

The Daily Collegian

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Students To Hear Final Exams Views

Much general interest has developed in the senior class proposal to eliminate final exams for graduating seniors. The proposal has received All-College cabinet's support and now is being examined by the senate committee on academic standards.

MANY STUDENTS, especially seniors, have given the idea their unqualified support. Perhaps they have done so without carefully considering the numerous aspects of the plan.

Many problems would have to be solved before any plan for elimination of senior finals could be effected. What provisions should be made for those seniors who wish to or, because of low grades, would have to take finals? How would faculty members view the program? Would elimination of senior finals affect the academic standing of the College? What provisions should be made in courses where the final is the only exam given during the semester? Is elimination of finals for seniors the best method of alleviating exam week congestion?

Questions of this nature will be argued tonight in a debate sponsored by the Liberal Arts student council. The issue to be debated is, "Resolved that eighth semester seniors be exempt from final exams." John Erickson, senior class president, and cabinet Parliamentarian Marlin Brenner will take the affirmative side. Arguing the negative will be All-College Vice-President Harry Kondourajian and David Lewis, member of the varsity debate team. Prof. Joseph O'Brien, debate coach, will serve as chairman.

STUDENTS WILL FIND tonight's debate a valuable opportunity to hear a variety of viewpoints on the exam issue. Especially, it should be of value to graduating seniors who, if a change in exam policy is approved, will be the first to be affected by the new policy.

The senior exams debate will be held in 10 Sparks, beginning at 7:45 o'clock. There are at least 408 interested persons to fill 10 Sparks' 408 seats, so better get there early.

—John Ashbrook

Smaller Diploma

The old sheepskin—despite the fact that it is supposed to symbolize achievement after four years of hard work—is the butt of many jokes. No doubt part of this is due to the very physical characteristics of the diploma itself.

PENN STATE DIPLOMAS, like those of many other colleges, are monstrous things, larger for example, than a page of the Collegian. Few students will frame and hang on their living room walls something of that size, and so, to all intents and purposes, many of the sheepskins to be handed out this June virtually will be wasted.

As the senior class president pointed out to cabinet recently, for some years to come few of us will be living in large mansions where there is sufficient wall space to hang these mammoth sheepskins. The small apartment is the mode of living to which many June graduates will have to accommodate themselves, and many diplomas will remain rolled up in their containers without serving any useful purpose.

Some colleges have adopted the smaller size diploma—perhaps one fourth the size of the present monstrosity—which is much more suitable for display about the house and is much more easily moved. Many of these come in leather covers which provide added convenience.

A CABINET COMMITTEE, with the senior class president as chairman, now is investigating the possibility of having the smaller size diploma adopted at Penn State. It is now too late for anything to be done to provide smaller diplomas for this year's graduates, but, if the committee is successful in its project, future graduates will be able to have more displayable symbols of their four years of college work.

The possibility also remains that this year's seniors who are particularly interested in having small diplomas may be able to obtain them later.

Every graduating student receives a diploma and every student who expects to be graduated from Penn State therefore should have some interest in the committee's progress. Student opinion should make itself known and should determine what is done in the end.

Faculty Rating Plan Worth Close Study

The NSA proposal for a faculty rating plan, presented to cabinet recently, deserves close study and careful consideration. It is true that the technique of students' rating their instructors still is in the experimental stage, but this should not preclude consideration of a program that may prove valuable to the College, the instructors, and the students themselves.

THE RESULTS of rating questionnaires, if students answer the questions candidly and instructors are willing to view them dispassionately, could be of aid to the faculty in improving its quality of work. (This is not to charge the Penn State faculty with low level teaching, but rather to note that there usually is room for improvement, no matter how good the prof and the course.)

By studying questionnaires results, the prof can take steps toward strengthening himself on these counts. It will provide the prof with information about himself that usually is not available and which may help him greatly in getting ideas and information across to his students.

The College, too, could be aided, if only in attaining a more valid self-appraisal based upon investigation rather than intuition. Cases of flagrant incompetence could be spotted more quickly and faster remedies could result. Furthermore, any improvement in the faculty would add increased prestige to the College.

THE STUDENT, should such a plan prove successful, would benefit most directly by an increasingly high level of instruction, and that, after all, is what everyone involved in the educational process should be aiming for.

Such a program, if it is undertaken, should not be viewed merely as a chance for students to "get back" at their profs, but rather as a cooperative process at Penn State. It would require a willingness of the students to give their objective, candid opinions, and a willingness of the faculty and administration to accept those opinions for what they are worth.

Self-knowledge is the starting point for all produce the self-knowledge necessary to self-improvement. Faculty rating might well provide a basis for further improvement of teaching at Penn State.

Little Man On Campus By Bibler



"And as a member of our house, you'll enjoy our friendly rivalry with the fraternity next door."



You Name It

By HERBERT STEIN

Jeopardizing My Happy Room

If you haven't met my landlady, you have missed one of the more fascinating elements of local culture.

I'm probably jeopardizing my happy room by writing this, but I'll chance it on the grounds that she doesn't read the Collegian.

THE LATEST of her activities, for instance, is a campaign to send fruit juice to the boys in Korea. I'm not exactly sure that the boys in Korea need fruit juice or that Centre county needs to distinguish itself by sending the stuff, but if she says so, it's okay with me.

There are undoubtedly many other worthy ladies aiding in the search for extra cans of fruit juice but, knowing her, I suspect she is both the organizer and leading collector. She has a personal interest, of course, as her son has been in Korea since soon after the fighting broke out.

I also suspect the boys would prefer to be sent a few cans of beer, but this would never do, since she is also an ardent supporter of the Women's Christian Temperance union.

