

Penn State Collegian

Published Semi-weekly during the College year by students of the Pennsylvania State College, in the interest of the Students, Faculty, Alumni and Friends of the College.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1921

News editor this issue A. G. Pratt

CAN YOU WRITE A SONG?

The Department of Music, of the college, in an effort to stimulate interest in the students and faculty toward a new college song, one that will be more representative of Penn State, is conducting a contest, with a handsome prize as the goal, for this purpose. Penn State has a number of very fine college songs, appropriate during seasons of the year, but not a single one that is known throughout the country as are some of the famous songs of other colleges. Here is an opportunity to do some great good for the college and its students, and student loyalty should make quite a response to this offer.

Further, we would suggest that we sing more of the college songs than we do. The indoor athletic season at home is practically over and we believe at the first opportunity when a big mass meeting may be held, the Penn State songs should be given a large share in the program. Also, it is time we were really instituting the time-worn custom with many colleges, of campus singing. There is nothing more beautiful nor more conducive to a firmer loyalty to the college than a sentiment such as this, especially at such a place and under such surroundings as these in which our college thrives.

CAN YOU SUGGEST A VIRILE CHANGE?

Student Council's decision of several weeks ago in reference to the Honor System has certainly caused a great amount of discussion on the subject, as already appropriately stated, unquestionably the most healthy sign of activity displayed by the student body toward itself for some time. The COLLEGIAN has been the recipient of a number of letters on the subject as the students have observed, yet a few have come unsigned, and so could not be published. One of these was from "an instructor," who felt that out of this large student body should come some suggestion as to the change in the present system that would improve it. The correspondent also felt that instructors should not act as policemen, suggesting that possibly, in case the proctor system was again taken up, upperclassmen might, for compensation, or in behalf of "college spirit," undertake the task. We sincerely hope that there may be suggested a change that will remedy the present situation, but feel that that change lies in only one direction, the student body itself. Also, we doubt very much if upperclassmen would desire to police examinations any more than instructors care to. The policing principle in the present system is just one of the very factors that is making it a failure. No man will report another. We would have the same evil in another sense.

A correspondent in our last issue informed us that it would be a disgrace to the institution to cast out the present system, but admits that it does not work. He says that in its present condition, which by the way, is the condition in which it has always been, it is a dismal failure, because it permits of a double standard, being in force only during examinations and quizzes and not at any other time. He advocates a change, but like others who do not wish to discard it, fails to state what change would improve it. An honor system, let us again emphasize, does not depend alone upon prescribed rules or regulations, but upon the attitude of the students toward it.

An ideal system presumes that every student is innately honest and that therefore any supervision is unnecessary. In the practical system, supervision is done away with, but knowing that there are always black sheep in the fold, the students are made responsible for checking all dishonesty. There, then lies the difficulty in the matter. If the students will report others who crib, then the system may be called workable, but, inasmuch as past experience has proven conclusively that students will not report others for the simple reason that it is not human nature to do so, therefore that clause in the system is useless. The system is based on student cooperation. That is lacking, has been lacking and to our minds, because of the nature of the system; always will be a missing factor.

Consequently we fail to see any dishonor in abolishing this thing, and feel that a vast wrong would be perpetrated if present conditions were allowed to continue. It is far better to discard a valueless system than to overlook dishonesty.

Y. M. C. A. HOLDING

BIG CONFERENCES

(continued from first page)

Baptist Church.
Lutheran
I. C. Hoffman, D. D., Secretary of the Board of Home Missions of the Lutheran church. Specialist in frontier church work.

Methodist
Rev. C. M. McConnell, well-known rural pastor, last church Lakewood, O., at present recruiting secretary for the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a brother of Bishop McConnell.

Mr. H. S. French, Department of City work and Candidate Secretary of the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. James H. Lewis, D. D., of the Department of Foreign Personnel, Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Through extensive travel in the interest of the Board of Foreign Missions, Dr. Lewis is well informed of the needs of the church in all foreign fields.

Rev. W. P. Sheldon, D. D., Secretary of the Joint Commission of the Board of Education and Home Missions, of the Methodist Episcopal Church and is charged with the development of the religious work of the Methodist Church in State and Independent Colleges and Universities.
Rev. John G. Benson, D. D., Pastor

of Union Methodist Episcopal Church known as the "Ninety-nine Steps from Broadway Church." This church is called "The Whitest Spot in the Great White Way." He represents the Institutional churches.

Presbyterian
Rev. W. H. Crutcher, Candidate Enrollment Secretary for the General Board of Education of the Presbyterian Church. He was a classmate of the Rev. Samuel Martin pastor of the State College Presbyterian Church. Early in his career he was a pastor in Nebraska and was so successful in inducing young men to enter the ministry that the Board of Education secured him for the special task to which he has given all his time.

E. Fred Eastman is Educational Director for the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions. He is a live man and is in touch with all student problems as well as with the needs of the church. Rural life specialist.

Reformed
W. E. Lampe, D. D., Department of Stewardship of Life and Possessions of Reformed Church.
Dr. Herman, of Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Y. M. C. A.
C. V. Hibbard, Executive Secretary of the Overseas Department of Y. M. C. A. Father of Army "Y" work in Russo Japanese war. Missionary in Japan.
Robert A. Lewis, General Secretary of Cleveland Y. M. C. A. Foremost Secretary in the country. Cleveland "Y" is considered a model.
Paul Belsamer, Field Secretary of New York School of Social Work.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION ON THE HONOR SYSTEM

To the Editor of the Collegian

During the last two weeks I have been searching the columns of the Collegian with an anxious eye, wondering if any faculty member of this great institution dare uphold an Honor System. At such a critical time in the life of Penn State I am greatly disappointed to hear no word spoken by our faculty members in favor of a System of Honor in our collegiate life. By a System of Honor I do not mean our present Honor System in its entirety, but a System of Honor which will extend throughout every day of every semester and into every phase of student and faculty life and relations.

