

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Tuesday Morning, March 25, 1941

The Honor System Will Work

By ALLEN T. SNYDER, President.

Executive Committee, Washington and Lee

Editor's Note: Because of the attention now being paid to the honor system here, Collegian is reprinting this guest editorial from the Western Maryland "Gold Bug." Washington and Lee has an enrollment of 955, and Western Maryland an enrollment of 500. Against arguments that the honor system is only for small colleges, however, is the University of Virginia with a student body of 2,879 and a successful honor system.

It is recognized today that the most treasured tradition at Washington and Lee is the honor system. Originating when General Robert E. Lee was president of the institution and existing for many years as an unwritten law imbued with his spirit, it has gradually come down to be the most rigorously enforced written law of student government. Although its essentials can be found in writing, the whole spirit which it contains can never be adequately expressed in print but can be understood only through the experience of living under the system.

Those who advocate the honor system recognize that for it to be successful in any institution, a very large majority of the students must desire it. An honor system can never work successfully if a strong minority rigorously opposes it. Therefore, the desire to install such a system in any school should be brought about by a widely expressed outcry from the students.

It is also recognized that the best honor systems are ones which are not overloaded. At Washington and Lee, the honor system essentially covers lying, cheating, and stealing. It does not attempt to control social matters such as drinking, gambling, and the like. A student is considered as a gentleman of honor until proven otherwise. This honor applies to his integrity and not to his opinion as to what is right and wrong in the social world.

A final element which should be considered in a successful honor system is the matter of enforcement. An honor system should not be a respecter of personality or rank. Its law should be set up; its punishments announced, and those who violate it subjected to its punishments. When rank or prestige on the campus dominate the punishments, an honor system can never work successfully.

Circumstances on every campus should control the elements embraced in an honor system. What is good for one school may be entirely unsatisfactory at another. However, it is recognized that the best systems contain the qualities here mentioned. It is difficult to start an honor system, but once it becomes a tradition, it is easily perpetuated when strictly enforced.

Those at Washington and Lee who have lived under the honor system have found it the most worthwhile experience in college life and, therefore, are always quick to recommend that when the circumstances on any campus are suitable, an honor system is a worthy thing to establish.

'Keep Out Of War' Demanded By Collegians In National Poll

AUSTIN, Tex.—Let's keep out of war!—College youths have demanded this consistently during recent years, and last week those interviewed by Student Opinion Surveys of America in a national sampling again expressed the desire that the United States should keep away from the battle fronts. Nearly six out of every ten of those included in the survey say they do not want the U. S. Navy to intervene if Japan decides to attack British Singapore and the Dutch East Indies.

Although 10 per cent of the nation's students were undecided on this issue, the remainder are divided in this fashion:

U. S. should intervene41%
U. S. should NOT intervene59

The present survey appears significant in that it shows American youth of college age still cling to the hope of keeping out of war, even on the face of ever-growing aid to England. Last November collegians asserted that averting war was more important even than helping Britain. Even back in October, 1939, majorities declared they would not volunteer should the U. S. send troops to help England, and opposed changing the neutrality law to allow any belligerent to buy American supplies.

Students Like Exams

AUSTIN, Tex.—A majority of American college students believe final examinations are a help rather than a drawback. Nevertheless, nearly 55 per cent say that there is room for improvement in the method of testing a student's knowledge in a course, a nation-wide survey representing the entire enrollment shows.

Shortly after fall semester examinations had been held on most campuses, Student Opinion Surveys of America, the scientific weekly poll of college thought, had its interviewers ask a representative sample of collegians, "Do you believe final examinations are a help or a drawback to you personally?" Exams are a help, nearly six out of every ten (58 per cent) declared. And the reasons most often mentioned are exemplified by these typical comments:

"Examinations make me review and assimilate what I have been learning; they give me a bird's eye view of the course."—Swarthmore freshman.

"Exams make me work. I never study until I cram for finals."—DePauw senior.

"They help me to catch up with things I may have overlooked in a course."—U. of Pennsylvania (Johnstown Center) junior.

