

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Thursday, January 8, 1942

Senate Considers Finals

The midnight oils in students' rooms will still be burning high at the end of semesters, but if the "no-final examinations" resolution is passed by the College Senate today, it will alleviate a congested last-week rush of "cramming."

With the possibility of four or five final examinations facing a student in a one-day session, it would be detrimental to the health of this student to prepare for these finals. Besides, it would be a physical impossibility to review the semester's class work in one week along with the regular class schedule and other additional tasks which include term reports, projects, and plans for the coming semester.

The All-College Cabinet, in its resolution presented to the Senate Committee on Student Welfare yesterday, did not attempt to evade final examinations because of the tendency of students to avoid examinations. The Cabinet members felt that the strain of making last-minute reviews of the entire course would hamper the student.

Heartily agreeing with this contention, the Senate Committee on Student Welfare adopted the resolution and will present it to the Senate today. The committee "recommended favorable action because of the detrimental effect on student health and welfare."

However, the abolishing of final examinations will not relieve the entire problem, because bluebooks will probably replace final examinations. The possibility of four, five, or six bluebooks being given to students during the last class periods is still prevalent.

This cannot be helped. Many professors will depend upon the final bluebooks to determine the grade of the students. In fact, in some cases, a final examination may be necessary. The difference between the final examination and the bluebook is that preparation for the bluebook will cover only part of the course, while students would be compelled to spend far more time in studying for the final examination.

The consolidation of the semesters has placed a severe strain upon the academic and social life of Penn State students. Some of this strain can be taken from their shoulders by constructive action such as the Senate can take today by abolishing the final examinations. Other burdens will have to be borne patiently and considerately because of the speeding up and quickening of war efforts.

Possibly, another aid in lessening the student load near the end of the first semester would entail the assignment of bluebooks a week sooner than professors have planned. Then students would be able to "stagger" their studying over a longer period.

If the Senate believes that it cannot recommend to its faculty that final examinations can be dispensed with (because of constitutional procedure or faculty disapproval), students still would look to them for a plan whereby the elimination of four or five examinations per day would be possible.

Even if the proposal were passed, consideration of a feasible method for spacing the bluebooks prior to the last few classes would be welcomed by students and faculty alike.

One Man's Meat

Vacation Vagaries

Your correspondent recently embarked on a great scientific research program designed to either still forever or finally substantiate the beastly reports that officials of the borough pulled in all sidewalks and turned out all street lights every time the student body left for home. Braving the wilds of the Nittany Valley, I stuck by my guns right up to Christmas morning, investigating all possible facets of this overwhelming problem.

Now, I can report. It is absolutely untrue that the town reverts to its original primitive state when school closes. Even the Rathskellar and the Grm stay open. But, an amazing metamorphoses takes place. Gone are the joyful youths whose cheery cries and light-hearted merriment make State College the Carefree Center of Centre County. In their place are slightly boisterous but bald-headed professors. Out of their laboratories, out of the Library's research cubicles, out of their book-filled homes and work-a-day offices comes the faculty of this great institution. For two solid weeks they disport themselves in haunts usually infested with students. No longer under the strain of keeping up that front of immutable dignity before their underlings, they become the happy, uninhibited children they really are.

Of course, the middle-aged elbow bends with some creakings, the worried-over paunch intrudes upon the bridge table, and the whole program of merry-making proceeds with slower pace. The hearty Rathskellar shouts dim to peaceful murmurs and the unusual angle always has empty booths. Only one movie stays open, playing third to second rate films. But the profs enjoy it. They claim it "takes them back to the good old days."

Attention: Health Service

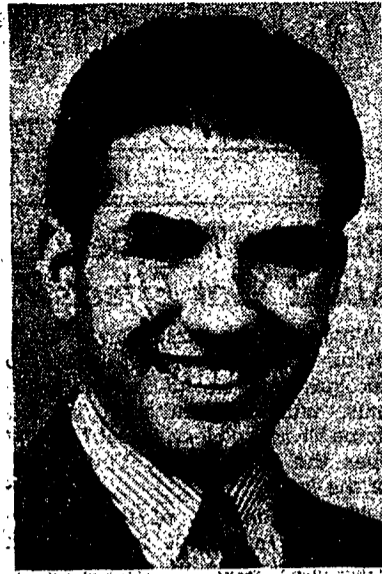
Somewhere around January 24 you folks at the Dispensary and Infirmary can expect a big rush of nervous break-down cases. Here's how come. One of these fine Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays Joe and Josephine College are going to run into this sort of talk:

Eight O'clock Prof: "Since there is not going to be a final exam week, we're going to have a one-hour quiz this time Friday, January 23. Just a few questions covering the entire semester, so don't be alarmed. But don't forget to bring a couple of pencils and a 36-page blue book."

