

Penn State Collegian

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News editor this issue A. G. Pratt

A VITAL QUESTION

Shall the Honor System go? That is the question that at present is facing the most prominent men on the campus today. An old subject, apparently, and yet one which must be met, that must be faced squarely, looked at from all angles and then without further ado, decided upon. Other college organizations have been thinking the matter over for some time. It was definitely taken up by Student Council at its last meeting, but because of the small attendance it was left over until the next meeting, when, indications point to a decision on the matter. That decision is being made during these days and the feeling has grown that the Honor System operated as it is at present at this college, must either undergo radical changes or it must go.

One fact is certain. The present system is insufficient. It is more; it is mockery. In spite of all the pleading made before the last final examination period, cribbing went on in its unmeasured fashion, so that even the most ardent supporters of the system have felt the roots of their faith relax from their support. The number of cribbers has increased. Men are inclined more and more toward an attitude against reporting others. All over the campus belief in the system is receiving a severe blow. There can be no half and half feeling toward the Honor System. Only one path lies open to the men who really are honest. They cannot afford to allow the dishonest to drag them to the lower level, and it is certain that that is being done now.

The Honor System in itself is a wonderfully idealistic bit of machinery that is wound around the human heart and mind for its support. When that fails it, then it is indeed in a sorry plight. That is the situation today. The student support has in reality failed and consequently the system has fallen to abuse. Apparently human nature has settled the thing for us. There are too many of us who are filled with the desire to go through college by hook or crook regardless of the effect on our morals and those of our associates. It means so little today for a man to be honest in his work. The one who completes his task dishonestly and does it without being detected receives the same classification as the one who is conscientious about all he does. The dishonest man goes on. He is unaffected. It is only the honest one who suffers. So the individual who has gone straight is forced to the level of the ingrate.

If the Honor System cannot be made a one hundred per cent affair, with every student cooperating, not because he must for fear of detection, but because it is the one desire of his heart to be square, then it had better go. Mr. Student, you will have to face this question within a few weeks. Ponder carefully over all angles of the question. A decision must be reached. Penn State cannot go on, tied down as she is with a system that is a drag, a mockery, to her very student life. If you cannot support the system as it is at present, then suggest some remedy for it, whereby you can give it your unmitigated aid; or, put it out of your life.

Would you like to see Penn State have a real Honor System, or would you prefer to go back to the old proctor system or some other system of that type? Think it over.

COMMENDATION

Right here we wish to extend our congratulations to the Penn State players for the very excellent production they offered the student body last Friday evening. It was the very finest bit of dramatic work the organization has presented to date and has certainly eclipsed most of the student productions of the past few years. Much credit is due the individuals who took part in the performance and the coaches who trained them for the parts. It was certainly an appreciative audience that time and again responded to the numerous humorous situations that were portrayed and who equally admired the proficiency of the members of the cast. It took long hours of preparation and tireless endeavor to make the play the success it was and certainly only the highest commendation should be given. It is only too unfortunate that all the work and preparation should have been necessary for a one night performance. The reputation that resulted from that one presentation, it is felt, would have been sufficient to carry the play through another evening, with a full house. Nevertheless it is but another example of service to the student body and therein another end has been achieved. The Penn State Players, as an organization has steadily increased in its value to the campus and its present standing and reputation augurs well for success yet to come.

Penn State will have its annual Washington's Birthday athletic carnival this coming week-end and the college will have many visitors present for the usual house-party festivities as well. Would it not, at that time be wise to have a regular old time mass meeting, of the type that were so frequently held before. Penn State has not had an evening mass meeting for a long time. Her students have not been together in such a joy-fest for several months and especially at such a time it would be most appropriate. Let's have a real old time affair, full of the jovial spirit of the period, when we can send the athletic teams to their tasks with a fuller feeling that the student body is behing them to the very end. Let's sing all the old songs again.

STATE OF PENNA. IS SIXTH IN AGRICULTURE

Work of School of Agriculture Responsible For Much of State's Rise in Importance

In the census of 1910 Pennsylvania ranked seventh as a producer of agricultural products, in 1920 Pennsylvania held sixth place. Despite the fact that the large war industries were paying tremendous salaries and bribing men to leave the soil and come to the cities, leaving the farmers with little help, the Keystone State was able to prove itself better than some of the greater farming states of the middle and far west Pennsylvania being one of the largest manufacturing states of the Union for the farmers of this state lost numbers far out of proportion to the other big farming states. What was there back of the rapid increase of the farm products of this state? In attempting to answer this question for the people of the state Mr. H. B. Sullivan, the noted agricultural writer of the Philadelphia North American was invited to address the Agricultural Extension Department here, which he thinks was largely responsible for the increase.

The work of this department of the college is not always appreciated or understood by the students. The campus for this department is not confined to the mere vicinity of State College, but extends to the far corners of the state. County agents keep in continual touch with the farmers and aid them to get the best results from their crops. The work of the department is to help stabilize the markets, to teach the farmers the most economical method of running their farms, and to experiment with the soils of the state that they may instruct the farmers in the planting and fertilizing of their lands.

