

# Penn State Collegian

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

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1924

News Editor this issue F. P. GEORGE

### CLASS DUES

There is a problem at Penn State that comes up for annual discussion in connection with the payment of class dues. It is a question involving personal expenditure of money, and as such is difficult of approach. But it is a question capable of solution and the sooner some definite basis for collection of these dues is established, the better it will be for all undergraduates concerned.

The first consideration in a discussion of dues is whether or not the assessment levied is justified. It is generally conceded by those individuals who understand the functioning of class affairs, that dues are necessary. For the class is an institution. It is not, as is oft-times believed, a transient organization, taking shape in the first year of a man's existence as an undergraduate and continuing during his stay in college. True, its actual workings are seen to best advantage at that time. But a class is a permanent affair and its members in college are regarded as such throughout the remainder of their material existence. Furthermore, the money derived from payment of dues, after the necessary deductions for class activities in college have been made, is turned over to a permanent secretary for the conduct of class affairs after graduation.

Numerous assertions have been made to the effect that the assessment upon individual members is too high. And such criticisms are entirely justified. But under the present loose and unorganized system of collection, small hope is entertained for a reduction in dues. For, in the preparation of a budget and the fixation of amounts payable, past experiences have taught that, in the majority of cases, between fifty and sixty per cent of the members must bear the financial burden for the entire class. And this, perforce, necessitates higher assessments which immediately betokens an unhealthy condition of class affairs. It is unmistakably evident that if every eligible and taxable man paid his dues, the assessable amount could be lowered and a much fairer basis might be established for those loyal individuals who pay no matter what the assessment.

The trouble, then, seems to lie in the system of collection. The only logical way in which dues can be collected from every man is to make of it a college affair and impose a tax upon each individual student which will be payable with his incidental fees. College authorities object to this upon the contention that a man can not be required to join a class. And herein enters an aspect of inconsistency. Classes are recognized and their activities are encouraged by the College. As such they come under the same general head, it would seem, as debating and athletics. There was no particular hesitancy about imposing a per capita tax for the support of these two branches of undergraduate activity. And there is no question about a man's desire to be identified with some class or other. A man without a class in college is like a man without a country in civil life. The only reason an undergraduate refuses to affiliate himself with any class affairs during his stay in college is on account of the financial consideration involved and because he knows, despite all assertions to the contrary, that he will be allowed to associate his name with that of a class upon graduation whether his dues are paid or not.

As conditions exist now, the class treasurer and the class finance committee have a hard time of it. Threats are resorted to as a means of securing payment of dues. Notifications are issued to the effect that the pictures of delinquent members will not appear in the class year book. Embarrassing situations are not uncommon when it is found that certain nominees for class offices do not have their dues paid and are asked to decline the nomination. Many men stay away from meetings purposely to avoid payment of dues. It is generally found that where a man has a monetary interest in anything, it insures a greater personal interest. This, undoubtedly, would mean better attendance at class meetings.

It would seem that the time has come for a change of system. And the only satisfactory system conceivable is one whereby a per capita tax, payable with incidental fees, would be imposed upon every college undergraduate.

### AN APPRECIATION

The splendid recital of Pablo Casals in the Auditorium last Saturday evening is but one more example of the exceptional program made possible by the combined efforts of the Y. M. C. A. and the Department of Music. Casals ranks as one of the greatest living cellists and excels all contemporaries in interpretive ability and breadth of expression.

Those individuals and organizations responsible for securing artists of such calibre for recitals, lectures and entertainments, are rendering a real service to the undergraduates and to the community as a whole. It is in this connection that the COLLEGIAN, in behalf of the student body wishes to express a few words of appreciation. Sousa and his band, Laurant, the magician, and Judge Ben Lindsay, all of whom preceded Casals on the program and have already made their appearance at Penn State, were acknowledged to be equally as entertaining in their own particular lines.

## Thoughts of Others

### AN HONOR SYSTEM BASED UPON PERSONAL HONOR

(The Daily Illini)

In the Others' Opinions column this morning there appears a letter from a freshman woman who has experienced the remorse and shame following an involuntary act of dishonesty. It is a letter that is expressive of the dislike, even dread, that honest men and women have of an act of this character.

The Honor System has been abolished in its place has been established the proctor system, which is really nothing more or less than a faculty rating system based upon distrust of the individual student. This, we feel is necessary at the present time because the Honor system, the method established five years ago by the student body of the University to raise the standard of Illinois moral conduct and take it out of faculty control, has failed.

