STARTS TOMORROW



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tablishment of an experimental pass-fail grading system at the University was recently submitted by a Student Government committee to the Administration for study.) Strict systems of grading,

class rank, and quality point averages, have long come under fire for some of the problems they present to the University. One of the proposals currently being experimented with to alleviate the disadvantages from strict letter grading is the concept of

Currently in use, in one form or another, at over thirty institutions of higher learning, including our "sister" institution, Duke University, the pass-fail idea is also being experimented with at six institutions receiving money from the Ford Foundation for experimentation with this idea. Originating at Princeton, the publicity which the pass-fail concept has received, has appeared everywhere from educational journals to News-

(Editor's note-the following text of a proposal for the esdents desiring additional flex- in course work. ibility in the education they is no panacea. It will not revolutionize our whole educational system, nor will it change any campus into an ideal edu-

cational community overnight. We do believe, however, that a pass-fail system can be of great benefit to the University in the following ways:

-It would permit students to venture out of their major field of study without fearing a lower grade point average, and hence, a lower class

dents and teachers to be more fail courses, the student shall

The following proposal was deeply interested in a meanadopted by a group of stu- ingful criterion of excellence

-It would reduce some of are bing offered in Chapel the intense pressures and an-Hill. We realize that pass-fail xieties of the current grade point system.

-It would allow individuals to do increased independent study in areas only touched on by the courses normally of-

We recommend that: -Of the forty course units required for graduation, each undergraduate be allowed to designate six course units for a pass-fail grading.

-These six courses may be taken in the sophomore, junior, or senior year, provided -It would force both stu- that prior to taking any pass-

have a major, and shall have with an asterick, and a brief a 2.0 grade point average.

A Proposal To Improve UNC's Grading System

-No pass-fail grading may be used in a required course in the General College, or a course required by a department for a major in that department.

No student be obligated to take any course for pass-fail. -Students must pre-register as pass-fail members of a class; at the end of the drop-

add period, this status becomes permanent. This does not preclude, however, the student dropping the course altogether.

-All professors shall have

made available to them the the names of students taking the course for pass-fail. The professor will then grade the work of these students in the course with a "pass" or "fail" (P or F), or some other variant of the grading system that he feels consonant with the pass-fail system. In order to set minimum standards for judging whether or not a student should receive "pass" or "fail" in the course, a grade of "pass" shall roughly correspond to a grade of "D" or above and "fail" shall roughly correspond to a grade be-

-At the end of the semester, the professor shall record on his grade sheet beside the name of each "passfail" student a letter grade of "P" or "F". On the student's permanent transcript, the

explanation of the meaning of the grade "P" for an under-graduate shall be printed beside the asterick at the bottom of the transcript.

-In the event that a student wishes to major in a field in which he has previously received a pass-fail credit, we recommend that the credit remain on his record as it is. but that he be allowed to take an additional course above the requried number in his major. if he so chooses, for which he will receive a standard letter

-Consideration be given by the Phi Beta Kappa chapter to including not more than six hours of pass-fail credit in the seventy-five hours required for consideration for membershin at the end of seven

semesters.

-Professors be encouraged to allow students to do independent study for pass - fail credit in areas in which they teach general courses when a student wishes to do concentrated study. For example, a student taking a course in the nolitics of Africa might be allowed to receive pass-fail credit for that course for studying AFrica in generaly only half of the semester, and concentrating on Ethiopia or Ghana the other half.

-At the end of two semesters after the institution of the pass-fail program, the Chancellor's Committee on Teaching and Curriculum shall make an extensive evaluation of the program and shall make recommendations toward the improvement of the program to the Chancellor.

If students are to be freer to shape the education which they receive at the University, they must be allowed greater flexibility in the courses they choose and the subjects in which they do intensive study. They should not be penalized in their academic study for broadening themselves.

