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The Daily Collegian

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Poor Judgment Shown

We think the Senate Committee on Academic Standards made a serious mistake yesterday when it turned down a proposal to exempt honor seniors from final examinations.

Joseph Hartnett, senior class president, yesterday presented a plan which originally came from the senior class advisory board.

The board's plan said that seniors who had an A or B in a course could be exempted from finals. The plan stipulated that exemptions would be at the discretion of the professor so that a course would not necessarily have any exemptions. It also stipulated that a student with an A or B could take the final if he wished.

The Academic Standards Committee turned down the plan and said that it would not consider it further. The committee pointed out that a similar plan was refused in 1953. They said that the reasons for this refusal should be considered as well as some additional ones. The 1953 plan differed from the recent one in that it would not be optional for the professor.

Objections to the 1953 proposal were that motivation in a course is related to the final and that students would not be as stimulated without a final. We feel that this is not necessarily so since a student would have perhaps a stronger motive to be eligible for exemption.

Another objection was that the University should not deny the right to a student to take a final examination. Under the new plan this objection would be invalid since the student could take the final if he wanted.

It was pointed out in 1953 that where classes were only partially composed of seniors it would be difficult to exempt some honor students and not others. The new plan would allow the professor to use his discretion and not exempt any of the students. Also we feel that this situation would only be temporary since, if the plan were a success, it should be expanded to include all students, and if it were a failure, it should be abolished.

The committee, in 1953, also directed an objection to the practice that students try to get extra points near the end of a course and said that students would try to get an extra point or two in the course so that they could be exempted from the final. We feel that this criticism is not very good since students do this anyway

and would probably not do it any more under such a system.

The plan was also criticized because it would probably cause professors to give more bluebooks near the end of the semester and perhaps throughout the semester. We feel that this is a point in favor of the plan rather than one against. We feel that studying for bluebooks and quizzes throughout a semester is far more valuable than cramming for a final.

The committee yesterday gave two additional objections. One was that the plan presented nothing new and should therefore not be considered since similar plans had been turned down. We feel that this is hardly a just criticism since what was unfeasible at one time might be a good plan now. Also this plan is different in one very important way—it leaves exemption up to the professor and the student even when the required conditions exist.

The committee also told Hartnett that such action would not be good now since it would be part of a long range plan for liberalized education at the University. We question why it would not be advisable to start on a part of it at least. We also wonder why the committee raises so many objections to the plan if it is eventually to be used. It is certainly incongruous.

Hartnett had the members of his committee interview 30 members of the faculty and administration and ask them what they thought of the plan. Only seven were opposed and the remaining 23 were definitely in favor of adopting the plan.

We feel that the plan should be adopted, not because seniors should be exempted from finals, but because all honor students should be exempted from finals. A real student should never have to take a final since it leads to cramming rather than actual learning. Final exam exemption for honor students would give a real incentive to the student to study through a course rather than to cram for a final.

We hope that the University Senate will accept the plan when Hartnett presents it for its approval.

—Sue Conklin

The Gripes Go On

A frequent critic of Food Service, The Daily Collegian received in the mail last week a story from the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin about coed food gripes at the University of Pennsylvania.

Since there are some people who think the Collegian's tendency to slam Food Service is premature or unjustified, we are always trying to defend ourselves by showing that we are not the only ones who complain about Food Service.

In many ways the situation at Penn parallels the one here. The main similarity is the fact that both are frequently dissatisfied with both the "food" and the "service" of Food Service.

Despite the many complaints from this page and from the rank and file of the student body, one cannot help feeling that it will all accomplish very little in the long run.

At Penn 120 coeds "dared" to go so far as to sign a petition protesting the food. Dr. Althea Hottel, dean of women, condemned the action as "rude and impudent" and generally spiked

the whole movement, despite the fact that the University is going to hear the gripes from a student committee.

Dr. Hottell flatly stated that no change would be made this semester and cemented her somewhat narrow position by quoting Dean Emeritus Virginia C. Gildersleeve of Columbia University's Barnard College who said: "Women confuse rights as students with rights as citizens. The only rights as students are to expect good education."

Thus far students' complaints here have taken no form of organization and have been scattered and on the superficial side.

From time to time we seek to pick out an alleged fault with Food Service and to suggest a corrective measure.

