

Editorial Opinion

Final Examinations-- A Measure of Knowledge

Are final examinations a fair indication of a student's knowledge, and are they worth the time and last minute effort put into them?

These questions are continually being pondered by educators throughout the country. However, of late, the issue has hit the nation's college newspapers mainly through the efforts of an Indiana Daily Student editorial campaign.

At Penn State, as at most of the other colleges and Universities, it would take a radical change in the educational policy to eliminate final exams. This change is not evident at present, but it still warrants consideration.

In order for a student to get the most benefit from finals, he should carefully review the entire course material considering practical application wherever possible. In addition, he should consult related material to get a better working knowledge of the course content.

But how many do this? Most students end up cramming into their heads last minute facts which they will lose in a short time. In other words they are working for a grade and not for knowledge.

In some courses, students are justified in saying that it is no use to study for examinations. These are the true-false and multiple choice—or more aptly, multiple guess exams—which frequently include ambiguous questions. Many students count on a skimpy knowledge of the course and a lucky day to pass such exams.

It seems that essay examinations would be the solution to the problem, except in very technical courses. This type certainly would make students study more thoroughly and consider the course in a broader aspect.

But complete elimination of final examinations in favor of term projects and papers would be much better. One plan could be to assign these projects to be completed by the end of classes, thus eliminating the two weeks of final exams. Another system could turn over the finals period to free time to complete the term projects.

A trend is now appearing to assign more term projects and we hope it continues with the end result of elimination of final examinations altogether.

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The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance, est. 1887

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Letters

Freshman Hits Lack of Aid To Education

TO THE EDITOR: President Eisenhower's State of the Union Message before Congress clearly indicates a shortcoming in the government's attitude towards education.

In his address the President stated that the government does not plan any school support programs. He emphasized that the responsibility of solving the school problem rests with the local governments.

The educating of an individual from the first to the 12th grades is one of the most important influences in his formal education. Without a good sound basis not only in science and mathematics, but also English and history, one planning a college education is definitely handicapped. We cannot deny also, that a solid elementary and secondary education is an asset even to those who do not go on to college.

With this importance of education in mind, we must realize that the lack of proper facilities or a sufficient number of teachers tending to lessen the quality of teaching methods is indeed a serious problem. The problem cannot be solved by avoiding it. We must be able to look into the future.

Though school systems are operated locally and overcrowding may not be as serious in some areas as in others, within a few years, however, the localism of the situation will develop into a national problem. School buildings cannot be erected overnight.

Obviously the federal government is blind to this. If the local communities do not start to eliminate the problem the national government should take the initiative. If the national government is not able to finance a federalized school system at least it should supply an incentive for the local governments to do something.

Such a solution might be that the federal government donate a dollar for each dollar the local communities give for the school system. Whatever the solution is, it requires the participation of the national government and it must be started in the very near future.

—Earl La Kier '63

Letter cut

Gazette

TODAY

Farm Youth Alumni, 9 p.m., 214 HUB; Grad Student Association Square Dance, 8:30 p.m., Hillel Foundation; Lecture, Dr. J. Coert Rylaarsdam, 8:30 p.m., Chapel.

TOMORROW

AIM, 7 p.m., 203 HUB; Chapel Service, 10:55 a.m., Schwab Chess Club, 2 p.m., HUB cardroom; Circa Literary Staff, 7 p.m., 208 Boucke Concert, University Symphony Orchestra, 3 p.m., Schwab;

Grad Student Bridge, 7 p.m., 212 HUB; Jr. Class Advisory Board, 7 p.m., 214 HUB; Lutheran Student Association, 6:30 p.m., Lutheran Student Center, 412 W. College Ave.

Mt. Nittany Philatelic Club, 2 p.m., 218 HUB;

Newman Club, 7 p.m., 217 HUB; Protestant Service, 9 a.m., Chapel;

Penn State Bible Fellowship, 2 p.m., 214 HUB;

Roman Catholic Mass, 9 a.m., Schwab; Rufus Jones Lecture, 8 p.m., 121 Sparks;

SGA Committee on Center Integration, 5 p.m., 217 HUB;

Spring Week Committee, 6:30 p.m., 218 HUB;

Swedish Service, 10:30 a.m., 212 HUB;

USF, 9:30 a.m., 218 HUB;

MONDAY

APHO, 7 p.m., and 8 p.m., 212 HUB;

BX, All Boards, 5 p.m., 212 HUB;

Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., and 7 p.m., 218 HUB;

Engineering Mechanics Seminar, 4:15 p.m., 203 Engineering;

Faculty Luncheon Club, noon, HUB dining room "A";

John R. Feick Lecture, 7:30 p.m., Mineral Sciences auditorium;

