Pass/Fail System
Under Consideration
Faculty senate may Eliminate Option

by John Vaughn

The pass/fail policy is a major concern at Kent State. Last year, 69,917 students, only 3830 students chose the pass/fail option. According to the Faculty Senate, it allows elimination of grades. If the Kent State Faculty Senate has its way, every University student will be working for a letter grade for all subjects. The pass/fail system would be eliminated.

History Professor Kenneth Collins, Chairman of the Faculty Senate, was quoted in the Daily Kent Stater as saying that the fate of the pass/fail grade system is now in peril because of the April 25 Senate recommendation to the University to d e tach this op tion. The Faculty Senate believes the academic affairs of the faculty.

The main objectives of the pass/fail policy included students taking harder courses as electives without having their grade point average, since a grade of “pass” or “fail” carries no point value. As established by the university, the pass/fail system can only be used for electives, not required courses.

Concern has been expressed over the abuse of the option. Rudolph Butlar, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at KSU, said in the Stater, “The pass/fail system is used by students to get out of doing class work. Pass/fail courses are not conducive to maximizing the learning experience.”

Norman Bernier, professor of Educational Foundations and a member of the Senate’s Pass/Fail Study Committee, also in the Stater, spoke positively of the system:

“Pass/fail is a terrific idea outside the area of general requirement. It encourages students to take harder electives than they normally would if these classes were graded.”

The Stater reports that 41 pass/fail courses were offered last fall in 39 of these, students who opted to take pass/fail had lower grades than those who did not, according to the report submitted by the Pass/fail Committee. The Committee also reported that out of last year’s total course enrollment of 69,917 students, only 3,830 students chose the pass/fail option.

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After "The Day After"

by John Vaughn

From the beginning of time there have been disputes and wars; yet we are still shocked when it actually happens in a war that we cannot relate to as a threat to our nation. The American people had to meaning to the people and therefore, we were sacrifising our nation's youth at numbers far too great just to get the job done.

Viet Nam, however, we began to wonder if our country's interest was the best interest of the US. We were not winning the war, the enemy was doing just fine, we were sacrificing our nation's youth at numbers far too great to get the job done. We are now "Peace Keeping" in Jordan and Grenada. Our armed forces are ready and within minutes we can have troops shipped from shores to shore in the Middle East.

What does this mean? Why are we interested in the stabilisation of another nation's government? Are we interested in the fact that people think of our involvement in Jordan, Grenada and other areas?

In a recent interview, Jeffer Orenstein, Associate Professor of Political Science was asked to share his opinion concerning these issues.

A: One of the principles of attempting to resist and maintain order in the present in formation is to keep the power of forces. Great power, meaning the United States and the UN, should never make sens in the sense that if they come we can expose Russians to expulse an international organization like the United Nations in case of need.

The principle is that nobody will fire at them because they are taking care of the world. What is true is that the area would be pacified.

The problem in something like Lebanon is that government has fired on them. No sane rational group of people, but you're dealing with terrorists and they are evidently willing to do anything, up to and including attacking the United States.

So while they couldn't defeat the terrorist in that fight they can give suits and cause terrible casualties in that area and in that area like that. That is the nature of terrorist attacks.

The problem in Lebanon if we can pull out of Lebanon at the present time we would have to be sending a message to the world that we could be invaded. It can't be allowed.

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December 7, 1983

Call Your Grammar!

SDC Goal: Academic Success

by John Vaughn

Who is Grammar Moses and where does she live? Grammar Moses aka Mrs. Forman is stationed in the Learning Resource Center. Mrs. Forman runs the Student Development Center, a valuable resource to any student having trouble with a course or seeking to improve his academic skills.

The S.D.C. offers a wide variety of self and self-help materials. However, this does not mean that when you go there for help that you will be on your own. You will be interviewed and your individual needs will be assessed. Your problem areas will be mapped out and a self-help program assigned to you.

If a tutor is needed, one will be assigned and no charge. Tutors are available up to two hours of free tutoring per week will be allowed. If it is determined that a tutor is not needed, Mrs. Forman will work with you to determine if you need a new, self-paced, software-based, self-paced program and the vast collection of textbooks and resource material found in Room 11.

The S.D.C. is open to all students at KSUC. In graduate students have found the need to call on the center for some initial level of reinforcement.

