

Penn State Collegian

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HONOR IN UTOPIA

From time to time discussion is re-opened upon the merits of the honor system as opposed to the proctor method as a means of eliminating cheating in examinations. Recently Mr. James T. Jackson, a student at Howard college, undertook an exhaustive survey of the honor systems of American colleges and universities. He found that the "opinions of the educational world in regard to the success of the honor system vary from one extreme to the other. Some think the system to be the basis for individual character building while others regard the whole experiment as a dismal failure."

Quoting from a resume of Mr. Jackson's survey published in the *Johns Hopkins News-Letter*: "those who favor the adoption of the code point to the fact that a system of faculty espionage stifles character growth. They maintain that the honor system, affording the individual student the opportunity of being tempted and tried, develops a much stronger and better personality than that produced under police methods. The honor system introduces into the university cloisters a democratic form of government, teaching the students respect for law, developing proper social attitudes and personal initiative and indelibly emphasizing upon the mind the value of co-operation and the necessity for the acceptance of responsibility."

"Opponents of the system argue that it does not stamp out cheating, that the judgment of the students composing the honor council is not mature enough to be reliable, that a degree received under the honor system is not worth as much as one received under faculty supervision, and that it necessitates tattling by one student on another."

In the first place the coupling of "system" with "honor" is objectionable. In the ideal state of things a true spirit of honor would not have to lean upon a "system" for support. It would be strong enough to stand on its own feet. There would be no need for an honor council, no necessity for students to tattle on one another. Honor would become an attitude of mind, not an abstract word associated with tale bearing and court martialing. Honor would be a living part of each student's philosophy of life. It would be deeply imbedded among that group of principles by which every man guides his daily existence. Deliberate violation of one's code of honor would be considered one of the cardinal sins against self and society. In the Utopian college, cheaters would be stamped with such a stigma of social disapproval that no violator would dare face his companions without bowing his head in shame after his offense, much less boast of his cleverness in outwitting the powers that be. And the urge to secure social approval is one of the most potent forces of our times. Perhaps as a reaction to the stern Puritanism of the nation's infancy, there has sprung up a tendency to place a premium upon sheer cleverness or dumb luck in breaking the laws of the country and society with impunity, rather than upon the power to achieve success and happiness during this mundane span without violating the laws which work for the good of the majority of mankind.

Penn State has an Honor Code, but proctors are still in vogue. The question arises, "Would it be better to place the students entirely upon their honor?" Let us suppose that such an experiment be tried. Then, if the majority of students have reached the stage where they consider honor and intrinsic worth above superficial cleverness, the experiment will be successful and will deserve to become permanent. Both faculty and students would be benefited. If most of the undergraduates subscribe to the doctrine, "it's right if you can get away with it," it is the duty of everyone who has the interests of Penn State at heart to foster the growth of the true attitude of honor. It is the duty of every honorary organization on the campus, of every student leader to place the ideal of honor above all else. Perhaps the honor spirit is not sufficiently prevalent among students to warrant a trial. If not, we look forward hopefully to the time when faculty police can be abolished without risk of lowering the scholastic standards necessary for a degree.

COLLEGE AND CHARACTER

Professor Irwin Edman of Columbia University is quoted as saying, "It is very rare on a campus to find genuinely vicious or depraved characters. But it is equally rare to find character at all." Certainly Professor Edman must have ample opportunity for observing stud-

ents, and doubtless he has reasons for his statement if his words correctly state the case for the character (or lack of character) among American college students, what do they mean with regard to college life? To us, they mean that college life is not functioning satisfactorily in the important field of character building, and that college education is giving us many trained intellects coupled with undeveloped characters. This if true, is not a pleasing condition.

Character development among the students at a college or university seems to depend principally upon two factors. One of these is the skill and willingness with which the faculty and officers of the institution try to assist the students in developing real character. The second, with which we are directly concerned, is the attitude of the students toward character forming influences. No student would really expect to obtain the mastery of any difficult subject solely through the efforts of his instructor. On the contrary, he would hope that at least half of the responsibility was his and that only through long application to the subject could he hope to succeed. Character, apparently, must be gained in the same way—by conscious effort on the part of the individual.

The Bullosopher's Chair

SMITHERS: Noticed Friday night that you took a chance, like many others, in attending what was advertised only by name, "The Matinees." They were unique, were they?

"Yes, and clever and impressive, Smithers."

SMITHERS: That, I would say, is a unique criticism—for you.

"But it is true. What once appeared to me only as three wild women talking a sudden fit, finally emerged as a new and interesting art of impressionism. At first, I could follow the explanation they only vaguely, but finally grew to understand and visualize them definitely and entirely.

"It was really unbelievable that a human could impersonate a fountain, shadow or machine so realistically or that three women—and sisters, at that—could be so clever and unusually talented. The show was a genuine treat, although the number of empty seats clearly showed that such was not generally forecast.

"Let us have more of such unusual attractions as 'The Matinees.'"

SMITHERS: You look fatigued, Bullosopher. What's the trouble, too much week-end?

"None. Quite the contrary. Not enough week-end—for sleep. I'm afraid that sleeping five in a bed didn't quite agree with me. Even men like Napoleon demanded sufficient mattress precaution, you know. How about you, old top, you're no symbol for a thriving lily this morning."

