Dean Of College Discusses Academic Grades

States Definite Need For Present System

Students attitudes regarding grades are frequently mixed. Some see them as a necessary evil, others see them as nothing but crude guesses, influenced more by the prejudices of the instructor and the personality of the student than by what the student truly knows.

Grade are definitely in favor of on the highest step means an flight of stairs—happy landing by their remarks you might understand standards in grading. Judging what the student truly knows.

Grades are frequently mixed. Educate quality with quantity; several bluebooks is certain of speedy scribbler who can fill with a dyspeptic instructor; the lieve that professors grade ex-

Indeed, according to some of them diffently—he never reads those who teach the same sub-

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KCC Christmas Activities

On the evening of December 21, the Kent County Club held a Christmas party for the residents of the Lakeside Home. A good time was had by all in attendance.

The party, held at the home, opened with the announcement by Buzz Barton that Santa had arrived with a bundle crammed with carefully selected gifts for the children. The children enjoyed the coming of Santa Claus (Carl Dizor) to brighten an otherwise drizzly holiday.

The students have a right to know what they have accomplished and where they stand and how they are progressing. Grades are given to either help or hinder them.

Marks, then, have many prac-

A three-set play by Ayn Rand will be presented at 8 p.m. on Saturday, February 20.

To be presented by Pyramid Players

Night Of January Sixteenth

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The play, set in a New York Superior Court, is presented as the trial of Kavanaugh, played by Carol DeRise, for the murder of his former employer and paramour.

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They are a very tall microphone and small 5-year-old boy approached the stage to the music of Tony Abbott and his orchestra. They received into the club at the homecoming celebration. Be-

Bids have been placed for two of the hotelseekers, and may be purchased at any member of the Motor Inn.

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John Shawlin

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cooking, and all other necessary accommodations for the weekend.

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Library Arts Tradition

It is of common experience that for granted things with which we are closely associated. This is indeed partly true on the part of many of us in regard to the Liberal Arts education we are getting here at Providence College.

We may be skeptical about the need for the extensive theology courses we are required to take. We wonder why we cannot have a course in apologetics. We question the wisdom of three years of philosophy.

We are skeptical for the most part because our friends at other colleges boast of the different programs they offer. We are anxious to sustain the reputation of some of the older New England colleges.

But we needn't be envious, for our courses are in line with our Catholic identity. Although there are some who have more time to themselves in the past two weeks, and after the next few-also fool-hardy.

The revamped Liberal Arts Tradition extends back to the time before the founding of all New England colleges—indeed to the time of St. Thomas.

In this light it is well to note that several years ago, a distinguished college, Dr. Deferrai, secretary-general of Catholic University, speaking at a convention of the American Catholic Sociological Society, told the gathering that colleges should re-organize their curricula so that emphasis is placed on training and not on the accumulation of facts.

Dr. Deferrai, in a campus college program, added, “must be centered about a group of basic and unify subjects, namely theology, philosophy, and history—but especially theology. It is especially in theology should great emphasis be placed upon the methods of approaching and solving problems,” he explained. “Personally, if I had my way, it would be the method of Saint Thomas Aquinas. If I had my way, it would be so instilled in the minds of our Catholic youth that its application would become instinctive with them, ‘a habitum’ as St. Thomas himself would call it!”

The program of the great majority of colleges today is not a unit bound together by a pervading philosophy and all the teachers and students participating in the program conscious of the common end of their combined efforts, but a largely heterogeneous collection of separate and distinct compartments of learning, in which we are merely thinking primarily of purely intellectual or academic phase of his own subject alone, and the student expecting nothing more than this from each subject but not that the rest of life can be of any importance to him.

Needless to say, in the light of the courses offered at Providence College, Dr. Deferrai’s statement requires no further comment.

Change of Tempo

The holiday and festive season is over, in general, although there are some who have more time to themselves only when they return to their studies. A clean break is necessary. Some will try to keep alive the vacation spirit and its carefree attitude, and will attempt to avoid reality. To these, good luck; they will need all the wisdom they can muster.