The S.D.C. also offers the Grammars Moses and MaTh Hotline services for short answer questions. You can reach either "Grammar" or "MaTh" by calling 990-9900, Ext. 363 anytime during normal S.D.C. hours.

Free tutoring services are available for most subjects. There are exam files for most courses, a writing clinic and a reading program designed to improve both comprehension and speed.

In addition, foreign students who are having trouble with the English language can enroll in Mrs. Forman's "English as a Second Language" course.

Mrs. Forman refers to the S.D.C. as a "Skill Center" and stressed that students should not wait until their grades are in trouble to sign up for classes. Students who fall behind in their course work, rather than those with special circumstances demanding extra help, should sign up for classes at the S.D.C. as soon as possible.

Mrs. Forman is a graduate of Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She taught in the English and Spanish Department at Kent Campus, Department of Thought and Language at Michigan State University, and the Environmental Program and other English programs at Kent State University.

The Academic Success Program at the S.D.C. is full of valuable resources which it will cost you your time.

Christmas Traditions

Many have varied origins

by Anne Grant

Christmas is a family time. Not only is it a time to share in the celebration, but it is a time to share in the fun of preparing for the celebration.

Throughout the years many customs have become associated with Christmas. Some of them are still used today, such as decoration of homes, and the Christmas card and seal.

Holly, ivy and mistle toe were favorite decorations in early times, and they are still popular. They were used to decorate churches because they were green all year. Both were necessary in the house to insuring the blessings of good luck. In the early times mistletoe was held sacred. The English began the custom of kissing under the mistletoe. According to tradition, girls standing under it cannot refuse to be kissed.

The lovely custom of decorating and lighting evergreen trees at Christmas time has come originally from Germany. No one knows when or where it was first custom begun, so it is believed by some people that the idea may have been started centuries earlier by the primitive tribes of Egypt or Rome.

Today, candles, stars and bells are universally used as Christmas decorations. The Christian use of candles, symbol of Christ, "The Light of the World," is said to be a combination of Roman and Hebraic customs. The origin of the Christmas star or Star of Bethlehem is associated with the Biblical story of the Wise Men guiding them to the Christ Child. It is believed that the first belief was used by Christians in Italy about 400 A.D.

Another holiday custom is the Yule Log, which symbols of Drusian tradition has it that the Druids carefully selected a large log from a sacred tree. The log was then blessed and burned.

The celebration of the Nativity is said to have begun in the church in Italy perhaps as early as the eighth century.

Another custom, that of giving gifts, comes from the gifts given to the Christ Child at his birth by the Wise Men. Today's presents are symbols of the first gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The celebration of which was sent the first Christmas card, and when it happened, is still unsettled, but is said to have started in England. The idea of Christmas Seals originated with a postal clerk, Elmar Holzbohl, born in Denmark in 1865, who developed a plan to sell Christmas Seals during the holidays using funds from the sale to build a hospital for children suffering from tuberculosis. The first Christmas Seals were printed and printed in 1904 in Denmark.

It is easy to see that many people and ideas of yesteryear have come to influence what today we regard as traditional Christmas customs. As each generation carries out its traditions, there is further blending of the ethnic past with new ideas which may someday become part of the established symbols of our celebration.

Music Opportunities

Available at KSUC

by Joan Bedwell

The course offerings for Spring Semester carefully provide many opportunities for students who are music majors or non-majors interested in music. Dr. Fat Grasenish, KSUC Music Department faculty member, has organized both KSUC and Stark Technical College Music Department classes for the following when registering for Spring classes:

New Course—Piano for Non-Music Students (17011), two credit hours. This course is designed for non-music students as an introduction to music. The course is a survey of the development of classical music in the U.S. and its influence on all music. Interesting elective. Folk Style, Guitar Techniques, and Classical Guitar Class (4010). The course is a survey of the development of the curriculum. The first gift of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The celebration of which was said to receive the $2 million — plus in state subsidies that would have otherwise not have come out of the students' pockets. For now, things will stay at about the same level economically.

Q: What is your position on the proposed issue of adding a plus-minus system of evaluating grades at Kent State?

