

Retroactive N as F not fair to students

With the installation of a new University computer system, N's will now be counted as F's when GPAs are computed and printed on each term's grade reports.

While the policy of counting N's as F's has been in effect since 1978, the University has never had the means to compute cumulative and term GPAs. Now that it has a new computer system, it plans to enforce the policy retroactively.

However, the policy adopted in 1978 stipulates that each student is allowed 15 credit hours of N's before the no-pass grades count against his or her GPA. The University's new computer system — which can determine a student's overall GPA or GPA in classes in a declared major as well as perform many other services — currently does not have the ability to delete the first 15 hours of N's from a student's grade record.

First of all, instituting the policy retroactively is not fair to students who thought any N's, let alone the first 15 hours, would not hurt their GPA. And, although the policy was passed in 1978, students have not been aware of it because it was not enforced.

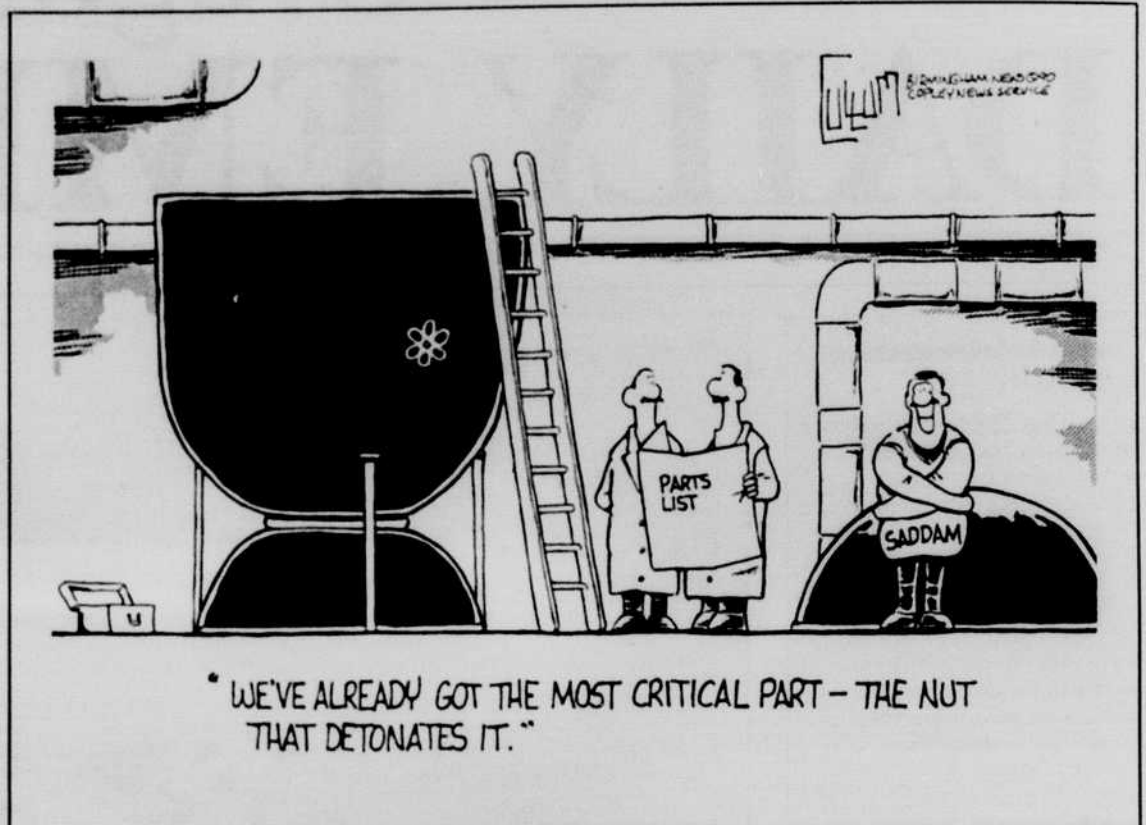
If the University wants to start enforcing the policy, it should make the rule effective beginning with this term's grades. To make the policy retroactive is like the National Basketball Association going back to games played before the three-point rule was instituted and trying to refigure final scores.

Students whose GPAs fall below 2.00 can be forced to leave school or prevented from graduating. Counting N's as F's could have serious consequences for some students. The administration has said it will review instances where students could be penalized on a case-by-case basis.

Students who are in danger of being dropped from the University or who may not be able to graduate will have to go before the Scholastic Review Committee to argue their cases. At that time, the 15 hours of N's will be dropped. This is unfair to students who thought they were following the rules.

GPAs are important to students applying to graduate school. Some employers also have minimum GPAs for potential employees. All students who can prove they have a valid reason for needing the 15 hours of N's dropped should be allowed to do so without going before a committee.

Most importantly, if P's aren't figured into GPAs as passing grades, then N's should not be figured in as failing ones.



Guardsmen's refusal a noble concept

An Oregon Army National Guardsman refused a possible assignment in the Middle East because he questions the constitutionality of the American presence in the Persian Gulf.