To seniors especially, the present is a very important and decisive time. This is the last chance that they have to raise their averages. After the next two weeks there will be no more time for them to consider anything of import than the present moment.

The junior and underclassmen must also be aware of the laxity and indifference which is prevalent at this time of the year, and which is so often ignored when final examinations are corrected.

Those examinations which are scaled should be scaled only by divisions rather than by averaging the marks of everyone who takes the course. The differences in teaching methods and amount of material covered are very often ignored when final examinations are corrected.

Examinations should be abolished as soon as each administration can consistently demonstrate throughout the year that he has mastered the subject.

Dana Germain, ’58: In the first three years an ‘A’ signifies that the student has a ‘B’ average, that he is a student from a final examination in that course. In the senior year, however, a ‘B’ should exempt the student from a final examination in that subject. Under our present system, however, final exams here are a test of one’s ability to cram.

Bruce MacBride, ’59: If a student has a ‘B’ average at the end of the year, I don’t think it is necessary for him to take the final examination. He would promote some sort of a goal for the student and make him strive for better grades.

COMES FIRST

Wisdom precedes, religion follows, for the knowledge of God first. It is the result of knowledge.

—Laocoon

Inquiring Reporter

By Dave Heaney

“What is your opinion of Examinations P.C.?”

William McLaughlin, ’60: Final examinations are looked upon by most students as rather fearful tasks which mean a period of arduous study and in some cases ‘cramming’.

Those students who must resort to cramming are unfortunately the most fearful that they should have been doing all semester. If a student maintains at least a ‘B’ average in a subject he should be exempt from examinations in that subject and others should have to take the exam.

The remainder of the students who have to take exams will not find the exams too tedious and will probably do well with a reasonable degree of self-discipline. If a student studies at least a ‘B’ average in a subject he should be exempt from examinations in that subject and others should have to take the exam.

George E. Boyd, ’59: The final exams I have taken fall into three broad classes.

Fair exams, which are written in a vague style which really can admit of no mistakes. e.g. How will we study History? One doesn’t dare answer. “With malice toward none,” etc., and one is expected to write the entire paper on the subject.

Poor exams, which are given just so you can say you took them.

2. More proctors should be used during exams. It is necessary to trust your fellow man; it is also fool-hardy.

3. Those examinations which are scaled should be scaled only by divisions rather than by averaging the marks of everyone who takes the course. The differences in teaching methods and amount of material covered are very often ignored when final examinations are corrected.

Examinations should be abolished as soon as each administration can consistently demonstrate throughout the year that he has mastered the subject.

Our Decision

England’s Prime Minister Macmillan proposed last weekend that the West enter into a part of non-aggression with Russia, and possibly hold a summit conference in the near future. Both of these proposals have been made repeatedly by the Soviet Union with the Bulgarian letter to the NATO allies being the most recent.

U.S. Disagrees With Allies

Reaction in this country has been rather pessimistic toward the suggestion and in some cases officials believe that a proposal would do more harm than good. The United States has, in the past, stated that the setup of the United Nations Charter, which rules out war except in self-defense, is sufficient evidence that all aggression is unlawful. It is also held by some that since Russia made so-called non-aggression pacts with a number of countries which are considered enemies and during the second World War, any further agreements of this type would not be worth the paper they were written on.

Our other NATO allies, on the other hand, have shown their approval of them. They contend that although Russia has been known to violate them in the past, there is always the possibility that she will be more sincere especially in light of her recent achievements. They maintain that if such a proposal was studied, it would show the will of the West to at least attempt something positive in the direction of peace.

CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE PROPOSAL

Our snubbing of the Bulgarian letter was done with utmost in discretion, and since it was a proposal that our allies in anticipation of negotiations, made the United States look extremely bad in the sphere of international diplomacy. New with our chief ally, Great Brit­ain, offering a plan much on the idea put forth by Russia, we must take definite steps to begin negotiations as suggested or else risk the loss or, at least, the weakening of relations with our Western allies. On the other hand, the United States must not take a complacent at­itude toward Russia as some of our allies have done. The idea that Russia has really changed is pure nonsense. If at the moment it appears she appears to be agreeable and friendly, it is only because this apparent atti­tude best serves her purpose.

