdoo. The banks of this country can not alone sustain America's needs in the war and extend to our allies the essential aid which they must have to continue the war.

The rich of this country can not do it alone; the men of this country can not do it alone; but all of us, the people of the United States, disregarding partisanship, forgetting selfish interests, thinking only of the supremacy of right and determined to vindicate the majesty of American ideals and secure the safety of America and civilization, can do the great and splendid work which God has called upon us to do.

Every man, woman, and child in this country, who wants to serve the country, can serve it in a very simple and effective way, Secretary McAdoo says. That service is to lend your money to the Government. Every 25 cents loaned to the Government is a help at this time and practically every man, woman, and child by making some trifling sacrifice, some donation of a pleasure, or giving up some indulgence, can render the Government that support.

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