We must admit that the present system has not fulfilled our hopes, but we do not admit that it has been a dismal and absolute failure. In the year 1915-1916 we had on our campus a man who could guide student thought and student action. That man was Wood. He was Captain of the football team, President of the Senior Class and Head of the Y. M. C. A. Under the guiding spirit of that man, I can bear witness to the fact that the Freshman section, of which I was a member, did observe the Honor System, and I can truly state that the general attitude toward the system at that time was very good. In the present time, however, there is much cheating in the under-classes and some in the upper-classes.

Why has Penn State failed in so large a measure in the solution of this most vital problem? The students have failed because they have not had the courage to rise up in their classrooms and declare an unfailing stand against the violators of their own Honor Code. They have failed because each Freshman Class was told at its first class meeting that the Honor System had not been working well, but their support was earnestly solicited in order to keep it alive. The faculty have failed because their methods in the classrooms have not been in unison with the spirit of a real Honor System. In many cases these methods have been in direct opposition to that spirit.

The student who dares to stand up for honor in his classroom work will finally grow into the statesman who dares to uphold honor in the affairs of citizenship. The faculty member who fails to stand up in the spirit of the rules and regulations of the college in which he teaches does not deserve to be a member of that faculty. The student who complains that the cheat receives the same diploma as he, and thereby the value of his diploma is decreased, is like the strong man who cowardly allows the unarmed robber to carry away in his total possession what he then complains that he is distressed and sore in need. The faculty member who takes the attitude that every man is inherently dishonest cannot expect the Honor System to be carried out in his classroom.

To consider a man honest and honorable until he is proven dishonest and dishonest until he is proven a hypocrite of law and religion. This principle is the foundation upon which any System of Honor must be based. The opposite of this principle is the foundation upon which any Proctor System is based. The Honor System, even if faulty, tends to foster honor as is shown by the decrease in cheating from Freshman to Senior classes. The Proctor System, on the other hand, invites dishonesty and tends to create an attitude of "putting one over" on the faculty.

For the sake of the Honor of Penn State and your own honor, I beg you to consider this question thoroughly. Has every method of solution been tried. Is there not some way by which you may come to a relation to a real System of Honor? Do you want a Proctor System? Do you desire to be considered, inherently dishonest? Are you ready to admit that it is impossible to carry out the principles of honor and Christian teaching in student life at Penn State?

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RAY D. GILLILAND DRUGGIST State College, Pa.

L. A. EXTENSION WORK MEETS WITH SUCCESS

Many gratifying reports have been received by the School of Liberal Arts as a result of the extension work which is being carried on by the school. This is a new venture and the fact that the work is being so enthusiastically received is evidence that the course has concerning the course are being received daily and as a consequence several lecture courses have been established. Professor M. M. Harris is directing the work and he is well fitted to assume the responsibility as he has had twenty years' experience in this line of endeavor. Thirty members of the Liberal Arts faculty comprise the list of persons who are conducting the lectures which are being given from time to time throughout the state. The extension course comprises a series of individual lectures which are given at various cities and normal schools within easy access of State College. The lectures are detached but interesting and may be amplified whenever desirable. If this is preferred, correspondence lessons may be established between lecturers for those people who may be interested, those in normal schools being offered the opportunity to substitute the credits which they thus obtain for undergraduate or graduate credits. The lectures are given primarily for the purpose of commending the college to the public and extending the influence of the college to the people who cannot come to State College to hear the various topics discussed. They are of a highly educational nature, the subjects being on English and modern languages and their literature, music, history, economics, psychology and education, and other important studies.

An encouraging number of lecture courses have already been scheduled and an increasing demand for individual lectures assures the school that the new undertaking has attained a popularity which is certain to increase. A series of seven lectures has been arranged for at the Bloomsburg State Normal School while another of nine lectures has been scheduled at the Lock Haven State Normal School. Ten men will visit both Canton and Troy, Pennsylvania, at different intervals to address audiences in both towns. Two members of the English Department will address the convention of the State Wide Federation of Women's Clubs at Chester during the week and two lectures will also be given at the West Chester Normal School on education. Professor J. H. Frizzell is also cooperating with Professor Harris and a course at Reading will be arranged in the near future. The courses are doing much in the interest of the college and in addition are giving the people of state an opportunity to obtain a more liberal education.

IMPORTANT BUSINESS BEFORE WOMAN'S CLUB NEXT MEETING
At the next meeting of the State College Woman's Club to be held in the Presbyterian Church on the evening of

WANTED Student to give vacant hours for board. Write P. O. Box 140.

March 15, the History section will present an illustrated lecture on "The Pathway of the Pilgrims." As this is a lecture of great historic interest, no member can afford to be absent. These views have been seen by several of the members and are said to be well worth seeing.

The annual election of officers will also be held at this meeting and a straw vote will be taken as to whether the dues of the club should be raised. From now on the members of the club will not be notified by telephone but cards will be sent to each.

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