Activities, athletics were 1909 concerns

Editor's note: Participating in athletics and other extracurricular activities is a problem for students hard-pressed by the rigors of their college education. Back in 1909 this question was discussed at great length at the Boston campus, the following article.

repeated from a December, 1909, issue of The Tech, has some interest that might be valuable today.

"Should I go into activities?"

This is a question which every man must ask himself at some time in his college career, and it is one which is not to be answered without serious reflection on his career. Many men would like to go into social activities, but do not do so primarily, others do not see the value of them. It is advisable for students to go into activities, but— A man should have interests outside of his work, and often the experience he gains from student activities is of value in later life. But it is almost certain that these students will find that the time they spend on their studies and each student must decide how much time he can afford to devote to activities. In some cases too much time has been spent, and the student must be forced to leave the Institute. On the other hand many do not get at all. In this it is wise to strike the medium. Some men can afford to devote more time than others, and each student must decide the proposition for himself.

Dean Burton expressed himself as favoring students' entering outside activities. He said: "I believe in students entering college activities as far as they are working with the Freshmen. Athletics and various other student recreations are commendable. I think it is a great loss for a man not to take part in the social functions of the Institute. There is a tendency for students to divide the interviews into two parts, according to the classes. This is not encouraged by the instructors, but the rule has not been rigidly followed.

The general opinion of those interviewed seems to be, "It is advisable for students to go into activities, but—"