A: I am in favor of it. I believe that it will discriminate between higher and lower levels of achievement, and it will more accurately reflect a student's ability and effort. Although many people argue that the adoption of the plus-minus system will put too much emphasis on grades, I am opposed to learning. I feel that the two go hand-in-hand. It is the student's responsibility. Concern has been expressed over the allegedly inadequate campus lighting. Especially at the crosswalks. Is any action being taken?

A: We are presently looking into the situation to determine the adequacy of the lighting. We recently installed sodium lights in place of incandescent bulbs. There is nowhere a higher degree of lighting. Students have indicated the need to improve crosswalk illumination.

Did You Know . . .

Peter and Arthur Ressel of St. Paul, Minnesota, manufacturer of one million pounds to anyone who captures a spaceship or other vehicle that the Space Museum of London can verify as having come from the planet outside of our solar system. Did you know that two of President Nixon's former aides once worked at Disneyland in Anaheim, California? They are Robert Haldeman and Ron Ziegler. About 8,000 people have to live in a community before the U.S. Government will call it a city. Tag-of-war, rowing and swimming the backstroke are three sports one can win by going back.

The initials in "Mafia" mean More Activity for Peace in Asia. "Death to the French is Italy's". In 1864 the Traveler's Insurance Company sold the nation's first accident insurance policy to James Bolton of Hartford, Connecticut. The one thousand dollar policy only covered Bolton for the time it took him to walk from the post office to his home. The premium was two cents.
If you’ve never made it over to the Stark Campus Fieldhouse, you probably haven’t yet come into contact with one of this campus’ most fascinating faculty members. Associate Professor of Physical Education, Golf, and Dance, Kathi Walz is not allowed to share what her life story indicates.

Born and raised in Berlin, Ger-
many, Kathi Walz considers her childhood during World War II. “I had a happy childhood in a very small country during the war, however, I can remem-
ber seeing more nights in the shelter than in my own bed.” Mrs. Walz left Germany shortly before the Soviets moved into the city. She stayed with her Grandmother in Berlin and was separated from my parents for quite some time until I found out they were still alive. In the mean-
time, of course, things got quite normal in Germany. But, as you know, Germany has been divided and my family was relocated in Hanover in West Germany.”

After High School, Mrs. Walz went on to receive her master’s degree in Physical Education and Coaching in Cologne. She also studied at the University of Bonn. She later went back to school to receive a degree in Art and Handicrafts at the Teacher’s College in Hannover.

Kathi Walz began training for gymnastics at a very young age and has promoted the Olympic movement and ideals behind it for years. “I was quite active in sports actually started at the age of four because I saw gymnastics at a very young age and saw the events and realized what was going on. I knew I had to be just like the athletes that I saw.”

Brian Huscasson led the Cob-
ras with 18 points and 14 re-
bounds. In the second game, Lake-land handily defeated KSU, 81-45, setting up a champi-
onship game between KSU and Lake-land with KSU Stark and KSU Ashland playing in the consolation game Sunday, November 13.

The Cobras faced Ashtabula from the opening tip and never trailed throughout the entire game. Freshman postman Brian Hus-
casson from Canton scored 28 points and dominated the boards for 19 rebounds as he led the Cobras to their first victory of the season, 98-90. Huscasson received all-tourney honors and coaches’ all-tourney honors.

The bench also came through with needed help including Rick Battista, Roy Fulton, and Kevin Bell, who all played a part in the team’s success.

Ashtabula fought back in the second half and cut the lead down to as low as four points before the Cobras took command and spoiled Ashtabula’s comeback hopes.

For his all-around performance and team leadership, Jim Montgomery was named to the All-Tournament Team as KSU Stark. Huscasson ended the tournament with a 13-1 record and a third-
place finish. Lake-land defeated KSU Stark to take the final game to take the Tournament Cham-
ponship.

The Kent State Stark Lady Cobras volleyball team finished second in the Ohio Regional Ohio Associ-

The Cobras played their first home game November 16 against Geneva College’s JV’s as Brian Huscasson again had a stand-
ing game. Huscasson scored 14 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as Jim Weide added 14 points and 15 rebounds. The Cob-
ras controlled the game from the very beginning and rested their starters early in the second half before defeating Geneva 80-71.

Director of the Fieldhouse between the hours of 5:30 to 7:00 pm on weekdays.