

Cabinet to Air Grading Plan

(This is the first in a series of two articles on the proposed grading system. Tomorrow's article will deal with a student opinion poll, and grading systems at other schools, and honor points.)

A report on a possible new grading system for the University and an evaluation of the present system will be presented to All-University Cabinet tomorrow night.

The study was done by Rudolph Lutter, a committee-of-one, at the request of Cabinet. The report contains past studies concerning the problem, a student-opinion sample, and a proposed grading system.

The proposed system suggests using numbers from 5 to 1, with the addition of decimals

for accuracy. The number 5 is required for the use of decimals and eliminates the -2 presently used. The slip, under the proposed system, is equal to a value of fifty to zero, which is the same as our present -1 and below.

The removal of the -2 is based on the fact that the student is penalized three times for one offense. 1. The student must repeat the course material, 2. he gets negative grade reports, 3. if he passes the repeated course, his college record still includes the negative grade points.

A grade of 2 or above would be required to get credit for the course, but a course could be passed without credits, with a grade of 1 to 1.9. Any grade beneath a slip .9 will be considered as failure.

Two alternate plans were suggested for the transition from the

present system to the new one.

Alternative one is that all final grades be recorded in decimals on the student's transcript. A simple key could be provided so the reader could evaluate the decimal grades in terms of grades recorded under the present system.

The second alternative is that grades be reported in decimals. The recorder's office would then record the decimal grades beginning with the freshman class. Grades would be translated to their equivalent for those who have grades reported under the old system. This means that an upperclassman who obtained a 4.5 in a course under a new system would have a 4 recorded on his transcript.

Some of the factors which Lutter felt the new grading system included were:

1. Elimination of the possibility of a superior student being rated

beneath an inferior student in a semester or an all-university average. An example is of a student carrying six 3 credit courses, getting 89 in each course, and being given a 2 semester average. A second student, also carrying six 3 credit courses, gets 90 in three, and 80 in three. He receives a numerical semester average of 85, or under our present system, a 2.5 average. This effects all students who place in the upper half of a present grade unit, from 3 to -2.

2. Letting the instructor place students in their true relative position of accomplishment. This system would let the instructor differentiate between an 80 and 89.

3. Accurately reporting the instructor's final evaluation, while not interfering with his freedom in establishing a final grade, or his choice of a method for arriving at that final grade.

4. Giving the present semester and all-university averages, computed to the hundredth, validity. The average is written in the hundredth, for example, an all-university average of 2.56, gives the appearance of a precise calculation. In the new system this would be true.

5. Establishing the instructor's right to have his evaluation of the student's relative position reported as he evaluated them, and establishing the student's right to have a true picture of his attainment in the course.

6. Giving the University a grading system which would be comparable with systems used at universities of similar size and curricula.

Lutter felt that some of the results of the system would be that it would encourage students to work at top efficiency, as they (Continued on page eight)

Today's Weather—
Cloudy and Warmer

The Daily Collegian

FOR A BETTER PENN STATE

Hell
Week?
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VOL. 55, No. 82

STATE COLLEGE, PA., WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 16, 1955

FIVE CENTS

Kaminsky to Present 'Dixieland' Concert

Max Kaminsky will present a two hour Dixieland jazz concert beginning at 7:30 tonight in Schwab Auditorium. One of the charter members of the "Chicago School of Jazz," he has been acclaimed for his new interpretations of standard jazz numbers.

Max has played with every top jazz man in the world. When

Artie Shaw recorded the all-time record hit "Begin the Beguine," it was Max's trumpet passages that contributed much to its success. Max has recorded with his all-star group on RCA Victor, Blue Note, Decca, and Columbia. Many of his earlier discs are now among the rarest and most valuable jazz collector's items.

Introduces "Saints"

One night at the Village Vanguard with his trio, the opening act did not arrive on time, and the owner asked Max to fill in a number on the show. That number was "The Saints Go Marchin' In," which Max has almost single-handedly made the national anthem of Dixieland.