Nine O'clock Prof: "Ditto above." Also ditto for rest of profs during the day.

So don't say I didn't warn you. (Memmo to Loki: Don't forget to order a case of aspirin from that wholesale druggist.)

—LOKI



BACKS CLASS SCRAP — Raymond F. Leffler '42 Tribunal chairman, who urged ring aspirants from the freshman and sophomore class to report to Rec Hall to train for the interclass scrap scheduled for next Tuesday evening.

Class Scrap Needs Boxers

"If the freshmen prove successful in the frosh-soph boxing scrap next Tuesday, this will be our last official Tribunal meeting," said Raymond F. Leffler '42, board chairman, in the closing minutes of last night's meeting.

However, Leffler and the handlers of the freshmen and boxing squads, Jerome H. Blakeslee '43 and Jack R. Grey '44, respectively, urged class members to report at the ring to train for the bouts.

Grey, sophomore class president and varsity ring aspirant says the sophomores have shown interest in the bouts, but the squad is still short in the intermediate weights of 135, 145, and 155 pounds.

"I think I can speak for the whole class of '44 when I say that the '45ers have served a long enough period of orientation, but the sophomore class will put on the best show possible for the Rec Hall crowd," he added.

Freshman candidates, assured that a victory will permit the doffing of dinks and bow ties, have proved eager in their quest for recognition as representatives of the class, said Blakeslee. "Candidates for the 165 and 175 pound classes have still not reported," added Blakeslee, "if this condition continues we may have to forfeit these weights to the class of '44."

New Defense Group Named

College members of the State College Committee on Conservation of Defense Resources, a unit of the State College Civilian Defense Council, were named recently by Harold W. Loman, College purchasing agent and vice-chairman of the group.

Those selected from the undergraduate student body were Donald J. Cassidy '42, Janet Herzog '42, Elden T. Shaut '42, Richard N. Stevenson '42, and Hazel E. Gassman '43.

Faculty and administration members named were Frederick L. Linger, Nelson W. Taylor, Floyd L. Carnahan, John L. E. McCord, Mrs. Edith M. Johnson, Dr. Pauline Berry Mack, Alice I. Thompson, and Mrs. Pauline W. Marsh.

IMA Organizes Protection Group

Acting in accordance with a request from A. R. Warnock, dean of men, the IMA organized a House Protection Committee at its meeting last night.

This committee will work in conjunction with owners of rooming houses in preparing for possible war time emergencies. Some of its purposes are to inspect rooming houses for possible hazards, to conserve metals, papers, etc., to have first aid kits available in all houses and to conduct fire drills.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY

Sewing and knitting for Red Cross will take place in 117 Home Economics from 6:45 to 8:45 p. m. AAUW will meet in 121 Sparks, 7:45 p. m.

Outing Club meeting, 3 White Hall, 6:30 p. m.

Fireside Sessions Committee, Room E, 304 Old Main, 6:30 p. m.

"How Does the War Affect You" will be discussed at Penn State's Town Hall meeting, 110 Home Ec, 8 p. m.

Philates executive committee, 320 Old Main, 4 p. m.

Camera Club, 309 Old Main, 7:30 p. m.

All freshman boxing candidates report to the ring in Rec Hall, 4 p. m.

Iota Sigma Pi business-dinner meeting, Sandwich Shop, 5 p. m.

Student-Faculty Relations committee meeting, Hugh Beaver room, 7:30 p. m.

PSCA Forum Project committee meets in 304 Old Main at 4 p. m.

Skii Club meeting, High School, 7:30 p. m.

Penn State Figure Skating Club meeting, 318 Old Main, 7 p. m. Any new people interested are invited to attend.

Hillel Foundation Coffee Round Table. Hillel Foundation, 4:15 p. m. Services Friday at 7:15.

Laurelton project committee will meet in the Penn State in China room at 7:15 p. m.

College Gets Oil Paintings

A new group of oil paintings, reproductions from the Fisher collection of paintings on historical, scientific and alchemical subjects, was added during the holidays to those already hanging in the corridors of Frear Laboratory.

The new pictures, 23 in number, are a gift of the Fisher Scientific Co., Pittsburgh, to the department of agricultural and biological chemistry.

The originals are by gifted painters, such as Taniers, Bega, Webb, and Wright. They are of particular interest to students because they portray alchemists, the forerunners of modern chemists, at work in their ancient laboratories with the crude equipment of their time.

One of the greatest studies made by the alchemists was the search for the "philosopher's stone" by means of which baser metals could be transformed into gold.

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