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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1902

A GOOD MOVE

A movement has been begun to place the management of the various athletic enterprises of the University on a more strict business basis. It appears that the athletic board have powers which they have not dared or cared to exercise. It is plainly stated in the by-laws that this board "shall expend all money and audit all bills of this department." It would appear that the original intention was that all money should be turned over to the treasurer of the board, and that all bills should be audited by them, and paid only in case they were approved.

Whether the board care to assume so much control may be a question of some doubt; but the least that could be expected is that the board require a detailed statement from the managers, accounting for every cent received and paid out. The treasurer of the board of athletic managers is required to render a statement of the condition of the board to the executive committee of the Associated Students on the 15th of every month. In no other way can he obtain the information necessary to make an intelligent report. The student body is held responsible for any deficit which may arise. It is only just that they should know how they came by such a valuable possession.

The fact is that the board in past seasons has not asserted any part of its authority in this direction. The managers have run along much in their own way, and when the season is over have reported a deficit, or have simply stated that the thing "came out about square." If any one has been so rash or meddlesome as to put some pertinent queries or

ask how such a deficit has arisen or grown to such proportions, some irate manager has started up with the cry, "Ye call me thief."

It is only reasonable to suppose that a well managed team should come out even or have a small surplus once in a while. Whether there is anything wrong or not, there is certainly a just cause for some dissatisfaction when so many reports show a deficit or an exact balance between receipts and expenditures. Where hundreds of dollars have been received and expended, it seems that it might happen once in a while that a few dollars were accidentally left over. It would require close calculation and fine adjustment of expenses to income to make both sides of the account balance to a cent. Somehow the managers happen to do this quite often, or else report a shortage of receipts.

Instead of making a charge of dishonesty, we would make one of carelessness or slackness. The whole trouble arises from the fact that the managers have not been made to feel that they are accountable to any one under the sun but themselves. This lack of responsibility has been engendered and fostered by an indifferent attitude on the part of students, due largely to athletic zeal and enthusiasm. We have been loth to hamper the managers by any serious restrictions. Our zeal should not get the better of our judgment. Besides, the enforcement of a few salutary regulations along this line could in no way interfere with the efficient management of athletics or prejudice our chances of getting out a winning team. A little enforced care in purely fiscal matters might be conducive to more care in other lines. The sooner the managers are made to realize that they are handling other students' money, and that they must account for every dollar received and expended, the better it will be for them. A deep sense of responsibility in business matters is a most valuable equipment for the work of life. There can be nothing wrong in requiring of our agents what business men will require of them later—strict accountability for every cent of other people's money which passes through their hands.

If the athletic board take a step in the right direction, the students will come to their support. The let-alone policy in athletic management has gone far enough, and the sooner matters are put on a strict business-like basis, the better, for only in this way can the interests of the students be carefully guarded and the managers taught to be thorough business men while they are yet students.

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