

Penn State Collegian

Published semi-weekly during the College year by students of the Pennsylvania State College, in the interests of the College, the students, faculty, alumni and friends

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All copy for Tuesday's issue must be in the office by twelve o'clock Sunday night, and for Friday's issue, by twelve o'clock Wednesday night. Checks and money orders naming a name other than "The Penn State Collegian" will not be accepted for accounts due this newspaper.

Subscription price \$2.00, payable before November 1, 1928. Entered at the Postoffice, State College, Pa., as second-class matter. Office: Murray Printing and Publishing Co. Building, State College, Pa. Telephone: 229-W. Bell. Office hours: 11:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m., 4:00 to 6:00 p. m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1927

FROM THE DARKNESS COMES LIGHT

For years the Penn State Athletic Association has merely existed—more in name, apparently, than in fact. Up until the present time, the affairs of the Association were carried on by a committee of seven alumni without any faculty or student representation whatever. This method of management has caused growing dissatisfaction on the part of faculty, students and alumni. It was to alleviate such unrest, that an athletic advisory committee was appointed to investigate existing conditions with the view toward finding a solution that would meet the approval of the three aforementioned factions—faculty, students and alumni. The findings and recommendations of the alumni committee together with that of the faculty and student committees are printed elsewhere in this paper.

The Penn State Athletic Board of Control may soon replace the present Athletic Association providing that the student body votes favorably on the proposed changes. The Board of Athletic Control will be an active group where the present Athletic Association was not—the latter solely because of the difficulty in getting all the graduate members together for meetings. The Penn State Athletic Board of Control (how well that name sounds!) will number, in membership, thirteen: three students, four faculty members from the College Senate, five members from the Alumni Association and one member of the Board of Trustees who also shall be from the alumni body.

Among the four proposed changes made by the alumni athletic advisory committee was the elimination of all athletic scholarships at Penn State. Athletic scholarships have probably existed here since the first recognition of Blue and White teams: to do away with them, to abolish athletic scholarships would indeed be a radical procedure but often the radical change is for the better. The time is soon coming in college athletics when the scholarship will have been abolished entirely. In the olden days, the college athlete used to be paid openly a stated salary in return for valiant endeavor on the gridiron for dear old Ralston. Nowadays such a thing is mentioned in hushed tones. Professionalism in college athletics is not as open nor as prevalent in the present day while in the future, professionalism in college ranks will have been lowered into a forgotten grave. Scholarships, a cousin to professionalism, will be the next institution to feel the axe. Should Penn State be the pioneer in this movement, it would mean more to her esteem and name than to harbor an entire football team of All-Americans.

Another suggestion proposes the separation of the Department of Physical Education from the coaching of intercollegiate teams. This change is solely for the purpose of developing intramural sports—an activity that thus far has been woefully neglected. Football, for example, is indulged in only by students who are numbered among those trying for positions in the Varsity. Intramural activity in this and other sports are practically nil.

But these suggestions are not of the immediate present. It is with the proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws of the Athletic Association that the student body must respond with a ballot that will indicate its acceptance or rejection of the advocated amendments. It will be necessary for forty per cent of the student body to vote on these amendments, and for a two-thirds majority to be cast favorably, in order that the new Athletic Association constitution may become effective immediately.

Three committees, an alumni committee and separate faculty and student groups went to considerable trouble and time in order to supply a remedy to an organization sadly in need of just that. Untold energy was expended on a project by men who knew full well that there was nothing in it for them in the way of personal gain. But now that the task is completed what satisfaction must be theirs! What pride in the knowledge of a job well done!

The proposed amendments and recommendation of the three committees represent almost a year's endeavor on the part of the men who served on any of the groups. They have accomplished their part—and well. It is now squarely up to the student body to show its appreciation for the efforts of a group of men who have made a tremendous stride toward remedying a muddled athletic situation at Penn State.

The issue has been placed before the students. On Monday, May ninth, at the regular Athletic Association election on the campus, each undergraduate will have the opportunity to make his re-action in the form of a ballot. May the members of the three committees be assured that then combined efforts were not in vain by a record ballot—indicative of favorable undergraduate re-action.

MOTHER—AND MAY SEVENTH

Within a few days the population of State College will have been temporarily increased by the usual influx of the proverbial bevy of beautiful girls—here for the Junior Prom. And exactly one week from the coming week-end—on May seventh—another influx will take place. Again it will be "girls" who will be visitors to this thriving village in the Nittany Valley. This time hundreds of mothers will be entertained on Mothers' Day at Penn State. The entire College will reverberate in a hearty welcome on a day especially set aside to welcome the mothers of Penn State undergraduates.

