

HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION SOUTHERN SECTION (CIFSS)


89 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ historical "tidbit." Dr. John S. Dahlem

## THE FAMOUS CARTOON FROM LONG BEACH POLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSPAPER - "THE HIGH LIFE"

Long Beach Poly removed from the CIF-SS - 1920


The 1919-1920 football season was very controversial as Long Beach Poly decided that they had a far superior team and opted out of the CIF-SS play-offs with the intention of gaining a National Title. During the 1919 football season Long Beach High School (Long Beach Polytechnic High School) had won the first CIF State Football Championship game. In the first seven games of the 1920 season, Poly had outscored their opponents by a score of 438-0. Coach Eddie Kienholz's wanted to play out of state schools and along with Harry J. Moore, Poly Assistant Principal, told the CIF-SS that they wanted to play Eastern teams and, "....voluntarily forfeited her rights in the semi-finals in the football and waived any claims for Southern California or State Championship." CIF-SS reacted quickly and banned Long Beach Poly from the CIF-SS organization (41 out of the 44 schools in CIF-SS voted for their removal). This was all very embarrassing to Harry Moore, who was the State CIF-SS represented, and was caught in the middle of this power move (Harry Moore would later have the Moore League named after him). Poly would go on to play Everett High School from Washington and lose to a team full of overage players.

## 1920 Long Beach Poly Football Team



## Coach Edgar Harrison Kienholz Long Beach Poly Head Coach The "Caerulea" 1921 Yearbook dedicated to him



The local newspapers were very irate at the CIF-SS as indicated in this "Los Angeles Examiner" December 14, 1920 column:


The Long Beach Poly High School student weekly newspaper, the "High Life," had been at odds with the CIF-SS for quite some time. The paper, first published on campus in 1916, had always taken a hard look at controversial subjects such as the early debate on high school fraternities.

Los Angeles Times (1886-1922); Feb 13, 1917;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (188 pg. 16

# EXPEL FOURTEEN <br> FRAT STUDENTS 

Board of Education Takes<br>Drastic Action

## To Exterminate High School Secret Bodies.

Gffenders Include the Most Prominent Boys.
[8Y DIENCT WIRE-EXCUUSTE DUSPATCR]
LONG BEACH, Feb. 12.-Members of the Long Beach Board of Sducation tonjght took the most drastle action ever reaorted to in tho history of this elty to exterminate fraternitics and secret organizations from the public schools, when, in compliance with the State laws soverning such matters, thes expelled fourteen of the most prominent students and athleten of the Long Beach Polytechnic High School.

The fourteen were all. with one exception, admittedly members o: the Phi Slgma Fraternity although stoutly denying the charge until absolute evidence was produced by the buard in the form of a certified copy of Phi Sigma Eiscutcheon, the omclal organ of the organization, published in Los Angeles, contalning the names of the actlve members of the Long Boach chapter who were members of the Hikh School. The board refuaed to divulge the manner in which it secured the tellitale masazine, in which was published letters from the members telling of their activities here.

THEIR CONTROL.
One letter told how twelve students controlled 1700. the eatire enrollment of the High School. through their representative in the sovernment of the High School.

Harold Peck, manafer of football last year, was the only student who did not deny at first questioning that he was a memberiof the secret soclety. Herbert Lounsberry, manager of Hish Lire, the High School paper which had recently attacked fraternitles in the hirk schools, was the only studeat whose name was on the list of active members in Long Boach who maintained until the end that he was not connected with the fraternlty.

The "High Life" had expressed the belief that Long Beach should be able to play anyone they wanted in football and not be encumbered with the rules of the CIFSS. The "opinions" and cartons of the paper evidently did not sit well with the power structure of CIF-SS as indicated by this classic retort in the CIF-SS minutes of March 22, 1919:

## MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION

March 22, 1919.

A meeting of the California Interscholastic Federation was held at the Y. M. C. A., Los Angeles, Calif., at 10 A. M., March 22, 1919, with the following representatives present:

| B. S. Milliken | Central League |
| :--- | :--- |
| Ervin Hague | City League |
| H. J. Moore | Bay League |
| F. F. Palmer | Valley League |
| R. A. Coverdale | Orange League |
| W. L. Richer | City League |
| W. C. Wilson | Secretary |

After discussion of articles appearing in the "High Life" published by the Long Beach Student Body, a motion was passed accepting the apologies of the Principal of the Long Beach High School for said articles and directing that correction of the opinions of the Student Body of the Long Beach High School be made in reference to criticisms of the administration of the California Interscholastic Federation.

Upon motion funds, to the amount of $\$ 25.00$, were set aside to pay clerical expenses incurred by the Manager for the State Track Meet.

The Council adjourned to meet in annual session Wednesday, May 21, 1919, at 3 P.M. The first order of business shall be the consideration of the sectioning of leagues.

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { B. S. Milliken, Pres. } \\
& \text { W. C. Wilson, Sec'y. }
\end{aligned}
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## Staff of the Long Beach Poly "High Life"-1920-1921



Curtis Avery, Waldo Drake, Hugh Hollembeak, Howard Wenrick, Frank Richey Eve Richardson, Clarence Nelson, Beulah McNeeley, Wayland Hoyt, Winchell Boice Miss Watts, Mr. Lynn, Mr. Kendall, Margaret Nickell

## HIGH LIFE

With Waldo Drake as its editor, High Life's standard of journalism was one which could be favorably compared with that of the professional press. After Mr. Drake's graduation. Curtis Avery assumed the captainship of the paper. The motto, "Go and Get It," is one which High Life lives up to in every way. It has been through the journalistic skill of the editoriai staff and the superior management of the business staff that High Life has been able to maintain its reputation for better journalism. This exceptional staff is Curtis Avery, editor; Hugh Hollembeak, associate editor; Alfred Cates, news editor; Clarence Nelson, business manager; Frank Richey, advertising manager; and Howard Wenrick, circulation manager.

Many believe the real hero of this student protest towards the CIF-SS was Ralph Hubbell, the cartoonist whose work had drawn the ire of the officials. Hubbell was the responsible for the cartoons that appeared in the "Caerulea ' 21 " yearbook.


Other Hubbell cartoons found in the "Caerulea."


Other student newspaper cartoonist took the CIF-SS on as evidenced in this cartoon with reference to Everett High School, Oak Park High School from the East, Long Beach Declaration of "Independence" and "28-0" which was the score of the Everett defeat.


On January 6, 1921, thanks to the lobbying of Harry Moore, the CIF-SS passed a motion that stated, "...Long Beach High School be reinstated to full relationship in the C.I.F. except the football schedule next fall."

