

PENNSTATE

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Mr. Thomas B. Owen
Cosmos Club
2121 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Tom:

It was very nice of you to send me the Board of Management's review of the report on the Cosmos Club approaching the 21st century. I hope more non-resident members will reply for we are a different breed of cats.

Most of us living far from Washington (several hundred miles and several hundred dollars) cannot become active workers in the development of the club and club life. We attend functions only when our work demands our presence in Washington, and most of us will not be able to adjust our schedules to fit the club's attractions.

I deplore the fact that I have contributed so little to the club, but still to me it is a home away from home. It is true that the rooms are spartan (but I've asked for TV's and got them). But the meals are good and I always meet friends and acquaintances and enjoy an intellectual feast talking to them.

I am proud of my membership, but my visits become less frequent, much to my dismay. The fault is not the club's, it is the fact that I grow old (84). My committee memberships in Washington expire, and travel becomes more arduous. So I finally reach the point where I ask myself, "Should I continue to pay non-resident dues for one or two visits a year?". Why don't we have an emeritus membership for infrequent visitors like me?

Just one specific question. Why don't we have a corner nook with a microwave oven, some cans of soup, perhaps some TV dinners, for hungry travelers when they appear about ten o'clock, looking for food and rest?

As a member of 40 years who is not able to participate more,

Very truly yours,

Eric A. Walker

EAW/djs