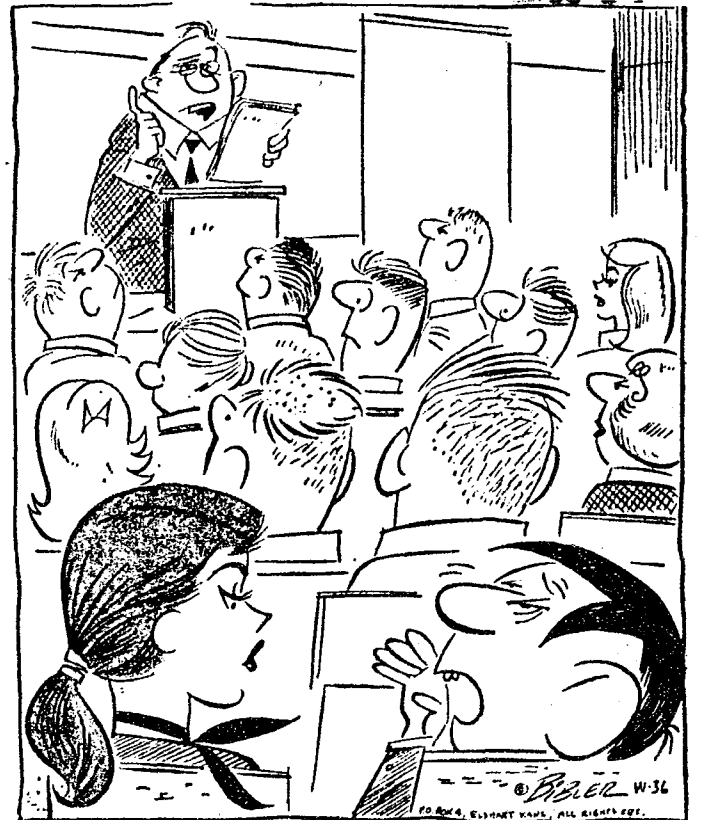
Rural Soc Seminar, 3:15 p.m., 214 HUB

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

YANKEES BRAVES, ARIETTA VIOLENT, PANTHER AGITATE, SLATE DISH ELON, LLB OTTER, MARE ARTY REAPS, OTO ALIA WAGRAM, DOUBLED LATOSCA, UNSOLD POLO IER, SETTO HOWL ASST, ATTAR ALP, WAIN HIED APRIL, ARRIVAL INDIANA, REASONS MELANGE, MANTLE STENGEL

Little Man on Campus

by Dick Bibler



'ON TH' CONTRARY I THINK HE'S A WONDERFUL LECTURER— THIS IS TH' ONLY CLASS WHERE I CAN GET ANY DECENT SLEEP.'

Letters

Some Like Signs...Some Don't

TO THE EDITOR: I agree with Robert Braziloski's article in Thursday's Collegian that "University officials are unduly criticized for the erection of the signs around the campus."

It seems to me that every time the administration takes some action around here the students have to make wisecracks about it. For instance, I thought the article "OK, Let's Play with Signs" was absolutely ridiculous. After all, the purpose of the signs is merely to direct people to the right buildings and not to make Penn State a resort spot.

In my opinion, the signs are a very much-needed addition to the campus. As a graduate

student I arrived on campus for the first time in September and was never so lost in my life.

Upon asking one of the students where I could find Graduate Hall, I got this reply: "I never heard of it." Apparently even the students don't know where the buildings are. How are visitors supposed to find them?

I noticed that they are digging deep holes for the signs. Maybe they should also cement them in so that some of the more "mature" students can't dig them up and transplant them in front of some other buildings.

—Barbara Bergstresser Graduate Student

TO THE EDITOR: Mr. Malick's attempt at satirizing the ridiculousness of the campus billboards falls far short of its goal. Instead of showing the commercial and gaudy effects of these signs, the article insults the students' intelligence. We wonder how the mind of a newspaper editor can run in such simple channels.

Perhaps a better approach to the problem is to eliminate the silliness and discuss the impracticality of the "eyesores." The signs ruin the beauty of the campus and maps are easily accessible.

Furthermore, the primary

purpose of Penn State is to educate the students and not to sponsor sightseeing tours through the University.

We can appreciate sarcasm—if it is written on the college level.

—David MacLellan, Donald Macalady, Dennis Grubb, all of '63

(Editor's note: We agree wholeheartedly on your points concerning the impracticality of these signs, that they ruin campus beauty and that our purpose is to educate. Incidentally, Collegian carried an editorial in Tuesday's paper stating these very ideas.)

TO THE EDITOR: Another Penn State first! The new view —We would like to thank the person responsible for beautifying campus with blue and white billboards which harmonize so well with the park-like surroundings.

Penn State is one of the most scenic campuses in the country. Now we have signs to tell us so.

No other single feature

could have improved University Park so much with so little, with the exception of neon signs to guide visitors to our campus landmarks.

What next? Commercial advertisements along Pollock Rd.?

—William Stephens, Christopher Dobbie, Daniel MacMeekin, all of '62

Collegian 'Supporters' Go Sarcastic

TO THE EDITOR: We are getting sick and tired of constantly hearing about the traffic-parking situation and the administration's WAR with the Nittany boys. New blood should be injected into the Collegian, such as dealing with the physi-

cal fitness of the campus population.

We think we have a solution to this mess. Abolish entirely any driving on campus except to students over 80 accompanied by their parents and burn Nittany to the ground!

—Stanley Lipkin, '63 Edward Oswald, '62

WDFM Program Schedule

SATURDAY: 6:55 Weatherscope, 7:00 Hi-Fi Open House, 9:00 Offbeat, 1:00 Sign Off. SUNDAY: 6:55 Weatherscope, 7:00 The Third Programme, 11:30 The Week in Review, 11:45 Sign Off.

MONDAY: 6:55 Weatherscope, 7:00 Masterworks From France, 7:30 Children's Corner, 7:55 News, 8:00 Contemporary Concepts, 9:00 Music of the People, 9:30 Campus and Religion, 9:45 News and Sports, 10:00 Symphonic Notebook, 11:30 Sign Off.