What a concept. An American soldier thinking for himself. We hope it is contagious.

The reason young men and women constitute the majority of enlisted personnel is because they are most likely to obey without thinking. All too often, American military troops are deployed and ordered to act without thinking.

Soldiers are taught to follow orders, even if it means going against personal beliefs. Conscientious objectors must prove beyond all doubt that they oppose wars and killings on religious grounds in order to avoid military duty.

At least two University students in the reserves are being activated. If the United States already has 400,000 troops in the Persian Gulf, why are college students being

called up the week before finals if President Bush doesn't plan on war?

One Oregon national guardsman is refusing Middle East deployment on constitutional grounds. He believes only Congress, not the president, has the right to declare war. And he's right.

While a few of us remember Vietnam and the horrors of its casualties, most of the younger students remember the swift, easy butt-kicking we gave Grenada and Panama in the 1980s.

No comparison can be made to those situations and the current Middle East crisis. The United States gave millions of dollars to Saddam Hussein throughout the decade. That does not say much for American intelligence.

Every soldier that questions America's presence in the Gulf should stand up and say so publicly. But until that happens, we will continue to be what William Lederer called "A Nation of Sheep."

LETTERS

Violent pit

This letter is in response to Greg Zobel's letter concerning over-amped bouncers and security personnel at the Bob Mould show on Nov. 11.

I, too, have seen this thing happen at various "punk-alternative" and "thrash metal" shows.

This summer, a band known as Suicidal Tendencies played at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland. A near-riot ensued due to the blatant violence and ignorance the security personnel used at that show. They obviously didn't know what "the pit" was all about. In the newspaper the next day, the near-riot was blamed on the crowd.

But I have also seen shows where the bouncers and security personnel were actually decent enough to allow the crowd to slam and mosh. They were merely there to protect the property and to break up the occasional fight.

For those bouncers and security personnel involved in these types of things, remember one thing: The pit is violent.

The whole nature of the pit is violence. But it's not a mali-

cious violence. It's just the crowd letting out their pent-up anger and frustrations while still having a good time.

The pit has been around for a long time and you won't be able to put an end to it.

Jason Warner
Student

Warm and fuzzy

In response to Carolyn Hauck's letter (ODE, Nov. 27):

Not all animals are warm-blooded mammals. Cats and dogs are animals, but so are cockroaches, fish, mosquitoes, lizards, fleas, oysters, ticks and slugs. This information can be found in any basic biology textbook.

I agree that we should treat all animals with respect. Why do people who defend animal rights only consider those animals that are warm and fuzzy?

Devon Wiel
Biology

Speak up now

President Bush has given several reasons explaining the presence of what will be 400,000 American troops in the

Middle East, such as protecting America's economic interests, not rewarding aggression, protecting innocent lives, and achieving stability in the Middle East.

In addition to this, most Americans do not want war. How many American and Arab soldiers and civilians must die before the American people, the Congress, and the president realize that a huge offensive force in the Middle East is absurd?

The conflicts in the Middle East have been a tragic and troubling question for rulers and revolutionaries over the millennia. For Bush to believe that he can achieve stability there with a "short" war is incredibly unrealistic.

If we're going to have a war, it needs to have the firm support of the American people, so all of you who think that a Middle East war will make the world a better place, raise your hands.

All the rest of you, speak out against war now.

Jennifer Potter
Student

Coke no saint

Though the issues of the Coke boycott are complex, we feel that it is necessary to share hard facts to lessen this complexity:

Nelson Mandela, on his recent African National Congress tour of the United States, called for intensification of sanctions against the continuing genocidal system of apartheid.

ANC refused a Coke donation to help finance Mandela's tour, took out Coke machines in the hotel where Mandela stayed in Oakland the night before he spoke, took all Coke products off Mandela's chartered jet, and asked stadiums where Mandela spoke not to sell Coke products. Martin Luther King III introduced Mandela in Boston by asking Americans to support the Coke boycott.

The campaign does not advocate the selling of one beverage over another. The Coke boycott simply opposes the sale of Coca-Cola on the University campus and nationwide, due to its failure to sever all ties to apartheid.

We acknowledge Coca-Cola's vast contributions to worthy causes in the United States and the establishment of the Equal Opportunity Foundation in South Africa. We encourage Coca-Cola to continue with these humanitarian efforts.

The bottom line, however, is that Coca-Cola has not completely divested from South Africa.

Coke sells for 80 cents a can in South Africa. Ten cents from every sale goes to the South African government in the form of sales tax.

The facts are clear: Coca-Cola is still profiting from apartheid. Every sip of Coke you take supports a system of white supremacy that establishes Black Africans as second-class citizens in their own lands.

Wake up people and think about it. ...

Eric Ward
Black Student Union
John Lunsford
Students Against Apartheid
Killjan A. Anderson
ASUO Programs Coordinator
Friday, November 30, 1990