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The Daily Collegian

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New Grading Proposal: Fair to Students

The University Senate will be called upon today to judge the merits of a proposal for a revised grading system—one which appears a more practical and fair system than the one presently in use at the University.

After extensive study of the grading systems used at other institutions comparable in size and curriculums to the University, the Honor Society Council concluded that the University's grading system is somewhat out of step with those used by other colleges and universities.

The council will recommend to Senate that the existing 3 to -2 grade range be replaced by a 4 to 0 range, and that a 2 average be required for graduation. This recommendation is based in part on the finding that of the 45 schools responding to the survey questionnaire, 64.5 per cent use a grading system in which 4 is the highest grade and 0 is the lowest. Twenty-two and one half per cent use a 3 to 0 grade range and 13 per cent had a 3 to -1 range. Seventeen of the 45 schools are land grant institutions.

Among the reasons the council presents for deeming the present grading system illogical is the triple penalization of students who receive bar grades. The student must repeat the course, he acquires negative grade points, and the negative grade points are retained on his record even if he passes the repeated course.

It seems unfair that a student who fails a course not only receives no grade points for that particular course, but when his semester average is computed, he loses the grade points he accumulated in other courses.

Another of the council's arguments is the disadvantage at which University students are placed in those spheres where the grade point average is used as an indication of ability and performance. The University differs from all the other institutions covered by the survey in that none uses a -2 or has more than a five-number grade range.

The University's -2 or "double flunk" grade

was probably instituted as a means of encouraging students failing a course to keep trying—to work for a -1 and thus to avoid the detriment to All-University average which a -2 would entail. A more positive approach, it seems, would be to encourage the student to work toward passing the course. Regardless of the measure of his failure, he must repeat a required course.

The lack of uniformity in use of the -2 by instructors is one factor which contributes to its injustice. Some instructors do not give a -2 unless a student has made no attempt to fulfill the course requirements. Regardless of his numerical average, a failing student who has been reasonably conscientious and has attended classes receives a -1 for effort.

Another school of instructors grades strictly on the numerical basis and gives a -2 to a student with a 44 average regardless of how much time the student put into the course. For some instructors the -2 is a severe penalty reserved for the most "difficult" student, but for others it is a part of their grade curve. Under the proposed grading system there would be only one failing grade—the 0.

It is believed that the new grading plan would be an advantage to freshmen who have not had an opportunity to become accustomed to college work. There is a possibility that the number of freshmen on academic probation each year might be reduced if students were not penalized so heavily for a failure.

If the proposal were passed, the details of putting the new plan into effect would be worked out by Senate. However, the registrar's office has stated that the change could be effected with little inconvenience.

Although no grading system is absolutely fair in every case, the new plan would be an improvement over the present system where a student may fail, fail doubly hard, or fail out of school before he has an opportunity to adjust himself to college life.

Last Chance Today

Students in eight colleges will have their last chance today to vote for their student council members who will represent them for the next year. The two-day voting opened yesterday and will close at 5 p.m. today.

The colleges are Education, Liberal Arts, Physical Education and Athletics, Mineral Industries, Chemistry and Physics, Business Administration, Home Economics, and Engineering.

To beg, to urge, or to plead with students to take an active part in determining who their representatives will be by voting wisely after much thought would be just so many wasted words. In the past it has been shown time and time again that election dates come and go with little student interest. It seems only a handful of students outside of those actually running for positions know what the story is. A sad situation, true—but, other than a plea, what is to be done?

This could be called that plea and it will doubtless fall into the category "so many wasted words," but it must be made. College councils are an important cog in the functioning of good student government. And the councils are only as good as their members. Vote today. It won't take long.

—George Bairey

Gazette...

- Today
- AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS, STUDENT BRANCH, 7 p.m., 105 Agriculture Engineering
 - BLOCK AND BRIDLE CLUB, 7 p.m., 206 Agriculture
 - NEWMAN CLUB DISCUSSION, 7:30 p.m., 106 Willard
 - NITTANY GROTTTO, 7:30 p.m., 121 Mineral Industry
 - FENCING CLUB, 7:30 p.m., north corridor, Recreation Hall
 - POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB, 7:30 p.m., Home Economics Living Center; business meeting at 7 p.m. for members only
 - WRA OFFICIALS CLUB, 6:30 p.m., 3 White Hall
 - YOUNG REPUBLICAN CLUB, 7:30 p.m., 317 Willard

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Richard Blank, Myrtle Brown, Howard Downing, Joseph Dudek, Patricia Ellis, Thomas Glenn, Theodore Herman, Anita Isenberg, Baron Kramer, Jane Mason, James McLean, Thomas Osenbach, Edward Patrick, John Pine, Cecelia Poor, Chester Potash, Libby Schore, John Shaynak, George Walker.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
Camp Starlight will interview men and women tomorrow and Saturday in Old Main.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Say, Friend, that's not quite what we mean by 'Broad Jump'."

It's About Time

By BAYLEE FRIEDMAN

There is simply no way out. Man of today, and I suspect of many yesterdays as well, is being crucified on the clock.

Senior board of the Daily Collegian was supposed to mean no late stories, no headline writing, and no deadlines. We don't worry about late stories or headlines any more. Deadlines, we worry about.

There's always a city editor or editorial director smiling his sad, sadistic smile, reminding us about tomorrow's you-know-what.

This wouldn't be so bad 'twere it just in the Collegian office that the chimes of Old Main meant a rushing of adrenalin to the cerebrum to the typewriter to the aspirin bottle. But, darn it, it happens everywhere. Boy and girl enjoying the thoughtfulness of the Class of 1900—certainly it invented benches—must keep a constant tab on the Bulova. A girl could get pinned in the two minutes between 9:13 and 9:15. Maybe engaged. That is, she could, were she not running frantically with her fellow to Mac Hall to meet a curfew. But deadlines must be met, so at 9:16 her date (ah, and he was a nice one, too) is on his way to McElwain for another hour and forty-four minutes of feminine company. So while the Watchmakers of America get richer and seniors get boyfriends, the coed-with-the-curfew gets to study.



Baylee Friedman

with studying. A few of our noted universities and grammar schools have been founded on just that principle. However, time and its limitations get in the way of education, too. For instance, Alec Guinness movies are a part of education. They are one of our few spasmodic encounters with pure, rich, elevated (that's e-l-e-v-a-t-e-d) humor. But when professors schedule bluebooks the day following "The Man in the White Suit," etc. education pays the price of education. Or vice versa.

And take the McCarthy hearings: Where but in front of the TV set can the American student get first-hand contact with the tide of the (pardon l'expression) times? Here is an opportunity to learn the ins and outs—mostly outs—of legal procedure as well as some very subtle and not so subtle name calling. We enjoy our classes. Really, we love to learn. But classes and television don't

(Continued on page five)

Tonight on WDFM

| 91.1 MEGACYCLES | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 7:30 | Record Review |
| 8:00 | Radio Nederland |
| 8:15 | Adventure in Research |
| 8:30 | Semi-pops |
| 9:15 | News |
| 9:30 | Music of America |
| 10:30 | Sign Off |

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