But not a stodgy one. Oh, no. She would never tell me, "You shouldn't drink." No, she's much too intelligent for that.

SHE WILL simply quote from the latest issue of Tap and Tavern on the fabulous amount of money spent each year for booze. The United Nations spent an unbelievable sum on liquor last year. She says the world would be much better off if the delegates spent more money getting

down to cases of fact instead of cases of brew.

At one point she even suggested, subtly, that I ought to change my name. Stein, she said, was too much of a station. She suggested the same thing to the editor of the town paper, a longtime friend of her's. His name is Weinstein and she couldn't stand that at all. It's a double barreled temptation, she said.

State College should lay claim to being the bongiest town in Pennsylvania. Walking down South Allen street about 6 o'clock some evenings you can hear in succession the bongs of Old Main, the bongs of a town clock and the bongs of a local church. They ought to get together and work out some kind of harmony.

THE ATMOSPHERE of college life which brings out all those gags you hear about absent-minded profs is not as far-fetched as you might think. I found myself staring at my socks one day last week trying to figure out why they didn't match when I discovered that one was on inside out. If this sort of thing keeps up, I may apply for a teaching position.

Pleasantly Profane Thought-Provoker

You know those stories about the French? Well, here's the latest edition, straight from the wires of the Associated Press, and a pleasantly profane little thought-provoker it is too. To quote:

"A Catholic labor leader today was named to examine whether models who pose in the nude are entitled to social security benefits."

Now, offhand, we can't think of any way we'd rather have our Marshall plan dollars invested than in support of indigent nekkidness, but we must register a violent protest on one point at least. If Americans are footing the bill, Americans are darned well entitled to examine the models themselves; let the labor leaders have their fun on their own coinage.

The story goes on to say that 22-year-old Micheline, who brought the suit, did not want

her full name used since it was "a friendly case." It's nice to know that Micheline is friendly, and even nicer to know that she's 22 years old.

But if we may offer a friendly word of advice to friendly Micheline: Should you fall victim to a female jury and lose your suit, (as you evidently have in the past), you needn't starve. Flash the word by way of the AP, and we are sure the sympathetic men of Penn State will forward your passage here.

Don't bring a lot of clothes, though.

—Ron Bonn

Gazette . . .

Tuesday, March 6

- ACEI, Atherton lounge, 7:30 p.m.
- ALPHA-KAPPA PSI mixer, Delta Chi, 7:30 p.m.
- CHESS club, 3 Sparks, 7 p.m.
- COLLEGIAN business candidates, 2 Carnegie hall, 7 p.m.
- COLLEGIAN business junior and sophomore boards, 9 Carnegie hall, 7 p.m.
- COLLEGIAN editorial candidates, 1 Carnegie hall, 7:30 p.m.
- COLLEGIAN circulation sophomore board, Collegian office, 7 p.m.
- ENG. STUDENT council, 107 Main Engineering, 7 p.m.
- HAT SOCIETIES council, student government room, Old Main, 8:30 p.m.
- MARKETING club, 124 Sparks, 7 p.m.
- MI STUDENT council, 107 Willard, 7 p.m.
- NEWMAN club, movie, 110 Electrical Engineering.
- PENN STATE club, 405 Old Main, 7 p.m.
- PSYCHOLOGY club, 204 Burrowes, 7:30 p.m.
- SIGMA TAU, discussion of local constitution and by-laws, 219 Electrical Engineering, 8:30 p.m.
- WRA BOWLING, White hall alleys, 7 p.m.
- WRA FENCING, White hall, 7 p.m.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Further information concerning interviews and job placements can be obtained in 112 Old Main.

Seniors who turned in preference sheets will be given priority in scheduling interviews for two days following the initial announcement of the visit of one of the companies of their choice. Other students will be scheduled on the third and subsequent days.

Shell Production company will interview June graduates at the B.S. and M.S. level in Chem. Eng., E.E. Geol., Mining Eng., and P.N.G. Eng. and at the Ph.D. level in Phys. Thursday, March 15.

Philadelphia Electric company will interview June graduates in E.E. and M.E. Thursday, March 15.

Corning Glass works will interview June graduates in Chem. Eng., Chem. Phys., Arch Eng., C.E., E.E., M.E., and Metal. Friday, March 16.

Babcock & Wilcox company will interview June graduates in M.E., I.E., Metal., E.E., Chem Eng., Chem., Fuel Tech., Cer., Eng. Phys., and C.E. Friday, March 16.

U.S. Geological survey representative will be on campus March 7 to explain opportunities to interested students, both juniors and seniors. Students are invited to attend meeting at 2 or 3 p.m. in 304 Old Main.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

For information concerning the following jobs, applicants should stop in 112 Old Main.

Electrical draftsman who can give three consecutive hours several times a week.

Student wife for permanent, full-time job on campus handling mimeographing and supplies.

Agriculture student who will be in State College through the summer, to work in local tavern in exchange for room and board; preferably of small stature.

Representative of Camp Kiowa, Beach Lake, Pa., will be in 112 Old Main this afternoon; men interested in summer jobs as nature and sports counselors.

COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Nancy Allebach, Carolyn Alley, Barry Anthony, Dan Babcock, Georgetown Babos, Wayne Baldwin, Thomas Cooke, John Duecker, Edwin Godfrey, James Halton, Betty Healey, Edward Kamykowski, Raymond Kenra, Andrew Krasowski, David Lowitz, Sam Marino, William Mullen, John Pagonis, William Reagan, George Rohrer, Nancy Rust, Lawrence Schniepp, James Segmiller, Mary Lou Specht, Fred Stanley, Charles Vandenberg, Charles Walton, Peter Washacz.