

On the Curve

Students are greeting the mailman—not for the weekly letter from home, but for the postcard relaying the grade they may or may not have earned in a class. Many breathe a sign of relief after a final exam, with the words, "Well, at least that course is all over."

But it's not really, not until the grade for the course is received. And then what?

Another sign of relief for a grade that was better than expected—or a few remarks to a friend about the instructor's "dirty" system of grading.

And the "dirty" system of grading often referred to is grading on the curve. This process involves a mathematical calculation that along a bell-shaped curve, so many A's, B's, C's, D's and F's should occur.

So what happens in a class of 15, or 20, or even 100, of students who are graded on the curve? Is it unfair, and is it really a "dirty" system?

Dr. Curtis M. Elliott, of the University's Economics Department, calls grading on the curve a "scummy system," which many instructors follow blindly, regardless of the size of a class.

Dr. Elliott explains that the curve means "absolutely nothing" statistically, unless the class has several hundred students enrolled in it. Thus students in a class of 15, 20 or even 100 may receive a grade that is statistically unfair in comparison with other students if he is graded on the curve.

You may be wondering about our preoccupation with grades in the first place. "What really counts," the idealist will say, "is what you learned, not the grade you got."

That view is correct, up to a certain point. But no one can truthfully say that grades don't matter. Scholarships, jobs, (even the draft now) are influenced by them.

We hope that instructors at the University will replace the curve with a system of grading on an individual basis. This is largely possible for an instructor who is interested in his class of students numbering 15, or 20, or even 100.

For instructors teaching classes which number several hundred, we say, keep your grading curve. It's about the fairest means of grading for you.

A 'Nebraska' Girl Writes . . .

Wide Open Spaces

(Editor's Note: The following article was written by a senior girl who wishes to remain anonymous. She feels that it expresses the "secret feelings" of many University of Nebraska students who will be graduating this spring.)

My subject is an old one, but suddenly I realized that I care about it. In a few short months I will be standing at the "gates of the future" with a diploma in my hands and bright shiny stars in my eyes. I think I'll also have a thumping in my chest that spells fear; fear of not knowing what lies ahead.

But one thing I'll be sure of—what I am leaving behind, one of the finest states in the Union. I can hear your sarcasm now and your laughter at the "country girl" who likes the "cows, and dogs and pigs and things."

But, I'm not a "country girl." I'm a "Nebraska" city girl who has been north, south, east and west of these United States. I like the

sights and sounds of the Big City, but they can never replace or substitute or give to me what Nebraska has.

Someday when this country is teeming with millions of city-dwellers, our future generations will never know what it is like to see a sky, pure, blue, or to smell new mown hay or just plain green grass shaded by towering old trees.

They will never run across a corn field that seems to stretch for miles or walk down a country lane with only the sounds of birds to disturb their thoughts. Their cities will be too large for them to be acquainted with half its population, and, as things are beginning to look now, they will not even know their neighbors.

Some of you are probably saying, "Big Deal! Night lights and city sights can compensate!" I think that someday you will change your mind. Human beings need space in which to move, fresh air to breathe, and places in which their spirits can soar.

Like children who run and scream to release their tensions, adults need that same kind of release. You can run in the streets of New York and yell at the top of your lungs, but I imagine that you would not be walking any streets very long if they caught you.

But here, in these wide open spaces that we often complain of when it snows, you can drive a car down a country road, and, if the urge strikes you, you can shut off that motor and start running across a field, shouting to your heart's content. There is nothing there to stop you.

Only the trees and sky will ever know how you longed to be for one tiny moment, the free being that you dream of being and that this mechanized, advanced society cannot let you be if it is to progress.

I may leave Nebraska after I graduate, in search of adventure. Those city-lights beckon me also, but I'll return. I need these wide open spaces. Don't you?

Would You Believe . . .

Would you believe a staff of 50 put this page out—would you believe 40 put this page out—would you believe 10—five . . . Would you believe ONE person put this page out?

Daily Nebraskan

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Have Ya Noticed

That which is not worth noticing.

Yesterday I saw this skirt walking down the walk over by Love Library. Intrigued by the funny little way it swayed back and forth I followed it skipping my class in MORALE hall. She led me through all the levels of love (Library), down through the stacks, over to Teachers College and down to administration.