The decision which the United States makes regarding the Mac­millan proposal will have far reaching effects, for, if it is considered we will continue to hold us in a spirit of friendship, whereas if we re­fuse, some will follow. We can only hope that the decision will come in the interests of world peace, and not in view of our past experi­ences with the Soviet Union.
Student Congress Meeting Addressed By Father Slavin

On Tuesday, December 10th, the Reverend Robert J. Slavin, O.P., addressed the members of the Student Congress at a special meeting.

A few of the topics discussed included those concerning senior privileges, the use of the cafeteria by non-students, class weekends and the widely discussed problem of the placement office of the college, pro and con.

The feasibility of senior privileges which included the possibility of unlimited cuts for Dean’s List Students and also a program whereby seniors in the second semester would be exempt from taking final exams in subjects where a ‘B’ average has been maintained.

The placement program was discussed at length in hopes of resolving a situation which has bothered a majority of upperclassmen. At this point, Father Slavin presented some interesting statistics on the present positions held by P.C. alumni. Father went on to say that only 76 out of last 10 years graduating class availed themselves of the services of the placement office, and that prominent speakers were invited to come to P.C. and speak about the opportunities in many various fields only to find little or no attendance at the meetings. Furthermore, he stated that the students should get all the facts before making rash and sometimes false accusations.

Joe Dolan, Congress president, speaking for the student body, asked Father Slavin why this ignorance of the facts existed, and suggested that there is a definite lack of communication.

(Continued on Page 6)

Soph Activities

Plans for a “mixer” have been announced for this Friday night at Salve Regina College. The dance is being sponsored by the sophomore classes of both Salve Regina and Providence College. However, the dance will be open to all students of both schools.

Transportation by bus and admission will all be covered by a small fee of one dollar. The bus will leave the front of Hartins Hall at 7:15 P.M.

Preliminary arrangements have been made to hold the Sophomore Class Weekend on April 25, 26, 27. The co-chairmen for the weekend will be Jim Ryan and Paul Campbell.

There will also be a general sophomore class meeting on Tuesday, January 19th, to discuss plans for the social events of the year. All those with any ideas are especially urged to attend. The meeting will be held in room A-100 of Albertus Magnus Hall at 1:45 P.M.

MEMO TO MAESTROS: is your band dawdling instead of tooting? Is it full of feeble fifer’s and drooping drummers? Well, this musical slowdown may be traceable to lack of Luckies. Better give your band a break—and make it a Lucky one! A Lucky you, see, is a light smoke—the right smoke for everyone. It’s all cigarette—all naturally light, wonderfully good-tasting tobacco. And Luckies’ fine tobacco is toasted to taste even better. Now then, what’s a marching band that never gets a Lucky break? Why, it’s a Sore Corpse! (Wann’t that cymbal?)

STUCK FOR DOUGH?
START STICKLING! MAKE $25

We’ll pay $25 for every Stickler we print—and for hundreds more that never get used! So start Stickling—they’re so easy you can think of dozens in seconds! Sticklers are simple riddles with two-woapt rhyming reasons. Both words must have the same number of syllables. (Don’t do drawings.) Send ‘em all with your name, address, college and class to Happy-Joe-Lucky, Box 67A, Mount Vernon, N.Y.

LIGHT UP A RICH SMOKE—LIGHT UP A LUCKY!
FRIARS WIN QUANTICO TOURNAMENT

SWARTZ UNANIMOUS FOR BEST PLAYER

Marines Defeated In Finale; Woods Stars

It's been close to a month since COWL writers and readers have had a chance to catch a bird's-eye view of both varsity basketball and hockey pictures. Here, then, is a resume of both sports since the last paper broke on Dec. 11.