At the Agricultural Experiment Station tests are being carried on continually with grain that it may be determined which seed is best suited to certain soils. The results of these tests are then carried to the farmers throughout the state and practical application made of them.

Extensive experiments are also carried on in the use of lime, in order that the farmers may get the best results out of the smallest amounts applied. The study of the different kinds of fertilizers is also taken up and the County Agents bring their doctrine of more and the intelligent use of both fertilizers and various sprays to the farmer as an insurance against loss.

Thus by the efficient work of the Extension Bureau, the farmers of Pennsylvania have been able to produce more and far better crops from the same acreage and at a lower cost than before. The County Agents have also formed co-operative organizations among the farmers which enable them to buy better seed and fertilizer at a much lower price than they could by single purchase.

Organizations are also formed for the purpose of increasing efficiency in the poultry and dairy end of the game as well, so that the hens and cows that are nonproductive may be weeded out.

Thus, by the aid of this department which has spread its organization over all but five counties of the State, the smaller farmer and producer is given a chance to benefit by the best that a mighty institution can offer and one of the foremost Agricultural Experiment Stations of the country is continually at his service.

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New Free Lecture Course Announced

A most interesting course of nine lectures has recently been arranged by the School of Liberal Arts and will be delivered in the Old Chapel at seven o'clock every Tuesday evening from the twenty-second of February to the twenty-sixth of April. Each year the School of Liberal Arts has given series of free lectures and this course together with the series of lectures rendered by Dr. Sparks last fall on "Wives of the Presidents," promises to exceed all previous courses in quantity and quality.

The series of lectures arranged for the next six months will be very diversified in nature and will include illustrated lectures by Professor F. D. Kern and Dean R. L. Watts. Professor L. P. Patton, who took a prominent part in the lecture series last year, will lecture on the life of Edgar Allan Poe, one of America's foremost writers, and will be followed the next week by Miss Ruth E. Jackson of the English Department, who will give a dramatic recital. On the fifteenth of March, "Dick" Harlow will tell of his experiences in Northern Canada last summer with the birds and judging from a similar talk which he gave before the Country Life Club not long ago, the lecture should be very interesting as well as instructive.

Those persons who were fortunate enough to hear the lectures given by Dr. Sparks last fall will be delighted to learn that he will close the coming series with four lectures beginning on the fifth of April. His addresses will be based on topics of universal interest and will attempt to answer questions that arise in the minds of all.

- The lectures are scheduled as follows, Feb. 22—Edgar Allan Poe
- Professor F. L. Patton
- March 1—A Dramatic Recital
- Miss Ruth E. Jackson
- March 8—Some Clever Criminals of the Plant World (Illustrated)
- Professor F. D. Kern
- March 15—Through Northern Canada With the Birds
- Mr. R. C. Harlow
- March 22—Conservation and Recreation in the Keystone State (Illustrated)

- Dean R. L. Watts
- April 5—What's the Matter with the World? Dr. E. E. Sparks
- April 12—Why Should Anybody Work? Dr. E. E. Sparks
- April 19—What's Money for, Anyhow? Dr. E. E. Sparks
- April 26—Where'll I Shall We Be Fed? Dr. E. E. Sparks

MAGICIAN'S FEATS PLEASE AUDIENCE

Distracting money from the air, transferring articles invisibly from one locked container to another, making one thing take the form of something entirely different, escaping, without apparent difficulty and in a remarkably short time, when tied to a chair and when handcuffed, fastened in a bag and then locked in a trunk and performing many other new and mystifying feats, David, "Master Magician," proved his claim to the title "the man who mystifies," last Saturday evening in the Auditorium. This was the sixth number of the combined Music and Entertainment Course being conducted jointly by the Department of Music and the Y. M. C. A. and, judging by the large size of the audience and the appreciation which they displayed for the different exhibitions of wizardry, the performance was entirely successful.

Not only the "mysterious" and clever tricks which Davis executed but also the novel manner in which he presented them along with his amusing and original speeches pleased those present. The wizard made his entertainment doubly interesting by carrying his various feats to the audience. Instead of using articles of his own to accomplish an experiment, he continually borrowed them from his onlookers. Descending from the stage himself and going along the aisles, he created great merriment by extracting guinea pigs from hats, eggs from the mouths of, and other laugh-provoking articles from unsuspecting victims. The magicians also had people come upon the platform and unknowingly, aid him in carrying out some experiments. Davis was not contented to bring about only one marvelous feat upon one object, but, when seemingly having finished a demonstration, he repeatedly performed an even more mystifying and difficult one, using the same materials.

The program was divided into two parts. In the first-half of the entertainment, the magician displayed his slight-of-hand, tricks and after a short intermission he showed his ability in the quickness with which he was able to escape from handcuffs, a locked trunk and other hindrances.

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