I waited for two hours while she talked to what I suspect was an adviser. I had thoughts of going in after she left and asking for her name. I had it all figured out. If asked for what reason I would tell them I was with the Texas Rangers. I was just deciding on a reason for arrest when she came back out. Abandoning that idea I turned my face to the corner and lit a cigarette as she passed and then once again took chase.

With the cunning of a campus cop I followed her through Anderson, Burnett, Avery, Sheldon Art Gallery, Temple, and finally to the Union. I began to get the idea that she was trying to lose me. Doggedly, I stayed on her tail—unobtrusively.

As we entered the Union I thought for a moment I had caught a glimpse of her face in the glass doors, and it struck me that she was beautiful, but I realized then that I was looking at myself. The hesitation was enough time for her to lose herself in the crowd.

I searched in vain for an hour looking for that familiar skirt, until suddenly there it was; looking so at ease that I thought at the time that she belonged here—here in the pool room.

She was casually setting up a shot. I still couldn't see her face because her hair; long, yellow, and uncombed was hanging in front of her down almost to the table. I decided to use the direct approach.

I advanced cautiously, steadily, determined to make contact. She hesitated. I broke stride from a gallop to a jog. She looked up! Almost as if she somehow sensed I was coming. The achievement of it all overcame me. I stopped short, and started making half circles with my right toe in front of my left foot.

Then disillusionment filled my excited heart. She was smoking. Smoking and walking at the same time! A cardinal sin against Emily Post. Filled with disappointment all I could think of was that her eyes clashed with the skirt.

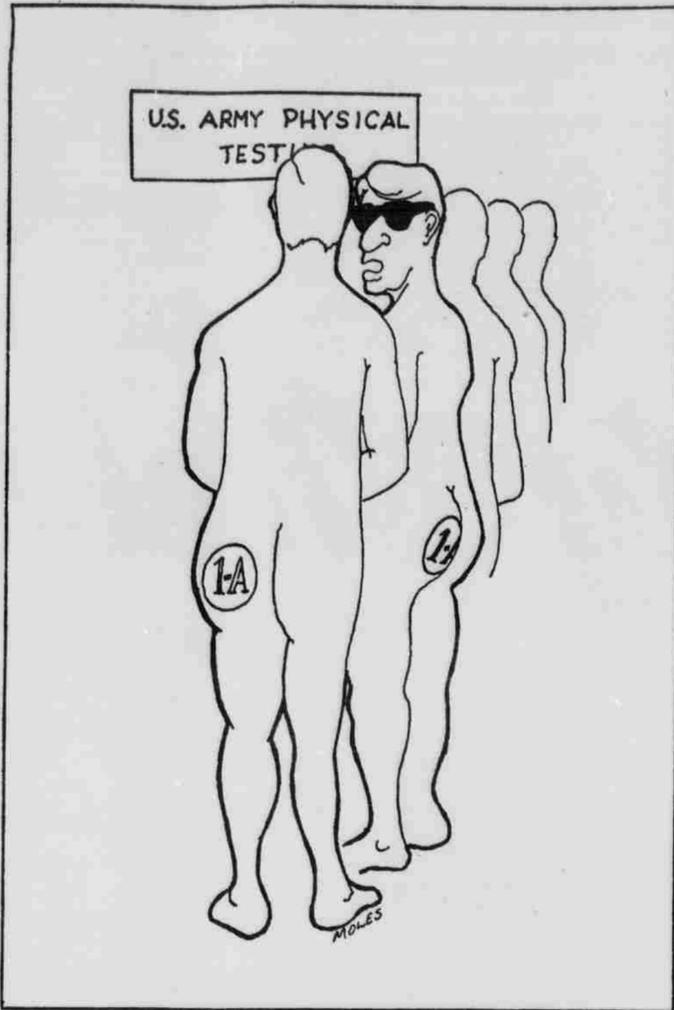
—BILL OLTMAN

Quibs

There must be something significant in the fact that five top teachers at the University announced their resignations the same week the Regents approved increases in the football coaches' salaries.

The purpose of the students' Faculty Evaluation Book is only to advise students, not help professors, or is—?

By what mysterious process does the Student Senate manage to recess in 45 minutes when they are considering "hot" issues like the faculty evaluation book?



DO YOU FEEL A DRAFT?

Sorry About That!

Being a compendium of farce, absurdity and comment, selected arbitrarily by the Editor . . .

Historical note of the day: In 1552 in London, England, Sir Francis Bacon read Shakespeare at breakfast, had Hamlet and omelet.

