

Penn State Collegian

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News Editor for this issue F. H. Leuschner

THE WEAK LINK IN THE HONOR SYSTEM

In an editorial in the COLLEGIAN previous to the week of final examinations closing the first semester of this college year, attention was called to the Honor System and every student was urged to live up to it.

When the period of examinations had passed, it was found that of the cases brought before the Honor Committee, two men had cheated in three different exams, one man in two exams, and there were nine new cases.

During the first semester, there were twelve men dropped from college, two were compelled to drop the course in which they had cheated, and seven cases remain to be tried. When one considers that the chances of punishing an innocent man are so small as to be virtually impossible, it may be said safely that Penn State has an efficient Honor Committee.

Heretofore this year, the subject of the Honor System has been handled more or less evasively by the student body. There have been some who said the system was a success and have let it go at that. There have been others who have not expressed an opinion, although they undoubtedly had one to express. And again, there is an undercurrent of feeling among certain men that the system as it now stands is not a success.

An old maxim states "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link" and this saying may well be applied to the Honor System. The COLLEGIAN believes that most of the trouble lies in Section 5 of Article I, which reads "If a student detects any dishonesty in a quiz or examination, he shall at once quietly inform the offending party of the detection. Should the offender persist, the attention of at least one other person shall be called to this matter, and then the case shall be carried to the Honor Committee, which shall conduct an investigation into the same."

Frankly, do YOU believe a man who is so low and so vile as to crib in an examination is deserving of the privilege of being warned? Do YOU think any one is going to crib after being warned, especially when he knows that he is being watched? Do YOU think when a man is brought before the Honor Committee that he will ask for leniency on the ground that he was not warned before he was reported? Do you think that he will be acquitted on the ground that he was not warned? Honest answers to these questions will all be negative. Then if warning a man does nothing but compel him to be honest, does not aid in proving his innocence before the Honor Committee, and does nothing but weaken the system, why is it necessary to warn a man?

Many students this semester and past ones have been indignant, and righteously so, because other men they saw cribbing made higher grades. And yet the honest students did not warn and then report the men who cheated. Simply warning a man, and then if he persists in cheating, reporting him, lets the guilty party know who it was that brought him before the committee, and hence many students refuse to do this on any grounds.

We reiterate that as far as we can see, the whole trouble lies in the above quoted portion of the Honor System. Therefore, if it is the cause of the failure of the system, for it certainly is not a success as it now stands, why not remove that section and put in its place one that will strengthen instead of weaken?

The COLLEGIAN believes that a man should not be warned; that at the first evidence of cheating he should be reported. The attention of at least three other men should be called to the man who cheats, this information should be written in the blue book at the end of the quiz, and the case will in that manner be carried to the Honor Committee.

It might be said by some that such a method will result in an innocent man's being "framed." We do not believe that such a thing could possibly happen, because in the first place, it is quite probable that more than one or two men see another if he cheats, and a half dozen or more men might report the guilty party at the end of their blue books. Again, it would be easy to have the instructor give his opinion as to whether the party in question had cheated or not, and we believe that it is not a difficult matter for an instructor to find out.

In virtually all of the cases brought before the Honor Committee heretofore, the reporting has been done by instructors. As long as this is done, the Honor System is a failure, because in order to make it a success the students themselves have to report the parties who cheat. The method we have proposed seems to be the only logical and efficient way of accomplishing this.

ON TIME

For the first time this college year, the COLLEGIAN goes to press on time and is being mailed on time. In past years it has been the custom to go to press on Tuesday afternoon and be mailed Tuesday night, so that the paper reaches all in-town subscribers in Wednesday noon's mail. During the first semester it has been impossible to do this for various reasons, among which were a crippled staff, and an extreme shortage of labor in the local printing office. The Board is cutting the paper down to four pages this week in order to come out on time. Existing conditions will determine the policy in the future, whether it will be wiser to publish an edition of four pages and go to press on time, or print an edition of six pages and be compelled to come out from one to three days late.

