

Committees hear student grade gripes

by Adella Wacker

If you get a "C" for a class grade and think you deserved a "B" but your instructor isn't buying it, there's not a whole lot to be done beside talking to the instructor again.

However, if you can prove he decided grades by throwing darts, that's material the grading appeals committees can work with.

According to the Student in the Academic Community document approved 1968, the faculty of each college or department should provide an appeal committee of faculty and students. Some committees take different forms than others.

Ideally the misunderstanding will be settled at the student-instructor level and usually students have already talked to instructors according to English appeals committee member Robert Hough. The committee will then "see if there's any grounds for a reconsideration," he said.

There's a fine line of distinction between a matter of judgement and unfairness, and department and college level appeal committees don't want to cross it, Hough said.

Hough gave one example of a student taking a class pass-fail, a conscientious student, he said, who believed her work on an oral report deserved better consideration toward

her final mark.

The oral report wasn't what the instructor has in mind, but he compromised, said Hough, admitting that he hadn't made class requirements clear.

According to Charles Miller, Dean of Business College, there had been "very few" complaints to Business College appeals committees. The college has one department committee for economics and another for the other four business departments.

"We've never had anything that even bordered on a serious case," he said.

Hough said there never has been a case during his term on the committee that it didn't uphold the instructors.

The cases that are appealed beyond the department to the college committee "seem to be increasing some" according to John J. Scholz, chemistry professor and chairman of the Arts and Sciences Grading Appeals Committee.

He said his five-member committee handled four appeals last semester. By the time cases go that far they become rather serious, he said.

But "more than once," he said, the committee has ruled against the department and the instructor since he was elected to the committee in 1969.

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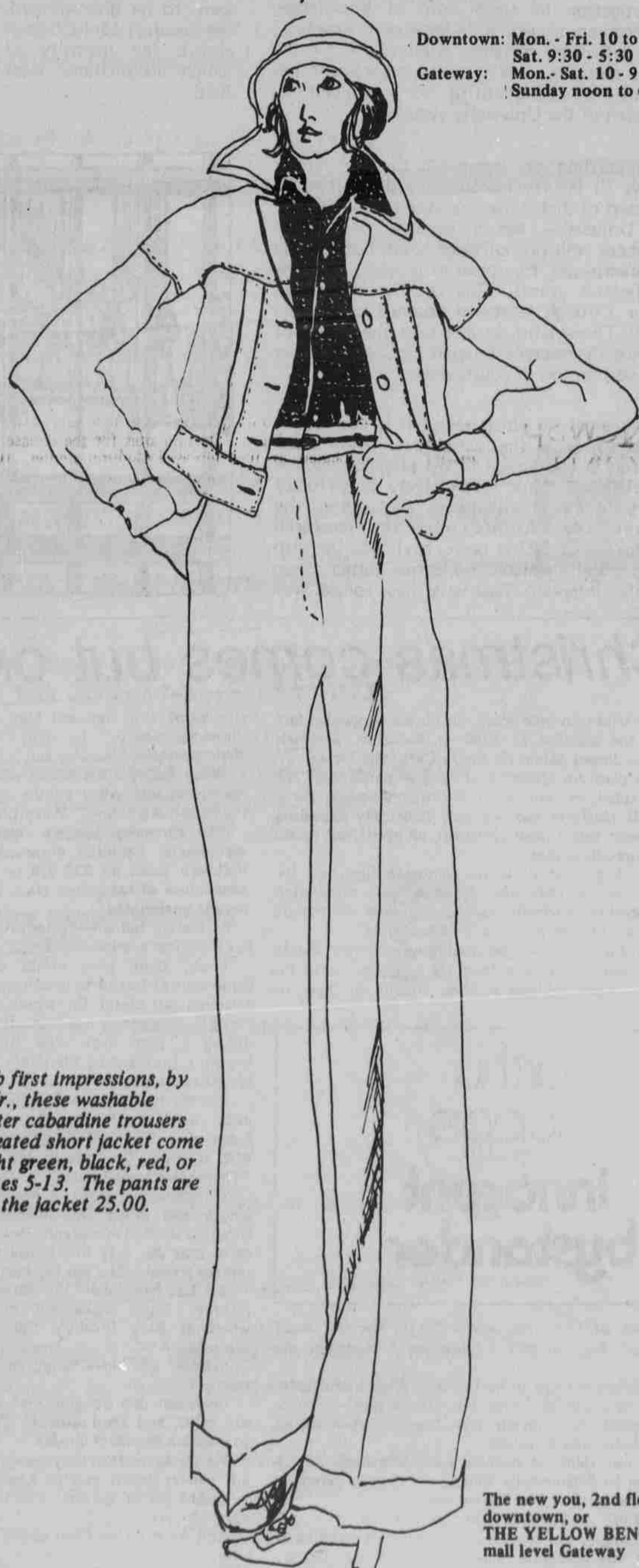
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