

# Objections Seen in Eliminating Grades From Nation's Colleges, Universities

**Editor's Note:** This is the last in a series of three articles on grading systems and grading experiments in the nation's colleges.

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Collegiate Press Service

If grades are generally acknowledged to be an inadequate measure of a student's achievement, especially in areas of creativity and initiative, if they lead to a distortion of the educational process, replacing intellectual curiosity with memory-cramming and luck, if their over-emphasis leads to psychological and sometimes actual illness—then why do not more colleges and universities eliminate or modify their grading systems in favor of a broader form of evaluation?

Two objections persist when discussing the possible elimination of grades:

● A thorough verbal evaluation, such as that given at Bennington and Sarah Lawrence is time-consuming and expensive. It is feasible at these two colleges because of the small enrollments and faculties which are willing to spend the necessary time. As the size of the college increases, this form of evaluation would become more and more impracticable.

● Graduate schools tend to insist on the need for grades in determining admission, although some admit that they could reluctantly learn to do without them. Many of these same graduate schools no longer issue grades once the student is admitted. Most graduate school have learned to compensate for the variations in computing grades among various colleges, but they quake in consternation at the thought of interpreting a multitude of vague evaluations.

A college which changes to a verbal evaluation instead of the conventional grades runs the very real risk that its students may be discriminated against in the competition for graduate school and other awards, whether such discrimination be intentional or un-

intentional.

Lawrence W. Hanlon, M.D., director of admissions, Cornell University Medical College, has said: "In my experience with some of these unusual methods of reporting academic standing, there is frequently so much uncertainty about a student's academic ability that he simply can't be considered for admission."

The University of Minnesota's Louis T. Safer, who conducted a recent grading experiment in the university's general college, reports encountering a similar difficulty. General College has tried experimenting with many types of grading systems over the years, Safer said, but always it runs into the problem of interpreting the results within the university framework. How, for instance, are various unusual evaluations to be interpreted in determining whether a student has met the requirement for graduation or for transferring to another college?

Regarding changes in the grading system, the Conference on College Grading systems noted: "Conversations are still going on; inquiries are still being received. Much detailed discussion is in order; research is sorely needed. Some colleges, it is hoped, will experiment. Grades will not soon be abandoned—but their dominion is challenged."

While encouraging further experimentation, two more immediate steps can be taken to modify the damaging effects of an obsession with grades:

(1) Grades should be de-emphasized as an end in themselves. They must be recognized as only one measure of a student's achievement, a measure which by itself cannot be the absolute criterion for rewards and privileges, whether academic or otherwise.

(2) Whenever possible, the cryptic letter grade should be supplemented with a further evaluation of the student's strengths and weaknesses, to offer a more complete picture of his intellectual growth.

## University Alumni Receive Awards

Three University alumni have been given bronze medallions for outstanding achievement from the School of Business Administration.

Winners of the distinguished awards are Anton F. Peterson, general manager of the San Jose

Mercury and San Jose News; Oswald R. Burghardt, secretary and assistant treasurer of the Flying Tiger Line, Inc. of Lockheed Air Terminal, Burbank, Calif.; and Robert Harrison, owner and president of the Willamette Valley Company, building and industrial suppliers.

## Montgomery To Address UO Business Group

F. F. "Monte" Montgomery, majority leader of the Oregon House of Representatives, will speak on the recent findings on the Workman's Compensation Act in Oregon at 7 p.m. Monday in the Student Union.

Montgomery will also discuss the future of the state Republican Party.

His speech is being sponsored by Alpha Kappa Psi, professional business fraternity, and the University Insurance Society.

## Group to Discuss Viet Nam Policy

The Faculty-Student Committee to Stop the War in Viet Nam is urging faculty, students, and townspeople to send telegrams and letters to President Johnson to stop the air attacks on North Viet Nam until negotiations can be made.

Debates on such questions as "Should the U.S.A. pursue a policy of cease-fire and negotiated withdrawal, leaving the Vietnamese to determine their own government; or a policy of negotiation and compromise, with an American presence maintaining a role in Viet Nam's political future?" will be held at 8 p.m. today in the SU.

The meeting will be aimed at giving maximum opportunity for presentation of different points of view.



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**Dear "Dairy" . . .**

Well, I did it and I'm glad. I went right down to 13th and Hilyard and treated myself of a D.Q. cone, banana split, shake and soda. It was delightful! I'm now making it a part of my daily schedule in between Soc. and Geog. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Don't you think it's a marvelous idea "dairy?" Don't you think everyone should?

**Dairy Queen**  
13th and Hilyard



Erin Gray, latest discovery of Thermo-Jac's nationwide search for models for TJ's sportwear ads in Seventeen Magazine, will appear at Naomi's this weekend.

Erin will give tips on grooming, posing for national ad photography and to tell girls about her trip to St. Louis for her Thermo-Jac modeling assignment. You can be a winner too. Erin appears in the TJ ad in full color in the January issue of Seventeen Magazine.

Enter our TJ contest and win a TJ outfit and at the same time

Enter our TJ search for Models for Seventeen Magazine. Friday and Saturday January 7 and 8

Clip this form and come in. Try on your favorite TJ outfit—we take your picture. Who knows—you may be a winner.

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