
February 27, 1954

Mr. George W. Mastroianni, Managing Editor
Hazleton Collegian
The Pennsylvania State University
Highacres
Hazleton, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Mastroianni:

Recently I received a petition, bearing the signatures of some 112 students requesting the resumption of ping pong as one of our most popular recreational activities at Highacres. I am addressing this letter to you, as editor, in the belief that the Collegian offers the best means by which I may not only acknowledge receipt of the petition but also present our students with some background about the basic problem involved in this matter.

May I say that our decision to remove the ping pong table from the Recreation Building was reached very reluctantly and with full realization that this move would not be exactly popular. The change was necessitated, however, not only because of increasing damage to the Recreation Building, but also because of student objections to the restricted floor space then available. Manifestly, accommodations for ping pong in the Recreation Building are wholly inadequate.

I should like to assure the student body, particularly the ping pong enthusiasts, that this matter did not become a closed issue with the removal of the table. Relocation of the table has been discussed, re-discussed, argued, and studied by the Center staff, by Student Council and by Student-Faculty Board. As an outgrowth, the whole problem of increased recreational space has been presented to our main campus people and to our local advisory board, the Hazleton Educational Council. The latter now has a Recreation Committee delegated to study our problem and to make recommendations for its solution.

The mature action and commendable foresight of Student Council in proposing a per-semester assessment to aid in the expansion of our recreational facilities has been a great influence in focusing the attention of the University and the Educational Council on the general recreation situation.

While all of this does not of course answer the immediate problem brought up by the student petition, it does lay the groundwork for an eventual solution to problems of this kind.

However, to return to the specific matter in question — the return of our late lamented ping pong table — it should be pointed out that this is actually a bigger, knottier, and more involved problem than most of us appreciate. Basically, it's a space problem resulting from our current enrollment, which has put our physical plant to the test simply to satisfy our primary function of instruction.

May I repeat, however, that we are still seeking a solution to the ping pong dilemma. Student suggestions, moreover, are always welcome. These may be submitted directly, or through the established student government channels.

Very truly yours,

Merle E. Campbell
Administrative Head