

# 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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News Editor this issue: W. F. Adler

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1925

## CRIMSON FOOTBALL TURNS RED

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the editors of the Harvard Crimson. They have been deluded, poor struggling undergraduates that they are, by the "evils" of football. They fear for dear old Harvard, they fear for dear old Harvard's football, but most of all they evidently fear that their subscription list will fall off considerably if they do not come out with something super-sensational once in a while.

In this issue of the COLLEGIAN, we are reprinting the Crimson's proposed gridiron reforms. After reading it over, the entire student body will assemble for a mass-meeting and enjoy one loud, long guffaw together. If football reforms were to be worked out according to the Crimson's view, then the United States will use little Willie's, aged six, plan for international peace.

There can be no question that intercollegiate football is over-emphasized. But is the overemphasis hurting anyone? Are the educational standards of our colleges and universities falling off because football happens to be so popular during the first three months of school? On the contrary, hasn't this overemphasis tended to strike a more popular balance between the large and small colleges today?

Let's analyze the Crimson's program. It suggests that Harvard play a series of not more than three intercollegiate games, one with Yale and two with other universities (Princeton is not mentioned.) What could be sweeter to the ears of those who are doing their utmost to promote professional football today? They would gloat over such a reform. In fact, if it was carried out it is likely that the Crimson would receive a royalty from the receipts of each professional game.

And then the Crimson bewails the enormous crowds that view the big intercollegiate contests. One must realize that with each succeeding year, a college has more alumni and more undergraduates and they help swell the mass of spectators every season. "Do away with early season training" also says the Crimson. We might as well do away with the entire spirit of competition then. A writer in a Philadelphia paper suggests that the Crimson should also advocate abolishment of night preparation for next-day classes.

Yale lines up with Harvard opinion, since the Crimson suggests that one of Harvard's games be played with Yale and two "with other universities." Princeton will know better than to win the championship of the "Dig Three" next year.

### DO YOU AGREE?

"Are you agreeable? Did it ever occur to you that agreeableness is one of the most valuable qualities that a person may possess?" That is the theme of a recent editorial appearing in the Syracuse Daily Orange. The writer continues, "Agreeableness will bring you friends, work and a happy outlook, to say nothing of a wife or a husband. It has been known to bring good grades and honor societies." If by the word agreeableness the Orange editor means tact, we concur. Without tact and without its close relative, self-control, friendly discussions between honest and respectable citizens would invariably end in fist-cuffs.

However, if by agreeableness is meant the practice of making one's self pleasant company by eternally checking along the usual method, we take exception. The cultivation of such a quality for the purpose of achieving what is commonly accepted as success is a most popular pursuit on American campuses. The undergraduate who cultivates it with real success takes his place among the big men around college. The man who plays the same "yessing" game but who is less adept and gets his signals mixed is condemned—he is the hands-baker, recognized. God help him; he has committed the crime of failure.

These familiar types, however, are both guilty of an offense far more serious than insincerity. Agreeing becomes a habit, a habit that successfully kills any latent originality they may possess. And in originality lies man's only hope of progress, of creative accomplishment. It must be painfully evident that every advance in civilization has come from some fearless mortal who disagreed with the rest of his fellows.

Despise the man who always agrees with you; he wants something for which he has no right to ask; he is unable to think for himself, or he is a coward afraid to defend his own ideas.

## HARVARD CRIMSON CONDEMS OVER-EMPHASIS ON COLLEGE FOOTBALL IN PROGRAM OF REFORM

### Seeks Correction of "Existing Maladjustment and Disproportion Between Football and Scholarship" in Presenting Comprehensive Plan of Readjustment

The over-impotence of college football and the imperfect balance it gives to academic work is a vexing problem at Harvard and has given rise to a grid program, outlined in the Harvard Crimson, to remedy the existing defect.

(Reprinted from the Crimson)

The Crimson looks for a full-time time when the Harvard football season will be conducted somewhat as follows:

1. The season will begin when college opens in the fall and end as it does at present. There will be no spring practice and no practice in September before college opens.