CAN YOU WRITE A SONG?

One of the great needs of Penn State at the present time is a number of new songs, and the COLLEGIAN believes that there is enough talent among the student body to fill this long felt want. Penn State's list of usable songs is very small, as may be judged from the fact that on virtually every occasion, the same songs are sung time after time.

To those who wish to do something for their Alma Mater and who have the ability, we say write a song. The writer will do well to work along the following suggestions. In addition to writing a song that will do for a special occasion such as a football or baseball game, write a song that can be used on any occasion. One of

the latter type is "Victory", probably one of the most popular at Penn State, and which may be used at any athletic event, be it wrestling, lacrosse, boxing, or what not.

Different types of songs which are greatly needed are those such as "Blue and White", "Pennsylvania State", and so forth. Make them general and not specific. In the past this shortage of songs has been acutely felt, and a poor impression of the college has been created on more than one occasion.

If at all possible, a tune should be submitted with the words to the song. If it includes the harmony, well and good. If only the simple tune, the harmony can be added. The Department of Music has very kindly consented to cooperate with the COLLEGIAN in this matter and is willing to look over and try out any songs that are submitted and show merit. One thing to guard against is the use of popular tunes, because while it might do here at the college, if sung in some other place, it would do anything but add to the prestige of the college. Originality is one of the prime requisites.

In addition to asking undergraduates to write songs for Penn State, we also urge the alumni to see what they can do. At Cornell, a new song was recently written by Dana Burnet, a light in the literary world, and an old graduate of Cornell. It ought to be possible for Penn State to benefit in somewhat the same way.

All songs which are written may be left at or mailed to the office of the COLLEGIAN, and in collaboration with the Department of Music, they will be looked over and the best ones submitted to the student body for trial and approval.

The coming week-end gives promise of being one of the biggest athletic carnivals that Penn State will have this year. Basketball with George Washington University, wrestling with Lehigh, and boxing with Penn comprise the list of week-end sports. From all indications, each Blue and White team must put forth a "little better than the best" if it is to be a Penn State sweep. It goes without saying that every Penn State man must get back of each team and back it to the limit. Let the motto be "Everybody out!"

SENIOR CLASS MEETS
At a meeting of the Senior class on Thursday evening, various minor business topics were taken up. President Maginnis presiding. Reports were given by the three committees, the honor committee, and the finance committee. A committee on caps and gowns and one on programs and invitations were appointed.

JUNIORS ENSEMBLE
The class of 1921 held a spirited although short meeting last week at which mention was made of La Vie duss and a report on the progress of the book made. Arrangements for the class permanent and second semester dues were also completed.

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MILITARY NOTES
In the military department, plans are rapidly being formulated by Major Savage and his staff, for the continuation of drill in the spring. During the winter months, when actual, out-door drill practice is impossible, the military department is conducting a lecture course of theoretical instruction in the Sophomore and Freshman classes. These lectures are being held twice a week and will continue until the end of March. At that time out-door drill will again be taken up. Tactics, manoeuvres, and range practice will be executed by the small group method. The new arrangement of the drill practice into three periods of two consecutive hours each week enables more extensive manoeuvres, such as sham battles, hikes, and general military tactics.
The regiment will be equipped with Browning machine guns, and Springfield and automatic rifles. Enough ammunition, it is expected, will be obtained to give each student instruction and practice in the use of these pieces. Supplies, in the way of belts, bayonets, haversacks, hand grenades, etc., have already been received at the armory.

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1928 HOLDS CLASS MEETING
A short meeting of the Freshman class was held last Thursday evening, at which E. B. Zarka, one of the five trial presidents, presided. J. B. Deming of the Junior Finance Committee gave a short talk on the financial resources of the '23 class, followed by Hill, the Freshman treasurer, who gave his report. F. G. Church urged all Freshman track candidates to come out and Williams, the Junior president, drew special attention to the next class meeting. P. Heas was elected class baseball manager.

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