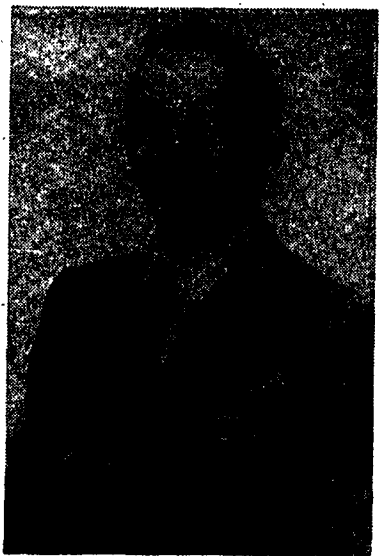
Tonight's concert will feature several campus sit-ins, Fred Waring, second semester hotel administration major, and William Rother, eighth semester forestry major, will sit in for a while with the Kaminsky group. Waring will play the trombone and Rother the electric guitar.

500 Tickets Sold

Approximately 500 tickets have been sold so far for the concert. The Jazz Club and Campus Chest are sponsoring it, with the proceeds to go to Campus Chest.

Tickets are \$1.00 and are on sale at the Student Union desk in Old Main, the Harmony Shop, at the bulletin board on the Mall, and from members of the Jazz Club. They will be on sale at the SU desk from 6:30 p.m. until the concert begins.

Members of the Jazz Club can pick up their membership cards in the lobby of Schwab Auditorium before the concert. A reserved block of seats will be set aside for members of the club.



Max Kaminsky Presents Jazz Tonight

Chess Club Beaten By Altoona Team

The Altoona Chess Club defeated the Penn State Chess Club, 5-0, in competition held Sunday afternoon in 3 Sparks.

Members of the Penn State team who played Sunday are Fredrick Kerr, second semester science major and president of the Chess Club; Robert Dejaiffe, second semester chemical engineering major, William Friedman, sixth semester science major, Owen Webster, graduate student in chemistry, and Ferenc Toth, a resident of State College.

Traffic Court Sets Record; \$159 in Fines

Keeping pace with the increase in traffic violations, traffic court established a new record for fines when it levied \$159 against violators Monday night.

The previous high was assessed at the court's Nov. 8 session when it levied \$124 against offenders.

The total could have been much higher. One violator had a ten dollar fine suspended, while four others had their cases dismissed.

The court ordered two cars be sent home, and suspended the campus driving privileges of three more for 60 days.

Three first offenders were fined a dollar each. Six three dollar fines were given to second violators. Five third-time infractors were assessed \$25, and seven had ten dollar fines given them for four or more offenses.

Along with the record-setting amount of fines, the court issued a warning to people who drive their cars on campus for three weeks or longer. They must have their vehicles registered with the Campus Patrol. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in a fine of two dollars.

Infirmiry Visiting To Be Restricted

Visiting hours will not be observed at the University Hospital for the next two or three weeks.

According to the University Health Service, the restriction of visiting hours for a short period of time is believed to minimize the spread of illness. Students suffering from colds and virus have kept the infirmiry filled to capacity during the past week. It was filled again yesterday.

Improved Administration Of Justice is Needed, Says Forum Speaker

By DON SHOEMAKER

Dr. James M. Hepbrun, noted criminologist, called for an "improvement in our administration of justice" as a partial cure for the high rate of crime in the United States at the fifth community forum last night.

"When we make apprehension highly certain, trial prompt, conviction final, and treatment adequate to suit the needs of the individual, crime can be reduced," he said.

Dr. Hepbrun told the forum audience the United States has the highest crime rate in the civilized world.

Compares Crime Rate

He pointed out that while 28 crimes of violence were committed on London streets last year, 280 were committed in his home town of Baltimore, Md.

Dr. Hepbrun said many European criminologists attribute the United States' high crime rate to inefficient and corrupt administration of justice.

As a help toward improving the situation, Dr. Hepbrun called for "community organization on a continuing basis."

