

Is Nothing Sacred?

By Stan Meihaus

The other day, I got a B++ on an English paper. I didn't think it should have been a higher grade; in fact, the professor was quite generous. The problem was that I didn't exactly understand what a B++ meant. Hence, this article.

It seems as though a "B" can range anywhere from 85-92 on a 7-point scale, and anywhere from 80-90 on a 10-point scale. A "B+" on a 7-point scale would be the numerical equivalent of a 91, and a "B+" on a 10-point scale would be the numerical equivalent of an 88. A "B++" on a 7-point scale is a 92 and an 89 on a 10-point scale. Confusing? To say the least.

Are you ready for the minuses?

A "C" is anything from an 84-77 (7-pt.) or 80-70 (10-pt.). A "C-" on a 7-point scale would be a 78, or a 71 on a 10-point scale.

A "C--" is a 77, or a 70, depending on the scale you use. Now here's the catch.

None of this matters on your final grade.

The registrar (that's the person who prints your report card) ignores all plus and minus signs. If your professor sends down a "B+" for your final grade, the registrar writes down a "B." Conceivably, you could have a 92, which is much closer to an "A" than it is to a "B" and still only get credit for a "B."

Another problem with the letter grade is the way it is converted into your grade point average. An "A" is worth four points, a "B" is worth three, a "C" two, and so on. But why should a 92 "B" be worth only three points instead of, say, 3.5?

There are some really intelligent reasons for this method of grading. 1) The computer only prints letter grades, not numbers or plus or minus signs. 2) It's traditional. And 3) It's easier to translate grades for transfer students. Are we so backwards that we can't re-program a computer? Do we have to ignore change simply because it's change? And is the college for AC students, or for students transferring from other colleges or universities?

There are a number of solutions for this little oversight. One is to simply use numbers. If your average is 88, your grade is an 88, not a "B." For those who think this is unnecessary and too complicated to translate for transfer students, there is an alternate solution. Use both numbers and letters. Your grade would be "88-B" or "79-C." Also, we need to come up with a better system of converting grades into the GPA. Some people are obviously being cheated out of points that, in most cases, are sorely needed.

By the way, none of this is the registrar's fault. She is, as they say, "just doing her job." But I think it's time for a change in our grading system. We need a fairer, more accurate way of evaluating student performance in class.

I, for one, need all the help I can get!



'Collegiate' Business Booms

By Lisa Boykin

Six weeks ago "The Collegiate" resumed publication for the fall semester. Although somewhat optimistic, the staff (comprised of five people including the editors and adviser) in no way anticipated the response thus far generated by the paper.

People are actually volunteering to write stories and we now have a staff of 25. We no longer have to print the propaganda we receive in the mail either. Even more remarkable, people are actually reading the paper, not just thumbing through it looking for coupons.

I have been so amazed at the fact that the papers are disappearing before noon on Wednesdays, that I was beginning to believe that someone was taking all of them. Not taking one at a time mind you, but 10 or 15; I don't know what I thought they were doing with them, but I was almost convinced.

I'm not complaining. As a matter of fact, I'm very pleased-shocked, but pleased. Whereas last year our motto was "We print anything," this year it is

"We print anything, if we can fit it in." For the first time in recent "Collegiate" history, the staff is being forced to leave out articles. Last semester we had to make up stories in order to prevent leaving blank pages.

The many compliments we have received are much appreciated and, believe it or not, so are the criticisms, the constructive ones that is. But some of the comments regarding Stan Meihaus' column "Is Nothing Sacred?" do deserve comment.

Stan has been accused of many things: muckraking, nit-picking, being a chronic complainer, complaining too much for a freshman and many others.

Contrary to the belief of some, Stan's columns do serve a purpose and do involve careful thought and research. His columns are aimed at student concerns and problems. They are intended to help students. Ironically, those finding fault with Stan's articles seem to be the students. Many administrators have actually voiced their approval of the column. They have seen and understood the prob-

lems and they are not offended by Stan's ideas and charges.

Is it possible that some upper-classmen are threatened by a freshman up-start? Just because Stan has the initiative and gall to express his opinions students are finding it necessary to verbally assault him. Well folks, we at the "Collegiate" are glad to have Stan on our side and we don't intend to let him go.

We do however, offer an open-forum to any student, faculty or staff member. If you have a complaint, response, compliment, problem, whatever, and you wish to have it printed, submit it to the "Collegiate" in the form of a Letter to the Editor. Letters must be submitted by Friday midnight and must be signed. A phone number where the writer can be reached must be included in case any questions arise concerning the content of the letter. The "Collegiate" office is in the basement of Hardy Alumni Hall. If no one is in, leave the letter attached to the door.

ATTENTION All ACC students must bring their IDs to the soccer and basketball home games for free admission. Students without their IDs, at the gate, will be asked to return for them, or to pay the student admission fee.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

"Is Reagan a Warmonger?" hardly presents a convincing argument in proposing a similarity between the recent Libyan incident and the conflict in the Gulf of Tonkin which took place during the Democratic Johnson administration. The circumstances surrounding the two confrontations are vastly more different than they are alike. When the Libyan incident occurred, the U.S. Navy was conducting a legitimate military exercise in international waters. It is very disturbing to me that any American would assume that President Reagan is a warmonger unless there is a complete lack of understanding and knowledge of the very complex and interrelated world in which we live today.

Respectfully,
Randy Woodruff

Social Science Club

As most students on campus probably know, social studies includes a wide range of curriculum including history, political science, economics, geography and sociology. What you probably do not know, however, is that majors in all of these fields as well as other interested persons are not only welcomed but encouraged to join the Social Science Club.

The club meets every Tuesday from 11 to 11:30 a.m. in Hines 205. The organization is engaged in various activities including a cook-out at 5 p.m.,

Oct. 1 at the Wilson Recreation Park off Raleigh Road. All who are interested in attending are encouraged to sign up on the sheet posted outside the social studies office door.

The club hopes to remain active but in order to be so, active and eager students are asked to join the organization. So

The opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of "The Collegiate" or the college.

COLLEGIATE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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