**Basketball:**
- P. C. 64, A.I.C. 56
- P. C. 71, St. Francis (Bklyn.) 58
- P. C. 80, Hartwick 64
- P. C. 68, St. Michael's 53
- P. C. 63, Quantoic 53
- P. C. 69, Brown 52

**Hockey:**
- P. 6. 5, Princeton 2
- P. C. 7, Loyola (Mont.) 3
- P. C. 2, Boston U. 7
- P. C. 10, Northeastern 2
- P. C. 3, Boston College 5
- P. C. 6, Northeastern 5

**Commissions Offered Six ROTC Students**

Six Providence College Army ROTC Military Students have been offered Regular Army commissions, Colonel Norman P. Barnett, Professor of Military Science and Tactics has announced. Selections are based on academic achievement, military leadership and outstanding character. Those eligible to receive Regular Army commissions upon graduation next June are: Jeremiah F. Caramo, Donald H. Grenier, David B. Harrington, William C. Harrington, Robert J. LaJoie, Brian O. Lamont, Thomas D. McDermott, and David Roche.

**Sport Extra**

Friars Win Over Huskie Pucksters

Tom Eccleston's pucksters warded off a last period onslaught by a rejuvenated Northeastern University sextet, and downed the Huskies by a 6-5 score in the Lynn Arena. It was the Friars' second win over the Huskies in this young season, the first coming by the lopsided score of 10-2 in the Boston Arena Christmas tourney.

Led by Captain Lou LaFontaine who notched himself a "bat trick" for the evening, P. C. countered five times in the second period, and this proved to be just enough to ward off the onrushing Northeastern sextet. Northeastern surprised everyone—by jumping off to a two goal lead in the first stanza. Their first goal came at 2:41 with Bob Harrington setting the nets on assists by Ray Lamont and Ray Wenham. Jim Cronin came back at 12:04, scoring unassisted, and put the Friars down 2 goals. LaFontaine came back to score for the visitors just before the period ended, connecting at 19:42 on a pass from center Joe Barile. The Huskies bounced back quickly at the start of the second period with Don Salvucci counting a 1-40 with Woham assisting.

Now it was the Friars turn, and they took over in fine style. George Boudreau scored first at 12:12, with Bert LaJoie getting the assist. Bob Labbe tied things up 2 minutes later on assists from brother Ray and Al McMahon. La Fontaine, with Labbe setting up both plays, came back with 2 more tallies and the visitors led 5-3 before the Huskies took the lead back.

Northeastern tallied twice more in the third period, but this wasn't enough, as the Friars wrapped up their 7th win against 2 setbacks.
Friars’ Tourney Showing Is P.C.’s Holiday Tale

By Dale Faulkner

This is to tell Joe P. C. that there is a Sagta Claus. This is to say that there are real life Christmas stories. This is one of those stories.

It all started back on Dec. 13 when P. C.'s basketballers began reaping the early benefits of Santa’s visit. It was the night when a highly touted St. Francis five barged into Providence and returned to Brooklyn talking with referees of DiMasi and Wilkins and a guy named Woods. It was a night that made “em forget about Brandeis.

This was Dec. 13, a Friday. After Johnny Egan had runned the Friar Frosh to a 76-50 triumph over the Quonset Flyers, the tall, poised operatives of St. Francis began awing the Alumni Hall gathering, but not for long. DiMasi and Wilkins ran rings around the visitors and Woods...Well, Woods put on an outstanding show while out rebounding and out classing 6’7” Al Inniss. All contributed importantly to P. C.’s impressive 71-58 upset win.

Next chapter in the local Christmas saga was the dance to Quanton, Va., and expectations of playing in company with some of the nation’s top college and service performers. In their first appearance in the Quontico Invitational, the Black and White extended their sensational play and beat the same Bruins 80-52 last Saturday night. The feature of the game was that P. C. coped the state and city title with the win.

The Brown team went into the 20 point underdog, but they had a good sprinkling of experience, shooting power and height. Friar coach Joe Mullane again sent Eddie Donohue, Jimmy Swarts and his usual solid game too, but had 14 straight points and the Bruns had not scored again.

The Friars were not rattled, however, and maintained their lead. John Woods annouced that he was ready to play against the bigger man. Al Poulsen (6-8) was the Brown center, and, of course, he had several inches on John. But Woods controlled the boards, especially on defense and he moved to the outside and hitting on offense. He contributed 5 field goals and a free throw for 11 points in the first half.

