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The Daily Collegian

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Grading System: A Big Bite to Chew

Tonight 25 All-University Cabinet members will work on the fate of an ambitious 36-page report on a new grading system.

Such ambition, when coupled with a well-presented report, gives the issue one point in its favor. The report makes sense. It is accurate and logical. It almost persuades the reader to accept it without question. On the surface, it seems just what the University needs. But is it?

Cabinet members should not be afraid of this report. It is long, thorough, and complicated with many statistics. But its very importance demands careful consideration. Cabinet members should ask questions on points they do not understand and not let a complicated report hush them into awed silence.

Rudolph Lutter, who investigated the matter, deals thoroughly with a proposed grading system that is accurate to the hundredth degree. Under it, each student would get exactly the grade he earned. As Mr. Lutter points out, this may encourage a student to work at his best.

But, would it tend to place too much emphasis on grades? Philosophers and educators have long cried for study for its own sake. This may not be possible at Penn State because technical fields require knowledge be learned, at any

expense. A large school needs grades and students may feel the need for more accurate and fair grades. But the emphasis this plan will put on grades should be carefully considered.

Another point to be questioned, is just how this system of a 5 to zip would differ in subtracting points for a course failed. Is it the same as our -1? The report indicates so. But, it does definitely eliminate the -2, which is the most needed change in our present system.

This, in one respect, is a tempting reason to favor this plan. But, there may be other plans which would accomplish this and more, too. It's all a matter to think over at length, and one not to accept at face value.

If this proposed plan has the same effect as the -1, then how does it differ from the 4 to -1 plan used in most other schools? In 64.5 percent of colleges similar in size and curricula to the University, the 4-0 plan is used, while none use the 5 to zip. This, too, is cause for question.

Cabinet members should try to have a good understanding of this proposed system and all its implications. Only so, can they take intelligent action. It is important that questions are asked, but it is more important what questions are asked.

-Dottie Stone

Jackets for Team?

Tonight All-University Cabinet will be asked to purchase a gift for each member of Penn State's national champion soccer team. While we, too, feel the men deserve our praise in every way possible, we urge the members of Cabinet to consider two major questions before acting on the suggestion of Richard Gordon, team manager.

First, is it the function of Cabinet to reward the University's winning athletic teams? It seems this task would fall more into a project for the Athletic Association.

Secondly, will Cabinet be setting a precedent which it cannot live up to? If Penn State should some year have many championship teams, it seems possible the Cabinet treasury might not be able to meet the demand set with the establishing of a tradition.

Historians tell us Cabinet has given athletic team awards in the past, but the tradition has lapsed. We question whether it should be started or renewed tonight.

Safety Valve—

Parking: Corrupt?

TO THE EDITOR: In my opinion this business about parking is the most ridiculous and corrupt thing in existence.

First, in order to get a parking area near where you live, you must either be completely disabled or know someone. I am a resident of Irvin Hall, and all the people who live in Irvin Hall and who have cars were given a choice of parking area 72, located directly north of Forestry, or parking area 50, located in the Jordan Fertility Plots.

Directly in back of Irvin Hall, on Curtin Road, is parking area 62. In front of Recreation Hall is area 61. Both these areas can hold all the cars from Irvin, Watts, and McKee Halls. Yet, we are given areas nearly a mile from our doors . . .

To continue, if you happen to know someone on the Traffic Court it is almost certain you won't have to pay for any tickets. When you appear before Traffic Court, they give you three choices: guilty, not guilty, and guilty under extenuating circumstances.

If you plead guilty, they fine you. If you plead not guilty, they ask you why you got the ticket. As long as you did get a ticket you must be guilty. Once again you pay. And if you plead guilty under extenuating circumstances, you are asked why these circumstances were extenuating. After you tell them, they find these circumstances were, in their opinion,

Guessing Games—

The Daily Collegian "Safety Valve" is becoming more of an incognito "you Collegian people guess who wrote this letter" every week.

We urge those students who send letters to the editor to sign their names to the letters. It is under these conditions only that the letters will be considered for publication.

In the past semester we have received a great number of letters either unsigned or signed with initials only. Many of these letters are of a nature and subject matter making them of much interest to the student body. We feel they should be offered to readers. Unfortunately, they cannot be unless they are signed.

We will withhold names from letters if writers so request and offer good reasons for such action. However, the original letters must still be signed when sent to the editor.

-Peggy McClain

Gazette . . .