Adoption of the pass-fail system such as is outlined above, would allow the physics major to take a course in English

literature without endangering his opportunities for grade standing. It would allow the political science major to take a course in music appreciation without hurting his chances for excellence in academic

It could free both students and teachers from the arduous task of arriving at an exact grade and allow them the freedom to put that energy where it belongs: in the pursuit of knowledge. This is a change which would, we feel, contribute substantially to the excellence of the academic community for Chapel Hill.

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## IT'S A NORTH WIND THAT BLOWS NO GOOD

(By the author of "Rally Round the Flag, Boys!"

"Dobie Gillis," etc.)

Crushed between the twin millstones of January weather and final exams, you are saved from total despair, poor devils, only by the knowledge that winter vacation will soon be here.

Where will you go this year? Will it be Florida again, or are you tired of jails? Then how about Puerto Rico? A most excellent notion, say I. A balmy and bounteous island with long white beaches and blue, blue skies and green, healing seas. And, most pleasant of all, the warm and gracious people of Puerto Rico! You don't even have to know Spanish to communicate with this friendly folk. Just learn three simple phrases and you'll get along splendidly: "Buenos dias" which means "Good morning," "Gracias" which means "Thank you," and "Que será

será" which means "Your llama is on my foot." In order to help you enjoy the fabled land of Puerto Rico it would be well for me to supply a bit of historical background. (It would also be well for me to say a few words about Personna Super Stainless Steel Blades because the makers of Personna Super Stainless Steel Blades pay me to write this column and they are inclined to sulk if I omit to mention their product. Of course, they don't stay gloomy long, for they are kindly, cheery men fond of Morris dancing, spelling bees, and temperance punch-fine, upright types, as true and gleaming and durable as the blades they make. And if you've tried Personna's, you know how true and gleaming and durable that is! And if you haven't tried Personna's, poor devil, you've cheated both your purse and face, for Personna's last and last, shave after luxury shave, close, clean, nickless, hackless, tugless, gougeless, scratchless, matchless. Personna Super Stainless Steel Blades come in Double Edge or Injector style and are made only by the makers of Personna Super Stainless Steel Blades.)

But I digress. Back to the history of Puerto Rico. The island was discovered by that popular discoverer Christopher Columbus. Incidentally, considering Columbus' popularity, it's odd we know so little about him. What do we really know? Only this:

He was born in Genoa on August 25, 1451, the son of Ralph T. Columbus, a knee-cymbal vendor, and Eleanor (Swifty) Columbus, a low hurdler. He was an only child except for his five brothers and eight sisters. From early childhood he was an avid reader and spent all his waking hours immersed in a book. Unfortunately, there was only one book in Genoa at the time-Care of the Horse by Aristotle-and after 18 years of reading Care of the Horse, Columbus grew restless. When rumor reached him there was another book in Madrid, off he ran as fast

as his little fat legs would carry him.

Disappointment, alas, awaited him there. The only book in Madrid was Cuidar un Cáballo, which proved to be nothing more than a Spanish translation of Care of the Horse.

Then one day Columbus heard from a traveller that there were millions of books in India, and he was instantly ablaze to set sail. Off he ran on his little fat legs to the court of Ferdinand and Isabella (Columbus, though more than six feet tall, was plagued with little fat legs all his life) and, as we all know, he persuaded the Spanish rulers to outfit him with three stout ships, the Flopsy, the Mopsy, and the Cottontail, and the rest is history!



Well sir, now you know all about the origins of Puerto Rico. So get packed and get going! You'll love it! Stroll the beaches, swim the coves, breathe the fragrance of hibiscus and bougainvillea. And remember always that the friendly Puerto Ricans are delighted to show you their customs, teach you their language. Why, I'll wager you'll soon know far more Spanish than the three basic phrases. You'll know "Hasta la vista" which means "See you later." "Por fávor" which means "Please," and "El tren se paró en las estación" which means "Your llama has eaten my passport."

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