

# The Daily Collegian

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## The New Fee

A lot of you who are new to Penn State are probably wondering what the \$7.50 assessment for a student union building is all about.

A lot of us who are not so new are wondering too.

AS ESTABLISHED by All-College cabinet, Penn State's student congress, the fee will be \$7.50 per semester for the first year and \$10 per semester every year after this one for as long as is necessary. How long that is, we are told, will be determined by how long it takes to pay off the cost of the building, furnish it, and keep it going.

This could mean that your children will be paying for it, but that's not the important thing.

PENN STATE needs a student union. Look around you. There are lots of classrooms, lots of dormitories and lots of students. Now look at the TUB.

For years responsible student leaders have been trying to kindle a fire under students and trustees, looking toward building a student union of the scope that a growing university deserves. Last year we got our chance and took it.

The only regrettable thing is that nobody had any idea what the student's assessment would be until a few weeks before the end of the semester. By then it had to be accepted or the whole project put off for another year.

SOME of the conscientious cabinet members wanted to put it to a general vote of the student body. But there just wasn't time.

Talk before had been that the assessment would be a quarter or maybe fifty cents for a semester. Hardly a student dreamed it would be as high as \$7.50. If any of the leaders knew it, they weren't doing any talking about it. That is where they made a regrettable mistake.

ECONOMY MINDED students, as most are, screamed that they were being robbed. Petitions were circulated and letters of protest poured into the Collegian office. At an open cabinet session, opponents wrangled for three hours before the assessment was finally passed.

Now the trustees have approved the assessment, the site has been picked and if wartime restrictions do not interfere, the building that many have howled for will soon be on the way. We hope future fortunates who actually use it appreciate what diligent maneuvering it took to light that fire and keep it burning.

—Herbert Stein

## Cooperation

The Borough of State College last week received a safety award in recognition of its non-fatality accident record for the past two years. As Burgess William S. Hoffman remarked during the presentation, the borough is now nine months into a third year of freedom from traffic deaths.

THIS IS an outstanding achievement for a town whose streets are heavily overtaxed by auto traffic. Too, it speaks well of student drivers who are responsible for much of the traffic overload and who, often are looked upon as careless drivers.

The record indicates that drivers have taken few foolish chances and, when they have, have escaped alive. It means that borough regulations and borough police have worked efficiently.

IN A LETTER to the Daily Collegian, Burgess Hoffman laid emphasis to observance of borough speed limits, parking regulations, and one-way street rules. He said that the cooperation of students, as well as of other citizens, has produced the present record. Cooperation will produce new records of this kind, he added.

Cooperation—among drivers, pedestrians, and borough officials—remains the key to future days of safe driving in State College.

—John Ashbrook

## Law Of The Land

Law is supposed to be law, but legislation nowadays seems to be descending to the level of lawlessness.

TAKE FOR EXAMPLE the recent action of Congress in changing the law regarding military men as head of the Defense department. The law said that no one who had been a member of the military for ten years preceding could be appointed as secretary of defense. In the face of the current emergency, President Truman decided to violate this rule by appointing General Marshall to the post, and Congress obliged him by changing the law.

General Marshall himself is not the issue. The question is this: What meaning can any law have if it is to be changed at a moment's notice any time someone in authority feels it is impossible to operate according to the law of the land? Of what value was the original law if it merely was to be changed? What is to prevent similar exceptions in the future when a difficult situation arises?

THIS IS NOT the only instance of disregard for law in recent weeks, but it is the most outstanding example and is symptomatic of the current trend toward hysteria in American thought. Although recognized as probably unconstitutional, a number of laws for political control of Communists and "subversives" have been passed by local legislatures which take the "so what" attitude.

Even the constitution appears no longer inviolate.

## Gazette . . .

Meetings of campus organizations will be announced in this column throughout the semester. Announcements should include place, time and purpose of the meeting. Deadline for notices, which should be mailed or delivered to the Daily Collegian office, is 4 p.m. on the day preceding publications.

Tuesday, Sept. 19

COLLEGIAN business staff, sophomore and junior boards, 7 p.m., 9 Carnegie Hall.

FROTH, promotion staff and candidates, 7:30 p.m., Froth office, Carnegie Hall.

WOMEN'S Recreation association bowling. White Hall alleys, 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S Recreation association, fencing. White Hall, 7 p.m.

AT THE MOVIES

CATHAUM: Tea for Two

STATE: Stars In My Crown

NIITANY: Unconquered

• The story of Cerro Bolivar, the newest, largest and richest iron ore deposit in the world, is graphically told in an exhibit in the Mineral Industries Building, on Pollock road.

## Little Man On Campus

By Bibler



"I do declare, I think Prof. Snarf gets meaner every year."

## Trek To Hunger

By ART BENNING

For the past few years a caravan of college students from practically all the colleges in the nation has each Spring started the long trek from the States to Alaska in search of quick funds for next year's tuition. This year being no exception, college Joes by the thousands drove, flew, sailed or used a combination of these to get to the land of booming construction work and fast dollars.

This year a new experience awaited nearly all comers; the threat of starvation and being stranded in a country about 5,000 miles from their Eastern seaboard homes. For this year, instead of lush times and boom towns they found a country suffering from strikes and work stoppages which shoved the already short construction season back nearly 40 percent.

AN ESTIMATED 1000 college students arrived in Fairbanks alone this summer, looking for jobs in a city already overcrowded with unemployed, and where living prices were sky high. Some had funds enough to tide them over until construction work began to boom in late July after the Carpenter's Union went back to work. Others who were broke, hungry, and discouraged, pounded the streets looking for odd jobs.

Each morning and continuing well into the day, long lines of hopeful employees stood outside the offices of the Alaska Highway Commission, the gold mining company, and the various unions. For weeks the answer was, "Sorry, we're not hiring today."

With no money to pay the exorbitant room and board prices, many set up camps in the brush outside the city, cooking beans or spaghetti over open campfires, and sleeping in tents, cars, or sleeping bags. Others took over unused garages or shacks. As belts were being drawn tighter and tighter, the only things that flourished were beards.

OCCASIONALLY bowls of were given at the YMCA to the bread lines that quickly formed at the smell of food. Those who tried to sell their cars found that the market had hit rock bottom. Others who had the money, tinkered up their jalopies for the long journey home.

Here there was a catch also. Canadian Customs Officials require funds of \$300 per car and \$100 per adult for travellers on the Alaska Highway, although this is often not enforced. Many have come back with less; others were forced to return to Alaska. Now, Fairbanks faces the difficult and embarrassing situation of being overcrowded with the fundless and not being able to help. Those who do not make the required passage amount in the remainder of the working season, or who cannot wire home for money, may be stranded until next summer.

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