Past experience has sadly taught us that the powers that be are usually only too glad to hear these complaints but give them very little real consideration.

—The Editor

Gazette

AG ENG CLUB, 7 p.m., 105 Az
COLLEGIAN CANDIDATES, 7 p.m., 9 Carnegie
NEW BAVARIAN SCHUHPLATTLERS, 7:15 p.m., 405 Old Main
NITTANY GROTTO, 7 p.m., 121 Mineral Industries
PENN STATE GRANGE, 7:15 p.m., 100 Weaver

PENN STATE RIDING CLUB, 7 p.m., 217 Willard
PERSHING RIFLES, 7 p.m., Armory
PHI MU ALPHA SINFONIA, 9 p.m., 117 Carnegie
THETA SIGMA PHI, 8:30 p.m., McElwain study lounge
WOMEN'S CHORUS, 7 p.m., Hetzel Union assembly room
ZOOLOGY CLUB, 7 p.m., 214-215 HUB

Professor Named Special Consultant

Dr. Marsh W. White, professor of physics, has been named regional consultant for Pennsylvania and New Jersey for the Science Teaching Improvement Program of the American Association for Advancement of Science.

The regional consultant service has been made possible through a grant from the General Electric Educational and Charitable Fund.

The consultants will visit, on invitation, colleges and universities in their respective regions to help carry out the principal aim of the Science Teaching Improvement Program which is to increase the number of well-qualified science and mathematics teachers at the secondary school level.

Soph Advisory Board To Plan Class Dance

The Sophomore Class Advisory Board will meet at 7 tonight in 217 Hetzel Union to appoint committees for the sophomore class dance.

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The board will also discuss the success of the lists (to announce closed sections) posted during registration.

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Little Man on Campus

by Bibler



"I understand it's made 'strong & black' on purpose—it's supposed to keep us awake during class!"

green doors and rooms

'Most Anything

by pat hunter

The recent musical mystery of just what lurks behind the Green Door, although tentatively solved by many, still remains a mystery. This is also true of a somewhat similar Greenroom.

Here too, people have come up with the answers as to just why, when, where and how the Greenroom was started

and got its name, but although all of the answers sound logical (something the Green Door problem-solvers can't boast of) still the problem of just which one is true remains a mystery.

Greenrooms, according to our eminent friend Noah Webster, are waiting rooms in theatres where players await their cues. Mr. Webster's definition however fails to tell us anything concerning the origin of this theatrical tradition.

The mystery of the Greenroom started on campus when an avid theatre arts student wandered into the Collegian office and announced he was on his way to get a cup of coffee.

Figuring our friend was headed for the HUB, several of us followed close behind, only to find ourselves on the second floor of Schwab Auditorium where as guests of our friend, we were treated royally to coffee and cookies in what is known as the Penn State Greenroom.

We learned that such informal coffee hours are held by Players twice a week for the purpose of better acquainting Players with members of the various theatre arts classes.

Never before realizing that the Greenroom was a universal institution, I began a search for its history and thus begins the mystery—for although many know about it, none seem to agree.

A talk with several of the theatre arts professors revealed that each had a different story to tell about the Greenroom. One said it stemmed from a

Chinese custom started by an emperor who had his private theatre and waiting room painted green—apparently his favorite color. Today the emperor, Hsuan Hsung is considered the patron saint of the Chinese theatre and it is a custom for the actors to burn incense before his image in all of the Chinese playhouses.

Another prof said that he thought the Greenroom tradition was started in the tenth century in India where they used the room adjacent to the stage for storing sets and greenery.

A less historic idea was that the room was painted a restful shade of green to calm the actor's jangled nerves.

Puzzled by this variety of answers, I wrote to George Freedley, curator of the New York Public Library and author of "History of the Theatre." Mr. Freedley's reply did nothing but add fuel to the already blazing fire for he mentioned not one but several origins.

The first, taken from the "Oxford Companion to the Theatre" says that it seems probably that the Greenroom is so called simply because it was hung or painted green, while Sobel's "Theatre Handbook" says it gets its name from the first "retiring room" in the Convent Garden Theatre which was green.

According to an article in Drama Magazine, traveling troupes (Continued on page eight)

TONIGHT - 7:30

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Evangelist

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