Nutshells

—If a social drinking course were offered here, worried parents would still hear from their kids after the final: "Dear Parents, I passed . . . out."

—Students receiving tickets for parking in yellow-curbed areas, now covered with snow, are asked by the Traffic Appeals Board to check for parking signs. Those fined can also tell the Physical Plant Department to go blow their snow.

—The Greek Star has voted to remain inactive the rest of the semester. It's the first university publication to recognize audience interest and print accordingly.

—Worried draft dodgers now have one more test to cram for. If they fail, there's a consolation prize: a trip halfway around the world.

—Student hang-outs are now filled with Batman's TV followers. They're hoping Robin is the first sign of spring. (Iowa State Daily.)

A few people have asked me how it

feels to be editor. I haven't thought of a good answer to that one yet. But I do have an answer to those who ask me, "What are you going to write an editorial about tomorrow?"

"Oh, something along the line of, 'Take an Atheist to Lunch Today,'" I shrug.

Most everyone seems to think that a college degree denotes a passport to the coffers of financial success. In fact, there are even statistics to show how much more the average college graduate will earn in a lifetime than the high school graduate.

After talking to several graduates of the college of Arts and Science, we find it questionable whether a liberal arts degree makes it possible to eat, while discussing philosophy and the Viet Nam war.

We hurried to the mailbox outside of the Daily Nebraskan office yesterday morning, expecting a batch of letters to the editor.

Although there weren't any letters, the mailbox wasn't entirely empty. The staff excitedly looked over the loot—three gum wrappers and a Batman comic book.

While hurrying to meet a deadline at the printer's the other day, we barely missed a group of students crossing against the light at 14th and S. Until something is done about the intersection's problem, we can only say, Sorry About That!

Another Viewpoint—

Sports and the Student

(Editor's Note: The commercialization of sports—and its effect—is a topic that should be considered by the University and all Big Red fans. This article is reprinted from the Minnesota Daily.)

Are college sports too commercialized? That is the question that an excellent, thought-provoking article by the president of Hamline University explores in the December issue of The Atlantic.

Paul H. Giddens, the head of the college in St. Paul, writes in "The Scramble for College Athletics," that "intercollegiate athletics have become increasingly commercialized and subjected to pressures wholly alien to an amateur athletic program."

Insisting that college sports exist primarily for the enjoyment and benefit of students, Giddens states they "should be conducted as an integral part of the educational program."

The concept that college athletics exist for the benefit of the general public and to make money has

long been in the making, according to Giddens. He cites television, postseason tournaments, larger athletic plants and stadiums, and increased attendance at college football games as evidence of this trend.

Athletes get preferential treatment when it comes to jobs and scholarships, Giddens writes. He says that schools provide athletes jobs that require little or no work and that it is possible for a Big Ten athlete to qualify and get financial aid for four years without having even a C average.

The pressures are so great to get the best athletes that, according to Giddens, some institutions have double standards for admissions—one for athletes and one for all other students. In this article, Giddens raises the question of cheating among athletes and says "it is not surprising that there have been recurring scandals involving cheating, bribery and dishonesty."

"The moral fiber of impressionable young men is eroded and broken down when they are bought," Giddens writes. He quotes a re-

cent Columbia University study as saying: "Despite angry denials by coaches and football-minded alumni, the dishonesty among athletes is staggering high."

Giddens says that within the last five years, a "Frankenstein monster" has been created that is threatening to make college sports a mere training ground for the pros. He blames the increasing pressures and the growing commercialization of college athletics on the competition among pro football teams for game television receipts.

Unless the present trend in intercollegiate competition is changed, Giddens predicts athletics will gradually be abandoned.

According to Giddens, one Big Ten school is reportedly spending \$225,000 a year for athletic scholarships. Giddens says that great financial burdens have made it necessary for large colleges like Fordham, Marquette, and the Universities of Chicago, Denver and Detroit to drop football or all intercollegiate sports.

CAMPUS OPINION

Patriot Mockery

Dear Editor, A mockery has been made of American patriots. Even though a former Nazi is buried in Arlington, even though the cemetery is saturated with Confederate Rebels, Robert Thompson cited with the Distinguished Service cross (2nd highest military honor in America) has been denied burial in Arlington Cemetery because he belonged to the Communist party.

Our government too often shows moral cowardice in capitulating to the naive emotional prejudices of the 'folks back home.' Supposedly the Government of the United States was set up so men of diverse opinion could work for their ideals in freedom.