Cites Program

As an example of how such an organization can help the administration of justice, Dr. Hepbrun cited a program which was undertaken in his hometown recently.

The police department and the justice system were studied to evaluate their function. Steps were taken to improve the system through careful coordination of the various branches and improving the calibre of men.

He pointed out that when the program was begun only one person was arrested for every five crimes. Today the ratio is one arrest for every two.

According to a recent study (Continued on page eight)

Men's Team Is First In Debate

The Men's Debate team took first place in the Marshall-Wythe Debate Tournament, held at William and Mary College last weekend. This is the first major tournament the University has won since the Eastern Forensic Tournament in May, 1952.

Twenty-six colleges and universities were represented at the debate. The question was resolved: That the United States should recognize the Communist government of China.

Affirmative Team

Members of the affirmative team for the University were Sidney Goldblatt, eighth semester pre-medical major, and Benjamin Sinclair, eighth semester arts and letters major. The team has five wins and one loss. It defeated Princeton University, East Tennessee State Teachers College, Emory and Henry College, Bridgewater College, Hofstra College, and lost to Notre Dame.

David Mechler, eighth semester pre-medical major, and Jonathan Plaut, fourth semester industrial engineering major, debated the negative side. They had six wins, defeating the University of Richmond, the University of Pennsylvania, Washington and Lee University, Hampden-Sidney College, the University of Tennessee, and Rutgers University.

Ties G.W.

The University tied with George Washington University in the number of wins and losses. However, Penn State was 40 points higher in speaker rating points.

The debating team won a silver trophy cup for its victory. Dr. Harold J. O'Brien, assistant professor of speech at the University and coach of the debate team, accompanied the group to the tournament.

On Thursday the team will debate at the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg on the recognition of Communist China. Debating the affirmative side for the University will be Irwin Weiner, eighth semester journalism major, and Sinclair. The negative side will be upheld by the prison.

Eng Scholarships Available Now

Several scholarships carrying awards varying from \$250 to \$500 annually are available to students in electrical engineering, industrial engineering, and mechanical engineering. E. B. Stavely, assistant dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture, has announced.

Students who are in the upper two-fifths of their class may apply for these scholarships immediately at Dr. Stavely's office, 204 Main Engineering.

Dean's Coffee Hour Set

A dean of men's coffee hour will be held at 4 p.m. tomorrow in 108 Old Main.

H-Bomb Affects 7000 Sq. Miles

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP)—The Atomic Energy Commission, in a new warning of the horrors of atomic war, said today its H-bomb blast in the Pacific last March seriously contaminated 7000 square miles.

The area affected was almost as great as the 7836 square miles covered by the state of New Jersey.

AEC Chairman Lewis L. Strauss discussed "radioactive fallout" in a report which included some information that has been secret up until now.

"Since nuclear weapons are in possession of the U.S.S.R.," Strauss said, "the commission believes the American people wish to be informed regarding the danger of

nuclear explosions and the measures which individuals can take to protect themselves if an atomic attack should ever occur.

"In the event of war involving the use of atomic weapons, the fallout from large nuclear bombs exploded on or near the surface of the earth would create serious hazard to civilian populations in large areas outside the target zones.

"The Atomic Energy Commission hopes that these dangers will never be experienced by mankind."

Today's report dealt largely with radioactive perils far beyond the point of explosion. The commission has, in earlier reports, given details on the devastation to be expected close to target points.

On the basis of test data from "the very large thermonuclear device" set off at Bikini Atoll last March and other information, the commission made the following estimates:

"Following the March 1, 1954 explosion, there was sufficient radioactivity in a downwind belt about 140 miles in length and of varying width up to 20 miles to have seriously threatened the lives of nearly all persons in the area who took no protective measures.

"Some distance farther from the point of detonation, at about 160 miles downwind and along the axis of the ellipse, the amount of radioactivity would have seriously threatened the lives of about one half of the persons in the area who took no protection measures.