SMITHERS: Probably not, but lack of sleep has nothing to do with my all gone appearance. Besides striking me as a two-day necking orgy, houseparty was nothing more than one moving day after another. Why, I'm on my way now to return my belongings to the haunt that harbored the wonderful one for two nights.

"Plagiarist! Can it be that you have stolen my thoughts or was you in right about mental telepathy? I was thinking those very thoughts, man."

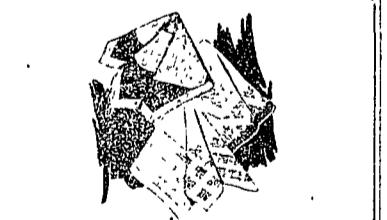
SMITHERS: Never!

"S' truth. I was analyzing the matter only the other day and wondered what actual benefits there were in moving out the house to let the queens-for-a-day-or-so move in. It seems unreasonable and even foolish.

"Of course, such a gesture might be considered a distinct honor, but beyond that superficiality, what good is obtained? And isn't it silly to move out for a day or two and then back in again. Couldn't the girls be housed about town more easily and more conveniently than their male companions? It's done during some of the dance week-ends and everything is lovely, according to both parties concerned.

SMITHERS: Lovely is the word. That plan was experimented even during this houseparty, by a few houses, and according to reports it is more satisfactory than the usual procedure.

"So, I've heard. It must be satisfactory. At least, it couldn't be more inconvenient than the other."



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Horticulturists Plan Fifth Annual Program

Keystone orchardists, vegetable gardeners, floriculturists, and landscape architects will gather here November 26 to 28 for the fifth annual Horticulture Week, Dr. S. W. Fletcher, head of the department of horticulture, announced today.

Three separate programs will be offered this year, designed to take care of the needs of those interested in fruit growing, vegetable gardening, and ornamental horticulture. This week is distinctive in being without set lectures or speeches. The discussions are of the round table type and give all who attend an opportunity of "exchanging" experiences. Department staff members lead the discussions. Departments of the school of agriculture which are related to the department of horticulture in certain lines of work will be represented by staff members who will report on their research work of interest to horticulturists.

One of the most timely subjects to come before the fruit growers will be the construction and operation of stationary spray plants in orchards. Equipment and organization of fruit packing houses also is of intense interest.

The main social event of the coming "hort week" will be a banquet prepared and served by the college horticultural staff. As far as possible, products grown on the college farm or produced at the college will be used for the banquet fare.

Twenty Years Ago

(From the Collegian files of 1908)
All College exercises will be suspended for Friday, Nov. 29, in view of the celebration of Pennsylvania Day. From the present prospect there will be a large attendance of members of the General Assembly of the State Governor Stuart, who was at the celebration last year finds it impossible to be present this year but Lieutenant-governor Murphy is expected.

Our eleven did not get revenge on Saturday for last year's defeat at Annapolis but it played a wonderfully strong game as the score of 5-0 indicates. Our attack and defense were equally as strong as the Navy's but

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AGRICULTURISTS DISCUSS CO-OPERATIVE PROBLEMS

With the discussion of the problems vitally affecting co-operative enterprises in the State as its purpose the third annual Co-operative Conference was held by the School of Agriculture Thursday and Friday.

PENN STATE CLUB PLANS ANNUAL COLLEGE DANCE

An all-College dance has been arranged by the Penn State club to take place in the Armory on Saturday, November 24. The committee in charge has obtained the Penn State Collegian, as the orchestra for the affair.

PLEBE LINKSMAN WINS COLLEGE GOLF CROWN

In the final round of the all-college golf tournament Fred Brand '31, defeated Charles N. Stoddart '31, score up to win the silver loving cup offered to the winner of the tournament. Brand defeated Hugo Bezieck '31, and John N. Murray '31, in the matches preceding the final round, while Stoddart overcame the advances of Robert Leonard '30, and James F. Bunting '29, captain of last year's golf team, to win the honors of finalist.

Grange Delegates Meet In Washington Today

Delegates from the student granges in 12 states will assemble at Washington, D. C., this morning for the opening of the second annual National Student Grange Conference, with Walter C. Gumbel, past master of the College Grange, welcoming the delegates.

Student grange delegates from the land-grant colleges of universities of Maryland, Ohio, Michigan, Washington, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Massachusetts, South Dakota and Rhode Island will be in attendance. The Penn State Grange is represented by Kenneth Hood '30 and Annette Krivicki '30.

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STUDENT GROUP LEAVES FOR PRACTICE TEACHING

Replacing a group of student teachers which have been in Johnstown for nine weeks, a group of 25 students in the School of Education left State College Sunday for a practice teaching course to be held in the junior and senior high schools of that city.

During their stay in Johnstown the students will be under the supervision of local instructors and a member of the college faculty. They will return to State College at the close of the present semester.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Catham
AND
Nittany Theatre
TUESDAY—
Monte Blue, Raquel Torres in
"WHITE SHADOWS IN THE SOUTH SEAS"
Regular 35c Admission
TUESDAY—
Buddy Rogers, Mary Brian, Chester Conklin in
"VARSITY"
WEDNESDAY—
Mary Astor, Ben Bard, John Boles in
"ROMANCE OF THE UNDERWORLD"
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY—
First Pennsylvania Showing of
Carrine Griffith, Edmund Lowe in
"OUTCAST"
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY—
Clive Brook, Mary Brian, Baclanova in
"FORGOTTEN FACES"