

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

Established 1940. Successor to the Penn State Collegian, established 1904, and the Free Lance, established 1887. Published daily except Sunday and Monday during the regular College year by the students of The Pennsylvania State College. Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1934 at the Post-office at State College, Pa., under the act of March 8, 1879.

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Editorial and Business Office **Carnegie Hall Phone 711** Downtown Office **119-121 South Frazier St. Phone 4372**

Member
Associated Collegiate Press
Distributor of
Collegiate Digest

REPRESENTED FOR NATIONAL ADVERTISING BY
National Advertising Service, Inc.
College Publishers Representative
420 MADISON AVE. NEW YORK, N. Y.
CHICAGO • BOSTON • LOS ANGELES • SAN FRANCISCO

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Tuesday, August 11, 1942

What About Housing?

Pardon us for asking an embarrassing question, but what ever happened to the Student Housing Board and its plan to improve student living conditions?

Long a peeve of non-fraternity men, inadequate housing has been brought to its most serious crisis in years with the news that some 300 men from the campus dormitories will probably give up their rooms to accommodate next Fall's increased coed enrollment.

Men from Irvin, Watts, and Jordan Halls hunting for pleasant, liveable rooms in town have not met with much success to date. Cramped quarters with improper lighting and lack of general sanitation have been the chief complaint of these home-seekers.

Whenever they did locate suitable rooms, they learned that they were not available to them. Rooms are being held for ensigns in preference over regular students and to further complicate matters, several fraternities are renting apartments for use as annexes in anticipation of an overflow this Fall.

It is urgent, therefore, that the quality of the available rooms be improved. Apparently present facilities are not ready to meet the demands.

True, attempts have been made in the past to improve borough rooming standards. The Student Housing Board, organized four years ago amidst much fanfare, started out with an ambitious program calling for periodic inspections of all rooming houses, with the cooperation of the Health Service, and the listing of acceptable and non-acceptable rooms. But, from lack of student interest or for some other reason, it fizzled out despite sporadic attempts to revive it in subsequent years.

If our Econ 14 doesn't fail us, it is not an easy matter to persuade recalcitrant landlords to lay out cash for improvements at a time when demand for good rooms exceed the supply. But surely something can be accomplished toward that goal.

We admit we do not have a comprehensive, sure-fire solution of the problem at hand at present, and we admit that it is a complex matter, involving many difficult angles. However, we do have a suggestion to start the ball rolling.

The College is under a definite obligation to assist, especially with regard to the dormitory residents, if they are evicted. A definite step in the right direction can be made by a conference of interested organizations.

To be represented at this conference, we suggest men and women from the Student Housing Board, representatives from the College Health

The Campuseer



Our Swan Song

There comes a time in the existence of every so-called collegiate columnist when he faces the distressing prospect of banging out his final epistle and going out into the cold, cruel world.

With no particular fanfare and scarcely a scandal to celebrate the event, we are herewith putting our tail between our legs and slinking silently back into private life.

Long, Long Ago

Three years ago we arrived at State College, struck by it all. Fraternity lead-pipes weren't being flaunted in the open yet, and Europe still was in one piece—more or less.

Three years ago Cliff McWilliams took over duties as the first All-College prexy . . . Jane Romig and Ruth Kennedy took turns at being queens of just about everything there was those days . . . Bill Engel and Helen Camp held the reigns of The Penn State Collegian, predecessor of The Daily Collegian . . . Bernie Newman paved the way for today's Lion Shrine . . . and a mere glance at the news of the day would be sure to carry the names of Dave Pergrin, senior class prexy . . . Nita Chambers, 'nuf said . . . Sam Gallu and his voice . . . Frank Anderson, IFC gavel-wielder . . . Boxing Manager Howie Anderson and spouse . . . Bob Wilson, sports editor . . . IMA head Roy Evans . . . ad infinitum.

Three years ago they raved about the "beauties" of our freshman class—Eleanor Reddie, Helen Chiappy, Betty Waltman, Gwen Harris, Mickey McFarland, Jackie Reese, Dot Long, Fran Haley, and Gloria Knepper—to mention a few.

Three years ago James Cagney and Pat O'Brien were in "The Fighting 69th" at the Cathaum, and Spencer Tracy in "Northwest Passage" at the State.

Three years ago Rachel Taylor was just another freshman coed and Bus Blakeslee was just the fellow who represented SPE at our Campus '43 meetings when Bill Murphy couldn't make it. Liberal Artists could still schedule classes on Tuesday and Thursday without jeopardizing Saturday morning, and Sparks Building was just North Liberal Arts and South Liberal Arts.

Three years ago the boys were getting used to dialing 5051 for that building that was recently erected on the fertility plots, and it was still 20 years since we had beaten Pitt on the gridiron.

Three years ago Pearl Harbor was a pretty-sounding name of some far-off port, a year and two semesters were still synonymous, and "On the Road To Mandalay" was just a beautiful song.

Good Night And 30

But the time has come, and we'll close by paraphrasing last year's Maniac:

Every Tuesday of this season
We've written in sublimity
Forever safe from scorn and wrath
Blessed by anonymity.

But the hour is come.

We're sorry if we've made you sad
Or raised your animosity
And if we're Stinker Number One
Blame readers' curiosity.

—JACK OLKEIN

—30—

Service, members of the Landladies' Association, and a representative from the division of health instruction of the School of Physical Education.