There are many, many students, however, who disagree. This is what some of them said:

"Exams work me up into a nervous state; I don't remember anything."—Wooster College (Ohio) sophomore.

"I have to cram for finals. I believe in shorter tests throughout the year."—Montana State freshman.

Letters to the Editor—Approved The Bill, Not The Horses

To the Editor:

The statement in Thursday's Collegian "Horses approved by Dr. James F. Shigley" should have read "payment for horses approved by Dr. J. F. Shigley" inasmuch as I did not inspect the horses before they were purchased by the club.

Dr. J. F. Shigley

A Plea Entered For Lingnan University

To the Editor:

It astonished me to read in the Collegian of the action taken by Cabinet in connection with our chapel offerings to China. Comes a time when at least \$2,000 is given without a murmur to Tommy Dorsey for one evening's "sophisticated" entertainment; but let thousands of people be suffering in midst of famine, poverty and chaos, and there comes another type of reaction. We can't spare a little over \$2,000 for one year in such a case!

Is this holding back of the China collections an insufferable callousness? Is it superficial in dealing with a situation that is agreed upon to be of momentous importance in the consideration of human welfare? Or may it not be rather inadvisable that nine people should abolish something over night that has been of great importance for years to many people attending Penn State, and is now of greater importance than ever before?

I have it, on what I consider good authority, that there are already sufficient funds for local charities. Furthermore, I am positive that the borough of State College is in a state of far less suffering and need than the people across the Pacific. To attempt to use the argument "charity begins at home" would betray, in this case, only an attitude of smug complacency and inexcusable selfishness.

At least, it seems to me, it would be more in a democratic spirit to put the question of the China offerings—if there is a question—before those who attend chapel services. These are the people whom it would be only just to consult when it comes to a question of where their voluntary offerings shall go. This is the sort of governmental action that needs to be challenged. I hope there are others who will be sufficiently awake to raise protest against such an arbitrary, thoughtless decision as Cabinet has made.

G. S. Alexander, '44

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY

Freshman candidates for Daily Collegian editorial staff, Room 312 Old Main, 7 p.m.; Freshmen wishing to try out should do so at this time.

Heifetz concert, Schwab Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Portfolio, Room 316 Old Main, 8 p.m.

Interfraternity Council, Room 305 Old Main, 1 p.m.

Student Union dance, Armory, 4 p.m.

Campus '43, Room 318 Old Main, 7 p.m.

Alpha Phi Omega, Room 412 Old Main, 7:30 p.m.

Phi Epsilon Kappa, Room 418 Old Main, 7 p.m.

TOMORROW

Student Union dance, Armory, 4 p.m.

Student Radio Committee, Room 318 Old Main, 7 p.m.

IMA Central Council, Room 405 Old Main, 10 p.m.

Cabin and Trail Club, Room 418 Old Main, 7 p.m.

WRA Bridge Club, Room 3 White Hall, 6:30 p.m. New members welcome.

Morning Lenten Service, Hugh Beaver Room, 7 a.m.

Riding Club Schedules 3 Instruction Periods

Instruction periods for the Riding Club members have been set for the Stock Judging Pavilion every Monday and Tuesday, at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m., with business meetings included in the Saturday periods.

Instructors include Mrs. G. Herbert Cummings; Henry L. Yeagley, associate professor of physics; Miss Helen J. Swenson, instructor in physical education; Howard S. Colman, graduate; John P. Wilkins, graduate; and Joan V. Somers '44.

Students interested in joining may sign at Student Union and plan to attend at least two meetings a week. The \$15 fee should be paid as soon as possible.

INFIRMARY CASES

Norman H. Gnagey '44, mumps; Donald M. Schuller '44, Mary Elizabeth Vinson '42, Howard H. Earl '42, German measles; Robert X. Cooper '43, Mark A. Oliver '44, Larry T. Chervenak '44, Lawrence Lightbody '42, Frances J. Matuschak '41, grippe; Charles D. Haer '43, John M. Graff '43, Marion J. Reynolds '44, observation.

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