

# FEATURES

## Student/Faculty reflections on the new G.P.A. system

"The new grading system is a good system because it favors those who do better and it takes away from those who don't do as well."  
**Anonymous**

"I like the new grading system because it gives a more accurate grade. It gives us a chance to get the grade we deserve, or so it seems."  
**Anonymous**

"I like the new grading system because it gives a more accurate account of what your grade really is. I also liked it because I only got pluses."  
**Anonymous**

"I personally like the new grading system. The new grading system gives you more of a chance to earn more accurate grades."  
**Georganne Constantinou**

"The new grading system will probably be more beneficial to the students in the long run."  
**Wendy Strzelec**

"I don't like the new grading scale with quality"

### Faculty Members

"As an advisor as well as a teacher I've found it useful to develop a system for an optimum cumulative average as a final result for the semester. A student is going to have to make choices. Now, every decision can effect your G.P.A. There is no leniency in the system."

*Dr. Jane Cooper*

"In a course like English 15, is which a c- grade is badly needed to distinguish between significant levels of student performance, it's omission from the system seems to lead to grade inflation for a few students and remaining inadequacy for even more. This is a problem in English 15 for the majority of students that are in the middle, grade wise."

*Dr. Paul Orlov*

points. I think an A should be an A, and count for 4 points instead of being taken down to a 3.6. I think every teacher should have the same standards if they do use quality points."

**Lorinda Cohoon**

"I like the new grading system because I think it gives you credit for the work you do."

**Carol Ann Daley**

"I think the new grading system stinks! I could have used the system last year, but it wasn't in effect. Although the new system has not helped me or hindered me in my first semester, I think in the following semester it will soon affect me. The new system was abruptly put into existence. I feel a poll of the students would have been better than a bunch of people on the school board deciding on the decision."

**Matthew Flood**

"I like the new grading system more just because, for example, before a student who got 79 received a whole letter grade less than a student who got an 80. This new system permits a fine tuning of the students rate of learning."

*Dr. Sandra Graves*

"I am for the new grading system because it provides a letter grade that is a better representation of the students actual numerical average."

*Dr. John Sidoriak*

## Many students confused over the new G.P.A. system

by Basia Sobczynski  
*Features Editor*

Penn State's new plus/minus grading system has caused much confusion among the students. This confusion is evident in the (above) students' statements concerning the system.

After the system had been voted down by the Faculty Senate of Penn State University, the issue was raised once again, but this time in the spring of 1985, the Senate voted to install the system. The University Senate at the main campus, is made up of 80% faculty 10% administration and 10% students. There are three faculty members at the Delaware County Campus that are members of the senate. Dr George W. Franz (Assistant Professor of History), Dr. Daniel Doran (Assistant Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation), and Dr. Sibyl Severance (Assistant Professor of English) all of whom voted against the new system.

One provision of the new system was that it not be in effect for 1 year, so that the computers can be reprogrammed.

The system was created because many students of Penn State felt that a plus/minus system was needed, mostly to distinguish one from another; that is, one student who failed to do the same amount of work but with the old system, receive the same grade.

The Penn State system is significantly different from other universities' grading systems. The minus grades at P.S.U. have less value in the standard point system at other universities, making it slightly difficult to transfer credits equivocally. The universities' notion in making this distinction was because they were worried about grade inflation. If they deflated the G.P.A.'s it would make an "ideal" distribution of grades. Since the new grading system, the confusion has not only been what the grades are, but how the professors can use them. In this new system there is no rule stating that professors need to use the additional grades. It is the professors choice to use these grades when needed. This system gives the professor's more flexibility in grading students as individuals. According to Senate Rule 47-20 (from Policies and Rules for students 1987-88):

"Grades shall be assigned to individual students on the basis of the instructor's judgements of the student's scholastic achievement..."

It is clear to your Editor that, based on student responses received, there remains some confusion as to exactly how the new grading system works. As a service to students the new grading policy and a comparative scale is listed below:

Penn State	Other Universities
A = 4.00	A= 4.00
A- = 3.67	B= 3.00
B+ = 3.33	C= 2.00
B = 3.00	D= 1.00
B- = 2.67	F= 0.00
C+ = 2.33	
C = 2.00	
D = 1.00	
F = 0.00	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### SGA Elections are rapidly approaching.

3/21, Deadline for handing the intent to run papers.

3/28 Signs will be allowed to be hung up with the seal of approval.

4/11, Speeches will be given in the lounge at 11:30.

4/12-15, Votes will be accepted for all candidates.

4/15, Winners will be announced at the Spring semi-formal that night.

*Freshmen be sure to vote! The next president will be yours!*

Anyone interested in writing for the campus newspaper should place his/her name on a sheet of paper and enter it in the Lion's Eye mailbox in room 115, Main Building.

### SGA

PRESENTS THE SPRING SEMI-FORMAL ON THE SPIRIT OF PHILADELPHIA

WHEN: April 15 7pm-1:30am

WHERE: Penns Landing

Cost: Couple -\$60  
 Single- \$30

**LIMITED ROOM ON CRUISE**

## Poetry Corner

### Suburban

by Mitch Beaver

What is the essence of this changing scene?  
 How can I tell You  
 What to look for  
 When on the way to my house?  
 Where change is nothing new.

It is hard to find the way home  
 When every walk in the woods  
 Is the last.  
 Where the countryside churns,  
 A corpse full of maggots,  
 Working up the spine and  
 Into the heart of this land.

It is hard to find the way home  
 When the hillsides lay stripped  
 and torn  
 And the valleys clog with  
 leacheate,  
 Victims of a constant, brutal  
 rape.

What is the essence of this changing scene?