2. All students who want to play football will be assigned to classes and receive the best coaching available.

3. For the first month of college, interclass games will constitute the schedule.

4. At the end of that period a satisfactory grid will be formed from the players who have shown the greatest ability in the interclass contests.

5. The varsity squad will then play a series of not more than three intercollegiate games, say with Yale and two other universities, provided the universities will agree to adopt a similar plan to avoid unfairness in such games. If all of course be necessary to the educational program, to accept the same plan of preparation as Harvard.

6. Meanwhile, the class teams will have been reorganized and will continue their games until the close of the season. Class team players will still have the opportunity of preparation to the varsity squad, if the departmental consent merit.

7. The varsity class will play "last game" with Yale's winning class team.

8. It goes without saying that football conducted in this manner will carry the financial burden of athletics as it now does. An employment for athletes will therefore be necessary. This last point is vital and meritable, if football is to escape from the clutches of overemphasis which now are manifest. So long as colleges depend upon the receipts from football practice to support their entire athletic program, this fact alone will remain a different excuse for continuing the present unimproving system.

In promoting this ideal, the Crimson is well aware that it will require a change of heart about Harvard's football. Yale and two other universities will have to be selected later, who would draw up an agreement.

To abolish all spring football practice and pre-season practice, thus starting the football season at the time college opens, and ending it with the last game.

To abandon "scouting" by sending men in the current practice of sending recruited agents to watch and report upon the system of playing used by an opposing team.

It is hoped that once a complete grid program is finally decided, the Crimson will be able to present a more comprehensive plan of readjustment.

To have a plan practice to have them in the afternoon. We believe that the sense of honor and pride should be retained that will not be the equivalent of a grid game. Even a practice schedule could be devised.

The Harvard Crimson's plan of reform is a comprehensive one, and it is hoped that it will be adopted by the other universities.

The Crimson declares the preponderance of space devoted to college football in the newspapers, the domes of professional football teams in the future, come so to fill the public eye as to remedy a large part of this evil. The custom of picking All-American teams is the last stage of that cheap aggrandizement through newspaper publicity which tends to excite in students' minds a false sense of values. The Crimson, therefore, has discontinued this very old custom of picking an All-Star team. The Crimson also declares the habit of sporting writers to make college players the butt of their gibes and vituperations. This practice is decidedly objectionable. Because a player makes an error in a football game, his career in life may be ruined by brand-name him before the public as "the man who dropped the punt."

In their football is good for the players, for the general body of undergraduates, and for the alumni.

These should be no public sale of tickets to the Harvard football game. Each game should be conducted in the manner of the majority of the other intercollegiate colleges, where the public is a simple about-face. These games open to the entire body of college football.

All sales of tickets should be by application and a check should be kept of the occupants of seats at every game to discourage speculation.

For the present, the Crimson advocates no change in Harvard's game schedules. The present ruling against post-season games should be continued. The Crimson opposes the idea of an Eastern Football Conference, which is being currently discussed in the press. It is conceivable that such a conference might be made the instrument for effecting a wider acceptance than is now possible of limitations upon the over-emphasis of football. But in the opposite direction, it is not to be desired the agitation in favor of such a conference. A Harvard Football League with its big conference games ever week would bring to final completion these conditions which the Crimson deprecates.

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The Crimson declares the preponderance of space devoted to college football in the newspapers, the domes of professional football teams in the future, come so to fill the public eye as to remedy a large part of this evil. The custom of picking All-American teams is the last stage of that cheap aggrandizement through newspaper publicity which tends to excite in students' minds a false sense of values. The Crimson, therefore, has discontinued this very old custom of picking an All-Star team. The Crimson also declares the habit of sporting writers to make college players the butt of their gibes and vituperations. This practice is decidedly objectionable. Because a player makes an error in a football game, his career in life may be ruined by brand-name him before the public as "the man who dropped the punt."