- Today
- AMERICAN FOUNDRYMEN'S SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m., 209 Engineering C
- DELTA SIGMA PI, 7:30 p.m., Alpha Sigma Phi
- FENCING CLUB, 7:30 p.m., North Corridor, Rec Hall
- FROTH AD CANDIDATES, 8 p.m., Froth Office
- FROTH AD STAFF, 7:30 p.m., Froth Office
- FROTH CIRCULATION STAFF, 7:30 p.m., 316 Sparks
- FUTURE TEACHERS OF AMERICA, 7 p.m., 317 Willard
- LANTERN EDITORIAL STAFF, new and old, 7:30 p.m., 104 Willard
- NEWMAN CLUB, 7:30 p.m., 304 Old Main
- NEWMAN CLUB DAILY ROSARY, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church
- OUTING CLUB, 7:30 p.m., 121 Sparks
- UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
- Lois Berquist, Jerome Breiter, Patricia Brown, Clarence Bryan, Dorothea Cassel, Helene Cohen, Robert Cubison, Gerhart, Vincent Girardy, Warren Gittlen, Harold Harding, Andrew Hibler, Irene Jacob, Paul Kauffman, Frances Katz, Lee Kummer, John Kurtz, Berardino Malabed, John McNeill, Thomas Muller, Evelyn Poblicky, Martha Rankin, Robert Reid, Robert Ryall, Joan Shaddinger, William Shawley, Carl Skooglund, Edgar Smith, Ronald Stark, John Szendrey, William Troutman, John Tunell, David Williams, Michael Znacho.

not extenuating at all. So there you are, left holding the proverbial bag . . .

There are many solutions to this problem. First, give students parking areas near where they reside. Second, increase the available parking facilities. Third, forbid first and second semester students to have cars on campus. Last and far from least, replace some of the members on Traffic Court with impartial men such as Dean of Men Simes.

Under the present system, I don't see why students such as I continue to have the foolish notion that maybe the members of the Traffic Court will see it our way. Now I know this will never happen under this system . . .

●Letter Cut

-Sidney A. Schreiber

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Boy, you should see some of the girls that come out of that house."

Marcie Beaucoup

By MARCIE MacDONALD

The Cavaliers were out Tuesday night; they gave a half hour concert over behind McElwain to a court-full of darkened windows in which were stationed dozens of appreciative coeds.

The coeds were very disappointed when they left; despite house meetings, books, and the like, everybody takes a break when the rich voices of the Cavaliers warm the cold night.

There's something very worthwhile about the idea of four young men giving their time and talent to the purpose of entertaining their fellow students. They must get cold as icebergs standing ankle deep in snow while they present their "concerts," but they love every minute of it. And they sound wonderful.

While the boys stop for breath between songs, the more daring girls call out requests. Sometimes they are granted, sometimes not. It doesn't really matter; hats off and a big thank you to the singing Cavaliers!

The one thing the Daily Collegian doesn't have is a music critic, but never let it be said we ever let such a group as the Cavaliers go by without comment.

As long as we're speaking of music and hats off, congratulations are in order to the Jazz Club for getting organized and active about as quickly as any other campus organization that's been born around here in years.

The Max Kaminsky concert last night was the product of this baby group's efforts. Right good results, they tell me. Of course, not everybody's crazy about jazz, but the club members explain that we "just don't understand it."

But anyway, for those that un-

derstand and appreciate, the Jazz Club has grown up to be a real dynamo.

One small complaint, still on the subject of music, has been voiced by a lot of people at certain times following big dances. That is, why do the "name" orchestras that come to colleges to play for these dances insist on presenting what turns out to be concerts without the benefit of chairs for the audience?

There is a difference between a concert and a dance; the first is for listening, the second for dancing. Lots of the small southern colleges have a very nice system whereby the orchestra or band in question presents a rousing, boisterous, free concert in a smoke-filled auditorium during the afternoon before the dance.

This way, the musicians and cats alike get all the screaming and stomping out of their respective systems beforehand, and when the hour for the dance arrives, everybody is quite satisfied to take it easy and relax to real dance music.

This avoids innumerable cases of spinal fracture of the tibia.

Music hath charms, in the right place at the right time.

Tonight on WDFM

S.I. MEGACYCLES	
7:25	Sign On
7:30	Adventures in Research
7:45	As You Believe
8:00	Concert Cameos
8:30	Just Out
9:00	Guest Star Ella Logan
9:15	The Master's Palette
9:30	Thought for the Day
10:30	

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