

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Friday Morning, March 19, 1943.

CLEVER COMMENTS

By FRED E. CLEVER

Recent events have placed us in an embarrassing situation. Because of our position as chairman of the Student Housing Board, we have allowed ourselves to become vulnerable to such things as Dick Smyser's editorial, "The Name Only," in Wednesday's Collegian. Because we are supposed to be writing a news analysis or critical column, it makes us, on the other hand, our own critic. Hara-kari never appealed to us. We shall try to vindicate ourselves.

Whose Job Is It?

The accomplishments of the Student Housing Board—from the time of its inception in 1938 until the present—might well be compared to a General who, knowing the strength of his enemy and his own potentialities, cannot attack because the Service of Supplies is unable to provide him with the munitions (i. e. the power) he needs to accomplish his task.

Student housing, the supervision of it, at least, is by rights the task of the administration. A student group can do nothing more than make suggestions to those who have the power. We looked over a report of the housing programs in existence at 14 state colleges and universities which, like Penn State, are located in small, relatively isolated communities. Invariably the programs are controlled by the college administration under the direction of the Dean of Men.

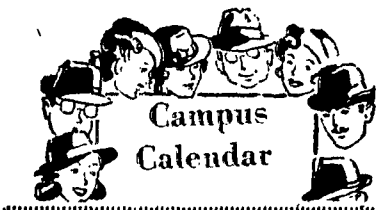
Any attempt to improve housing conditions downtown would come under the heading of reform—a word hard to force down the throats of local rooming house owners who are quite satisfied with the status quo. To accomplish anything in the way of reform, power—greater than the power "to recommend"—must be vested with someone who could put a long range program into effect.

The Student Housing Board was originally formed to "investigate and make recommendations to the proper authorities on local housing conditions." Power was limited to "that which from time to time may be delegated to it." All of which is a convenient way of side-stepping an undesirable task—the committee method.

Crossed Wires

From the tenor of Wednesday's editorial, we take it that the writer wished to link the SHB's inefficiency with the difficulty our local evacuees are having in finding rooms. The SHB was never intended to be a miniature Federal Housing Project. As we have said before, it is merely an investigation committee.

Which all adds up to what we started with—the Student Housing Board, in its present form, isn't worth a lick.



Campus Calendar

TODAY

Dr. Clarence Schettler will speak at the Faculty Discussion Group on "The Post-War Possibilities of Rationing" at 4 Sparks Building at 4 p. m. instead of 4:10 p. m.

Dr. Clarence Schettler will speak on "Inflation" at 305 Sparks Building at 10 a. m.

Dr. Clarence Schettler will speak on "Family Food Problems"

At The Movies

CATHAUM—
"Hitler's Children"

STATE—
"Random Harvest"

MITTANY—
"Reunion in France"

AT PENN STATE
Coloma
 Homelike! Comfortable! Moderate Rates!
 123 W. MITTANY AVENUE
 ALL ROOMS WITH RUNNING WATER

at 207 Home Economics at 11 a. m. Mr. Duane Ramsey will speak on "Housing and the Standard of Living" at 118 Home Economics at 3:10 p. m.

PSCA music hour, 304 Old Main, 4:15 p. m.

Evening Services, Hillel Foundation at 7:15 p. m.

The Faculty Discussion Group will meet in Room 4, Sparks building at 4:10 p. m.

TOMORROW

Purim Observance, Hillel Foundation at 7:30 p. m.

Record Concert, Hillel Foundation at 2:30 p. m. Sunday.



YOU HAVE BUT SEVEN MORE SUNDAYS LEFT BEFORE COMMENCEMENT

YOU MAY NOT HAVE OTHER CHANCES. USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY THAT IS YOURS TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

STUDENT DEPARTMENT 9:30 A. M.

THREE INTERESTING COURSES

WESTMINSTER FELLOWSHIP 6:20 P. M.

STUDENT COUNCIL PANEL "HE WHO WOULD VALIANT BE."