The honor of Illinois students was dealt a severe blow when this happened but it is a fact and we must acknowledge it. The proctor system is the only alternative, at the present time, and the University authorities did absolutely right in re-installing it when the student experiment failed.

But must this situation continue?

The good effect of the Honor System is still present. The members of the three upper classes have lived under it and they have felt its influence, which undoubtedly was great. Therefore, it is reasonable to believe that there will not be a great amount of dishonesty this year, except perhaps among the freshmen who come direct from the high schools of the state where "getting by" is quite the thing.

These freshmen will soon become Juniors and seniors, they will not have had the teachings of the Honor System and they will regard themselves as great if they can get a maximum grade from a maximum amount of dishonesty. Then will conditions become deplorable, indeed. The proctor system now may be effective, it will not be then unless the guard is increased to meet the situation.

This situation can be avoided. We can not bring back the Honor System because, in the form in which it was constituted, it has proven ineffective. Also we cannot hope to abolish the proctor system, at least not until we have shown that we can do without it. What we can do is to individually and collectively, as students of the University of Illinois and as aspirants to future citizenship, pledge ourselves to

honesty and square dealing in the class room. This will mean more than non-cribbing; it will mean refusing to offer aid when asked, it will mean the establishment of a strong student sentiment for honesty and a little dislike for the ones who get their work by cribbing.

If honesty and square dealing can become the "thing" there will be no more need for legislation. Sentiment is far stronger than force.

The organizations of the student body might well further such an aim by pledging themselves for Illinois honesty and then keeping sentiment alive for it. They can do no greater service.

C. W. RICE WILL SPEAK

HERE FEBRUARY ELEVENTH

Mr. Calvin W. Rice, secretary of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, will deliver a lecture at Penn State on February eleventh. His talk will be of interest principally to the engineers. Mr. Rice expects to start on a tour of the engineering centers of the middle states and one of his first stops will be made here.

Mr. Rice recently toured South American countries, beginning at Rio de Janeiro, as the envoy of American engineering societies. His address on the evening of February eleventh will be in the nature of a report to the engineers on the opportunities of engineering as applied to American industries. Mr. Rice has been active in Pan-American effort for many years, and since 1906 he has been secretary of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the largest national engineering organization of its kind.

Arrangements for the various meetings which will be held during the visit of Mr. Rice are in charge of A. J. Wood, professor of mechanical engineering, L. J. Bradford, secretary of the central Pennsylvania section of the society, and C. C. Morgan, '24, president of the student branch of the A. S. M. E. Details of the meetings will be published in a later issue of the COLLEGIAN.

MEMBERS OF BOTANY SEMINAR MET AT HOME OF DR. KERN

Dr. Kern entertained the members of the Botany seminar at his home last week. Everyone enjoyed the discussion of the topic taken up "Botanical Features of the Cincinnati meetings."

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

## ESSAY CONTEST OPENED ON LEAGUE OF NATIONS

### College Students To Be Awarded Prizes for Best Papers on National Problem

The growing interest among undergraduates of American universities and colleges in the League of Nations and the World Court has prompted the College Division of the League of Nations Non-Partisan Association to conduct an essay contest, with prizes of one hundred dollars each to students who desire to compete for them. The contest is announced by Coiles Lamont who, as chairman of the Committee of University and College Students of the League of Nations Non-Partisan Association, is in charge of the organization of branches of the Association in universities and colleges. Mr. Lamont reports that over thirty universities and colleges have already been organized. The subject of the essay is to be

"Why the United States should join the League of Nations." Total number of words submitted by the contestant must not exceed three thousand. Only one essay may be submitted by any one contestant.

Manuscripts must be typewritten and only on one side of the page, and must not be rolled. Manuscript will be returned. No postage for the return of manuscripts should therefore be included by the sender.

All manuscripts must be received at the office of the League of Nations Non-Partisan Association, 15 West 37th Street, New York City, by twelve o'clock noon, March first, 1924.

The submission of my manuscript whether or not it receives an award, will give to the Association full right to publish my part or all of it in such manner and at such times as it may choose.

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SATURDAY—  
Matinee at Two—  
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TUESDAY—Matinee at Two

HOOT GIBSON

in "The Thrill Chaser"

SPORT REVUE

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY—  
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WALLY VAN & PATSY RUTH MILLER

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Will Rogers in a burlesque on the "Covered Wagon"

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