

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Friday Morning, May 9, 1941

New Eligibility Ruling Disrupts Athletic Family

A simple little ruling on eligibility, which ordinarily would have passed with a clear majority, will be brought before the student voters in Monday's Athletic Association elections after more controversy and dissension than any of its kind in years.

The ruling states, "No student shall be eligible to compete in any varsity intercollegiate contest who has been in college more than eight full semesters, or four years."

Curiously enough, the quarrel is not about the rule in question, but it concerns the procedure in which the eligibility clause has originated. The students, for the first time in their voting on College athletic government, will be voting on a ruling which will be passed regardless of their own sentiments.

Here is the case history. In September, the Senate Committee on Athletics, in order to keep step with the "simon pure" standards of practically all eastern colleges and universities, passed the resolution that athletes may not perform in varsity competition after eight semesters of study.

In explanation, there are three governing bodies which act upon athletic eligibility rules—the students, Athletic Advisory Board, and the Senate Committee on Athletics which consists of four faculty members. Of these three, the Senate committee has final authority.

However, prior to this present ruling, the Senate group did not exercise its power on eligibility rules, except in those cases which regarded scholarship and class cuts. All other rules were referred to the Athletic Advisory Board, composed of students, alumni, and the Senate Committee on Athletics.

In 1937, the Senate committee went outside its own self-restricted sphere to propose an eligibility rule on junior college athletes. But, it established a procedure by proposing this resolution to the Athletic Board and the student body for approval before action was taken. On the present rule, the Senate adopted, not proposed. This brings us to the present dissension.

It is granted that the faculty group has the final action on eligibility code regulations and this power is not questioned. But we do question the policy which the Senate committee has established (that of giving the Athletic Advisory Board and student body a voice) and then the sudden departure from its policy.

In all probability, the action taken by the Senate in September was not meant to take away the right of student expression or the shearing of specific duties from the Athletic Advisory Board, but it has erased the line of athletic legislature which had been drawn by the 1937 resolution. Now, we ask, where do the duties of the Athletic Advisory Board begin and end? Is student opinion still wanted?

Evidently, the Senate committee still thinks so, because it had requested both the Athletic Advisory Board and the student body to voice their opinion. Hence the Athletic Association included the new resolution on its May ballot.

The situation, as it stands, threatens smooth athletic administration and student-faculty cooperation. However, in our opinion, the Senate committee unintentionally departed from its regular procedure by oversight, not a deliberate attempt to assert its original rights.

Perhaps a clarification from the committee on the issue would be welcomed. It is realized that the Senate committee has expressed its confidence in the expression of student opinion. We hope that confidence is not shaken.

As for the ruling, there is little doubt that it will cement better Penn State athletic relationships with other colleges and universities. Even the coaches, who would be the last ones to acquiesce, supported the measure. Naturally, some athletes will be affected, but that would be true if it were adopted twenty years from now.

The Professor's View

(by Dr. Henry J. Bruman, Instructor in Geography)

The People Of Mexico

More than fifty native languages, some of them as different as English, Chinese, and Hebrew, have survived in Mexico to the present day. In excess of a million people out of a total population of twenty million speak only their native idiom and have not even a working knowledge of Spanish.

Fully a third of the people of Mexico must be considered as relatively pure Indians in various stages of cultural assimilation. Some of these tribes are gradually dying out, withering away before the advance of white and mestizo culture, receding into the forest into less desirable locations because of the intruders and unwillingness to submit to Mexicanization and eventual loss of tribal identity. The Lacandones of the State of Chiapas are a typical case. Fewer than a hundred members of the tribe remain.

Articulate Mexicans have been saying for years that the backbone of the country is "El Indio." But of late, with the gradual assimilation of many Indian groups, with their widespread adoption of Mexican dress and Spanish speech, it has become an increasingly vague "Indian" that is meant, and "El Indio" has equated with the proletariat.