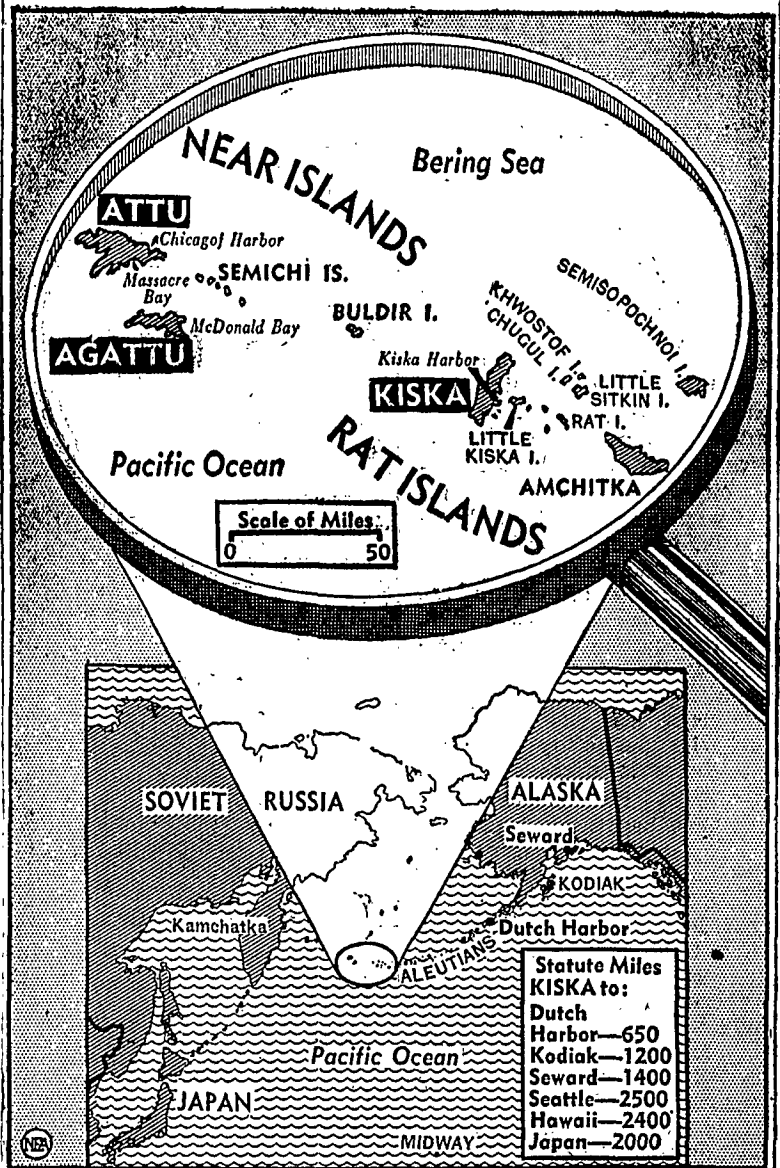
The least that such a meeting could accomplish would be to draw up a list of rooms available in the Fall, conduct a survey to determine existing conditions, and appoint a committee to arrange for monthly inspections, to determine requirements for health and decency.

The Health Service will be more than willing to cooperate once definite standards of minimum and maximum facilities are determined.

No plan for housing improvements can succeed without wholehearted student cooperation. So we recommend that students avoid signing long-term contracts which will hinder them from moving from sub-standard quarters to those meeting approved standards.

—D.L.G.

Spotlighting Jap-Held Aleutian Isles



Closeup look at the three tiny Aleutian islands seized by Japan from the U. S. shows them to be mere specks on the map with a total area only half that of Rhode Island. But Bataan was no bigger than these three rocky, fog-swept islands, and with 10,000 Jap troops reported occupying them, Attu, Agattu and Kiska may yet become a battle arena as famous as the Philippine peninsula.

Whitmore Denies

(Continued from Page One)
the Science, and the Physics Curricula. On the other hand, the number of chemists and chemical engineers actually needed in the combat forces is very small indeed. My attitude was and is that every man should be trained for the position in which he can be most useful in a national emergency. To that attitude I shall firmly adhere.

The National Headquarters of the Selective Service System in Washington has a thorough grasp of the significance of modern war. They recognize that we are not operating under a draft system which calls all able bodied men into military service. Instead, we are definitely under a Selective Service System, the intent of which is to put each man where he can do the most good. Since before we entered the war, and repeatedly since Pearl Harbor, General Lewis B. Hershey, Director of the Selective Service System, has made clear that there are certain critical occupations which are specially needed to back up the armed service. These critical occupations include chemistry and chemical engineering. General Hershey tries to keep men in these occupations in their civilian status for only one purpose, namely, to help more effectively to win the war. My attitude in respect to chemists and chemical engineers in Advanced R.O.T.C. corresponds to these decisions of General Hershey and other leaders in the Army and Navy who recognize the necessary difference between this war and the Battle of Lexington.

In conclusion, may I insist that I now am and always have been strongly in favor of R.O.T.C. training. On the other hand, I want even more that chemists and chemical engineers shall do their best to help win the war. When a conflict comes between promoting R.O.T.C. in a very minor way and doing more to win the war, my choice has to be the latter. If all of the chemists and chemical engineers in the country were put in the armed forces, the help to those forces would not be great for the simple reason that the total number involved is only about fifty thousand. On the other hand, the removal of those fifty thousand from the production army would be a great gift to the Axis. When any individual chemist or chemical engineer is diverted in the same way, a small gift of the same kind is made. I am against any help to the Axis no matter how innocent or plausible the reason for giving that help may appear.

Frank C. Whitmore

P.S.—I haven't the accurate figures, but I believe the number of chemists and chemical engineers taking advanced R.O.T.C. in the past 10 years, in spite of my advice, is 100.

Dr. Benjamin L. Alexander
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