Grading Systems Are Returning to Grades

by Evan Jenkins

The New York Times

Among the many debates during the sixties on education as practiced, one of the noisier was on grading. "Pass-Fail" in particular, and nontraditional grading in general, seemed to be the trend.

But a look at grading in the seventies shows that while the movement to nontraditional grading was something more than a gesture, it was always a lot less than a revolution. And even the gesture seems to be fading now.

What actually happened? Students' longing to be freed from the intimacy of grades is as old as grading. The campus rebels of the late sixties, who so often sounded like a majority, articulated that longing. To them, grades symbolized elitism, a way of making deeming distinctions between human beings. And grades seemed fundamentally anti-intellectual: The fear of lowering their averages was said to discourage students from taking courses outside their majors, and measuring learning was called a contradiction in terms.

A little publicized survey of 1301 colleges and universities, taken in 1971, the year the ballyhoo was at its peak, shows how limited in fact the trend was. According to Eugene Oliver, of the University of Illinois, who did the study for the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, only 2 percent of the 1301 schools were using non-traditional grading exclusively. While 61 percent had adopted some form of optional grading, half of that 61 percent limited the option to electives, and 16 percent insisted that at least three quarters of the courses required for a degree be graded on a letter or number basis.

What about the students? A majority of the schools surveyed in 1971 reported that fewer than 10 per cent were electing nontraditional grading. The figure has since declined. Colorado College in Colorado Springs is a case in point. Students may choose either a pass-fail or an A, B, C, no credit grading system in all courses.

Colorado's "two-track" system began the 1971-72 academic year. More than half the grades given that year were pass-fail. Last year the ratio was 2 to 1 for letter grades. This year it is 3 to 1. Academic success as measured by letters can be a good prediction of more academic success. But medical schools, for example, don't have any idea how well it predicts a kid's future as a practicing doctor. And that hits at the very heart of the problem.

Free Research Workshops To Start This Week

Tuition-free student workshops on research techniques and the research paper will be held this week in cooperation with John Carson, Sonda Cooney, and James Peterson of the KSUSC English Department.

The three one-hour sessions will cover such topics as the library use, note taking, quoting, summarizing, footnoting and organization.

The workshop schedule will be:

10-11:30 a.m. T-Th Carson
12:30-2 p.m. T-Th Carson
11 a.m.-noon MWF Peterson
12:30-2 p.m. MWF Peterson

Five-5:30 p.m. MTTW M. Cooney Individual instruction will also begin of April 22 and continue until the end of the quarter. The sessions will be

cased to help students with any type of research problem.

Instructional workshops include:

11 a.m.-noon MWF Carson
3-4 p.m. MWF Carson
19 a.m.-noon T-Th Peterson
3-4 p.m. T-Th Peterson
19 a.m.-noon T-Th Peterson
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REPORTERS

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APRIL 22, 1974

Selections Made Of the Teaching Award Committee

Five faculty members, eight students, one administrator, and two members of KSUC's Community Advisory Board will select the first recipient of KSUC's Distinguished Teacher Award.

The committee, created by Stark Campus Council, will decide how many awards it will give, and what form they will take.

Committee members include Sandy Dougherty, Edward Barabas, Georgene Beqjo, Tom Tucker, Pat Cozy, Sue Johnson, and Marsha Stevenson as seven of eight student representatives. David Hanelman, Jeanne Rubin, Dawn Wilson, Daniel L. Avril, and Mike Bakowski as faculty representatives, and Lee Brubacker as the administrative representative. Dale Wearsler will serve as ex-officio chairman of the committee as a representative of the Council.

Any former or current student or any faculty member can nominate any instructor for the Award. Forms are available in the Student Government Office, room 217; Office of Academic Affairs, room 107; or the Business Office, room 112; all located in SSHC. Completed forms should be returned to the Business Office or be deposited in the box at the library entrance by April 30.

SC Netters Open Season With Victory

The Cobra netters took the season opener at Mt. Vernon Nazarene by downing Mt. Vernon 5-4.

The singles winners for Stark were Don Santangelo over Tom Blosser 6-0, 6-2; Gary Lipely downsing Dave Erwin 7-5, 6-1; and Joe Cozy over Rick Johnson 6-3, 6-4.

The Cobra doubles winners were Santangelo and Lipely as they downed Blosser and Erwin 7-9, 6-1; and Mike Valentine and Scott Johnson blasted Jeff Hattiebo and Bob Mahatte 6-3, 6-2.

The Cobra have three home matches coming up: Mt. Vernon Nazarene College, April 23 at 2 p.m.; Lorain Community College, April 25 at 3 p.m. and Lakeland Community College, April 26 at 1 p.m.

Anyone interested in the Kent Stark track program is urged to meet in the gym in the HPF building Saturday at 10 a.m. Men and women with any track background are especially invited. Future track competition for this year may be established.

The last scheduled Cobra baseball game at home will be held May 5 at 1 p.m. The Cobra will take on KSU Ashabula in a doubleheader.

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The schedule for the Cobra golf team:

April 22 Walsh-KSU Tuscarawas-KSU Trumbull-Home

April 23 at Cuyahoga Community College

May 2 KUS Tuscarawas Campus - Home

May 3 at Lorain Community College

May 9 Cuyahoga Community College-Home

May 11 KUS Tuscarawas-KSU Trumbull-O. U. Zanesville (9:00 a.m.)

May 13 at Mt. Vernon Nazarene College

May 15 at KSU Trumbull

May 17, 18 Ohio Regional Campus Tournament-at OSU Newark

May 22 at Lakeland Community College

(The All Home Matches at Mayfield Golf Club - 1:00 p.m.)

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