This simple and kindly group without formal education but with great funds of folk lore, this great basal stratum of society contains the soul of Mexico. Among these unsophisticated masses cleanliness is distinctly not next to godliness, nor does it matter. Spiritual values are far more important. In the most out-of-the-way places one encounters among these people a hospitality and charm, an unassumed courtesy that would put many of our "civilized" American countrymen to shame. We are too quick to criticize lack of education, lack of cleanliness, and low standard of living, seldom stopping to consider that, but for birth, the situation might have been reversed. Arrogance based on our higher standards has nothing to recommend it. It is based on the false assumption that we personally can take credit for the good things of our society, when actually they are the legacy of those who prepared the scene before us.

Regarding the more educated Mexicans, we have taken few pains indeed to understand them. Many of us believe that their somewhat slower tempo of life, as epitomized by the mid-afternoon siesta, is a sign of laxness and laziness. We have presumed to judge a neighboring culture unfavorably because it happens to be less in a hurry than ours. All too many times our own nervous bustle is not accompanied by proper direction. To be continuously on the go is in itself no virtue.

Among the more favored classes in Mexico we are just as likely to find refinement and well-thought-out working philosophies as we are in this country. The two most cultured people I know are Mexicans.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY

Varsity golf match with Georgetown, College course, 2 p.m.

P. H. Chase will lecture to engineering seniors in Electrical Engineering Building at 4:10 p.m. Topic: "Engineering in the Public Utilities."

Players present, "The Merchant of Yonkers," Schwab Auditorium, 8:30 p.m.

May Day practice, front campus at 1 o'clock. In case of rain report at 9 a.m. Saturday.

PSCA Board and Cabinet supper meeting at CA Lodge, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

TOMORROW

Players' "Merchant of Yonkers," Schwab Auditorium, 8:30 p.m.

All newly-elected Cwens and newly-initiated Blue Key men report to Old Main at 3:30 p.m. with jackets and hats to usher at the May Day ceremonies.

Riding Club Plans Given To College

A \$2,500 plan for Riding club stables will be submitted to the College Board of Trustees today, since a strict Borough zoning ordinance will probably eliminate town stables behind the Glennland Apartments.

President of the Borough Council Russell E. Clark said yesterday that the body would not likely renew the owner's privileges to the building because it is located in a residential section of the Borough. Strict Council rulings forbid business enterprises of the sort in residential zones.

The owner of the stables could move his horses out of the Borough, but the Riding Club dislikes such an inconvenience for students. With over \$400 already invested in four horses, the club was donated \$435 by WSGA and \$100 by WRA for the new stable fund.

The main unofficial objection to club stables on the campus is the uncertainty of permanent existence. But although 45 members are enrolled in the club, officers of the group are confident of its expansion during the summer and the first semester next year.

I. E. Society Elects

Newly-elected officers of the Industrial Engineering Society are Charles W. Schuler Jr. '42, president; Warren C. Kolkebeck '42, vice-president; and Howard W. Smith '42, secretary-treasurer. Percival P. Henshall, assistant professor of industrial engineering, and Joel E. Crouch, instructor in industrial engineering, have been named faculty advisors.

Lions Paw Initiates

Junior Lions Paw initiates are Robert D. Baird, John A. Baer, William F. Finn, Robert B. Jeffrey, H. Leonard Krouse, Ross B. Lehman, Charles F. Mattern, William O. Meyers, Max S. Peters, James W. Ritter, and Elden T. Shaut.

Irvin Hall Takes Discussion Finals

Irvin Hall won the annual Forensic Council Intramural Discussion contest by taking a close decision from Beta Sigma Rho.

Irvin Hall, upholding the affirmative side of the question: Resolved: That Penn State should adopt a system of unlimited cuts, and represented by Milton B. Dolinger '44 and Clermont S. Powell '44 opposed Lewis S. Kapnek '43 and Norman Racusin '41 of Beta Sigma Rho who advocated the negative side.

Robert D. Baird '42, All-College President was chairman of the discussion and stated that according to the results obtained, the students of Penn State were in favor of a system of unlimited cuts.

Prof. Joseph F. O'Brien of the Speech Department acted as judge of the tournament, and deplored the fact that a larger number of students did not take advantage of listening to the discussion.

Since the beginning of the EIBA tournaments in 1924, Penn State has had 39 individual champions, more than any other college competing.

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