A balanced, well-arranged program has been planned by the Mothers' Day committee. Nothing has been left undone in order to assure each mother of a hearty reception on the occasion of her visit to the place where "her boy" or "her girl" is receiving the benefits of a higher education. In order that the day may be a success, it is necessary that each student lend his co-operation—and in probably no better way can he or she do this than by seeing to it that "Mother" be one of Penn State's guests on May seventh.

This is the first time that Mothers' Day will have been observed at Penn State in the spring of the year. With the campus and surrounding side rapidly shedding its drab winter coat for an attractive green—what greater beauty spot in this state has the Penn State student to show any visitor than State College and its immediate vicinity? The fact that National Mothers' Day is on the following day—Sunday—is an added inducement.

In the next letter home—sell the idea of May seventh and Mothers' Day! Let Mother reveal amid the surroundings she has known only by infrequent, money-requesting letters; let Mother grip the hand of your friends; let her enjoy a friendly chat with other Penn State mothers. Write her today!

PANTS SCRAP: A TRADITION

It must be evident by this time that the revered and time-honored custom known colloquially as the pants scrap is not a tradition likely to cause the underclass heart to flutter with any emotion other than indignation or to heave with any loyalty other than self-interest. And it is equally obvious that something is wrong with either the custom, the underclass heart, or else—tradition forbid!—with both. Were it not for the delightful excess of Poverty Day one might be pardoned his lamentable G-string pizzicato: customs at Penn State are going to the dogs. If they are, the cheerful response to one of them and the doleful retort to another is more confusing than alarming.

To account for the popularity of Poverty Day, for instance, and the bitter reception of the Pants Scrap places one in the quandary of confession. One must admit, be he the least bit fair-minded, that as he advances annually to new and delirious privileges he is apt to color his own adventures in custom: with all the glamor usually attached to the most heroic exploits, whereas, in retrospect, he confides to himself that those customs were really pleasures, shattering thereby the idealistic impression which his Homeric pants has attained.

But one admits more than this (be he the least bit fair-minded): he confesses that the undergraduate is above tradition—he bows to it only under compulsion—hence the drink, the confamei unparalled—and he avoids it with the quant and unreasonably plea that tradition is often disagreeable, inconvenient, and annoying. . . . There is in a word, discontent. Even the Tribunal is aware of it.

Last year, it will be recalled, the Tribunal took it upon itself to get the names of all sophomores who did not attend the class scraps. That at least, was its aim. Should it perform its duty it will have to blacklist all but thirty-five sophomores. Since this is impossible, now that the Pants Scrap is officially over, the alternative would be to turn the sophomores loose and allow them to tear off the trousers of the freshmen without permitting the freshmen to retaliate. It would be a delightful custom, but it would have to be sealed by the Tribunal, a faithful believer in the Shakespearean remark that the sauce to meat is ceremony.

For though customs may temporarily embarrass one, making him a liar, a hypocrite, and what is worse, a rebel, the embarrassment, and indeed, the role, is only temporary and leaves no scars. . . . It is not that we are looking for someone to blame for the poor showing of the sophomores that leads us to point out the enforcement deficiencies—although it has been our opinion always that the Student Tribunal should consist of student representatives whose reputation is not solely athletic: it is that we are anxious that certain customs should be examined, and, if they are beneficial, enforced. Otherwise we may become like the University of Pittsburgh.

Propose Amendments To A. A. Constitution

(Continued from first page) are conducted by an Athletic Advisory Committee of seven with Alumni control and no student and faculty representation. It is proposed that the student members of this board shall be the President and Vice President of the Athletic Association and the president of the senior class.

It is provided that the annual budgets of the general association and its departments and periodical financial statements be submitted to the President of the College for approval as well as the Board of Athletic Control subject to the approval of the College Administration.

Amendments under Athletic Insignia advocate that basketball be made a major sport, that certain minor sport teams winning intercollegiate championships be awarded a straight letter and two comparatively minor changes in track awards.

Certain sections in the by-laws that have been obsolete pertaining to election of song leaders have been eliminated. Other changes are minor.

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in character and for the most part clear up matters of organization. The report of the alumni committee follows:

In order to inform itself fully of every phase of college life and athletic activities which possibly could contribute to unrest or dissatisfaction with existing conditions and methods, the athletic advisory committee met at the College on August twenty-eighth. . . . The committee found that there are several causes which may have led to misapprehension, but none so serious that they might, in the greater part, have been disposed of under the functioning of the existing organization. Some of these causes have been set out briefly, along with recommendations for (a) the creation of a new Board of Athletic Control, with comments regarding the composition of such Board; (b) the elimination of intercollegiate teams; (c) the separation of the Department of Physical Education from the Department of Physical Education from the intercollegiate teams; (d) an additional method of nominating candidates for election to the Alumni Advisory Committee; or the new Board of Athletic Control, when constituted.

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