What has happened? Today we behold a dominant tendency that says citizens are only free to conform to the establishment, and the Establishment per se is called righteousness. How can this "Establishment" void of moral principal, this "Establishment" ringing both the words "patriot" and American as tinkling brass and hollow symbols—how can this "Establishment" expect youth to rally behind its cause?

I am not an anarchist. I witness for the alternative of Christian moral princi-

ples against the Establishment's pragmatic and relativist morality. We cannot dismiss every Communist as intrinsically evil. The minute we judge anyone reducing him to that, the minute we thus dismiss anyone we cease to love them and they cease to be able to become better.

If we cannot dare to love in a world that does not know how to love, we are more wicked than the Communists we harang against. Crush the infamy of hypocritical American ethnocentrism!

Voltaire, Jr.

Lullaby Time

Dear Editor, To "Tired American" (Another Viewpoint, Daily Nebraskan, February 2): I have found the enclosed lullaby to be most helpful to those who choose to sleep through revolutions.

Lullaby and good night may you always be right. You pretend to defend what you know you should fight.

Lay thee down now and rest. May thy slumber be blest. Lay thee down in your nest. May you dream you're the best.

Your buddy, Rip Van Winkle

If I Were King . . .

By WAYNE KREUSCHER News Editor

Give a newspaperman a typewriter and some paper and he will soon find himself in a kingdom of his own.

But in this kingdom, the newspaperman is not king—he's only a recorder of events or of things other people say.

In this column the newspaperman will be king and the News will try to talk. Instead of reporting what other people think or what they are doing—the News here will speak its own mind.

Here the News will represent both sides, but it will be clear which side the News likes and which side it doesn't.

The faculty evaluation book has been approved, but it was not approved by the Faculty. It was approved by Dean Ross's committee and the students. If the truth were known, the Faculty Senate very likely would have never approved the book.

The Faculty, who will have the main role in this book, are a strange group. Many of them, thinking like "real" educators are not afraid of the book—they respect the students and they respect themselves. These members of the Faculty would fit in well at a school where people are taught to think.

The others look at teaching like a kindergarten teacher sees his pupils—and that is exactly where these faculty members belong—not in a University.

Dean Ross himself, perhaps as a good and smart administrator (which he is) or for personal reasons, is silent when asked if he approves or disapproves of the book. But the book would have never been approved by Ross's committee if he hadn't seen the book's merit.

Trask, who definitely represents the "real" Faculty, once spoke about the University having another Berkeley unless the Administration (which is many cases, as far as the students are concerned, is Ross) responded better to the intellectual pleas of the students.

The facts seem to prove that Ross and the people above him are smarter than what Trask gave the administrators' credit for. Or perhaps they just needed a little help from a responsible student government.

With administrators who act like Ross, that show controlled resistance but trust in the students and the government, the University

is not going to be another Berkeley.

(This is not the first time Ross and whoever else above him "thinks" have shown smart administration this year. The many examples include SDS and the non-controversial way in which SDS has been handled).

Thus, the book has been approved and that strong national student reaction against what students think are out-dated or conservative educators or education has once again been held off at Nebraska.

But just because Nebraska doesn't have marches on the administration or picket leaders in the Union, don't think things aren't happening here which are giving student government more say and students more freedom according to modern and liberal concepts of education which are supposed to stimulate intellectual thought—because these things are happening. It's just that someone in the University's administration is smart enough to encourage and trust student leaders like Neumeister to take leadership and responsibility.

Someone is smart enough to realize that the faculty evaluation book will be an extremely responsible project where each faculty member is treated justly and in good taste.

The faculty evaluation book has to be responsible because it has not had to be fought for (as the symbol of some youth crusade) but rather has been approved by a smart administrator as a symbol of Nebraska's responsible and mature student leadership.

Gary Larsen, the new president of IPC, was the only candidate who sought the office Wednesday night.

But Larsen was not elected because he was the only person seeking the office, rather he was the only person seeking the office because no one else had a chance to beat him.

Larsen is a worker. It's just that plain and simple. On Student Senate he supported an FM radio which in many ways is impractical and not really needed, but Larsen unlike many past senators did not stop with his motion.

The Greek system has too long been run by "cool jocks" or "distracted individuals." Larsen is what the Greeks need to come near some of the hard work, individual leadership which the Independents have shown and will continue to show in the future with people like Roger Doerr and Gene Pokory.