The Stone Wall

This editorial is more representative of student opinion than any this year except one—and that was on this same subject, abolition of finals during wartime accelerated programs. More persons have spoken to this department personally about the subject than about any other issue.

The only thing Collegian can tell them is what has been done so far in the effort to get rid of the exams and possibly explain where the bottleneck exists. This paper is definitely against finals, but the road to their abolishment is so steep that the Collegian feels articles will be only so many words. Furthermore, the student body is almost unanimously in agreement that finals have no part in the program this semester.

In the first place, if and when any action is taken to do away with final examination, it will be taken through the respective deans of the schools. And that group, also known as the Council of Administration, is solidly FOR finals. As long as they have the last word on the matter, and as long as they continue to feel that there should be finals, not much can be accomplished.

The deans are well aware of the student opinion on the matter. A letter was drawn up by a representative on All-College Cabinet containing arguments against finals and stating in the first paragraph that the letter represents student opinion, not the opinion of student leaders alone. It was approved by Cabinet and copies were sent to every dean, department head, and President Hetzel.

Two nights ago the Liberal Arts Council set up a committee to investigate steps being made to abolish finals. It's a stone wall which is hard to budge.

Students don't want final exams. They feel three other accelerated semesters have passed without them, and see no reason why this one, hit by war like no others before, should have a final exam week scheduled.

Tonight At Seven

For more reasons than one there should be a big crowd at Old Main Open House tonight. Here are some:

1. The proceeds of the evening will go entirely to the Campus Red Cross War Fund Drive now in the middle of its campaign to raise \$5,000 for this well known organization.

2. The program being offered by the OMOH committee is what would appear to be the best-rounded of any of the previous programs which were initiated last Summer.

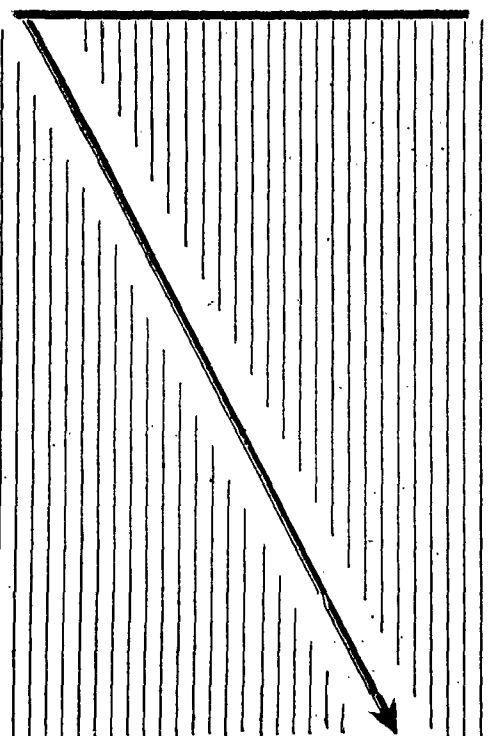
3. If yesterday's "just perfect" weather continues there'll be very few students spending tomorrow night at home. It just isn't staying home weather.

4. There are quite a few independent men on campus.

That last reason would seem to be the only one that needs explanation. Penn State's fraternity evacuees will be spending their first weekend out of their houses. To many who have lived in a fraternity since freshman week this will be their first experience at living 'on the town.' They'll be out looking for the recreation their fraternities offered them before.

OMOH's were designed for the entire student-body. But in the past they particularly appealed to the unaffiliated men. Tonight's program should be a precedent breaker in this respect. And for the sake of the Red Cross here's hoping it breaks some OMOH financial precedents.

This Weekend...



The Corner

unusual



Saved!
Tons of tin!

For years telephone cables have been spliced in a very satisfactory way. But the solder joint contained 40 per cent war-vital tin.

So Bell System men devised a new type of joint which saves up to 80 per cent of the solder. A "Victory Joint" they called it.

The new technique has been adopted throughout the System with the result that 600,000 pounds of tin and an even greater amount of lead can be saved in a normal year's construction.

This is another example of the nation-wide cooperation of Bell System people in fulfilling their ideal—service to the nation in peace or war.