The Friars had just about won the game at halftime leading 41-26. The Bruns had 12 points. Jimmy Swarts and Len Zinn (6’10”) and Pete Schementi had 2 on a beautiful play. Captain Ed Donohue was contributing his usual solid game too, but had 1 point to show it. The Bruns were way off with their shooting, as is usual in a Friar contest. Joe Tebo generally considered as their big gun did not hit. A lot of this can be contributed, no doubt, to the fact that Joe had sustained a knee injury in the previous night’s game against Northeastern.

It was a night that made ‘em forget about Brandeis. What a story! With apologies to The Night Before Christmas, it was Wednesday when the on-rushing locals stopped St. Michael’s and Christmas had really arrived. Of St. Michael’s it might be well to note that the Vermont team had previously racked up 22 consecutive triumphs over New England colleges and had performed in the last season’s NCAA Regional play-downs.

Again Santa’s gift came to Coach Mullane in the form of a supreme team effort, along with a “flat shot” scoring surge by Jimmy Swarts, which netted the good-looking New Yorker 27 tallies.

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For the fourth straight time, the Cinderella five of Providence finished in the top five of the Northeastern Division of this season’s Big East League.

The Friars broke the game wide open in the third period as they scored five goals while Bob Labbe and Barile covered the top corner. Northeastern as Barile collected four goals and three assists and an assist. Barile scored the first goal at 0:37 of the period when he beat Ray Blanchette, John Turner and E. L. Amedure. Barile and Barile scored his second period before the period was over to take the score to 8-2. Northeastern goal was scored by Pete Kinlin.

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The Friars dropped a 5-2 decision to B. C. on the closing night of the tourney, while Dartmouth edged Northeastern and U. D. defeated Brown. Northeastern as Barile collected four goals and three assists and an assist. Barile scored the first goal at 0:37 of the period when he beat Ray Blanchette, John Turner and E. L. Amedure. Barile and Barile scored his second period before the period was over to take the score to 8-2. Northeastern goal was scored by Pete Kinlin.

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Fr. Slavin...

(Continued from Page 1) criticism to which he appears to object. Perhaps it arises from a type of "inconsistency complex" which seems to have a grip on Catholic students and their professors. Our colleges and universities rank with the best, but for some obscure reason we feel that they don't. This is evident even here at P.C.

Father Slavin pointed out that "there is no distinct Catholic problem unless it be that at the college level where we have concentrated on teaching rather than research." But, he went on to add that he personally felt that teaching went on to add that he personally felt that teaching....

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...mixed at the college level and while the role is reversed in the second semester who maintained a 'C' average in a subject. This would reward those seniors who kept working until graduation, and give further incentive to seniors in a period when they seem to become lax. It would be worthwhile both to the student and to the school. Father Slavin is the person best equipped to render judgment is the teacher.

Unfortunately, grades are not always accurate. This is especially so in quantitative grading. Does the mark of 80, for instance, mean 80 per cent of what the student is capable of learning, 80 per cent of the content of the course, or 80 per cent of what the instructor knows? The arithmetic grade does not tell us. That is why a system of qualitative grading is used at Providence College. It cuts down the margin of error and provides a more precise evaluation of mental achievement.

It is the hope of every teacher that students will do their best all the time without thought of possible results. A teacher would be naive, however, if he operated on the principle that students are so wrapped up in ideas as to be unaffected by the approval or disapproval of other people. Experiments in letting students grade themselves have been attempted at some colleges. The results have not been encouraging.

Even so, a professor, with a conscientious breed and rare is the teacher who assigns a grade without careful consideration and much real evidence.

The hard-working student may sometimes feel that a "C" grade is an insufficient compensation for all the effort expended in study. The mark, however, is not given for effort but for achievement. The majority of students who own substantial knowledge of subject matter and creditably perform class assignments are rewarded with a "C" grade. It is an honorable mark. While it is not uncommon for a student to think himself above average, the higher grades are attained only by an exceptional few.

Some psychologists deplore the use of grades because they are convinced that feelings of bitterness, discouragement and inferiority are the natural concomitants of failing marks. But failure is as much a part of life as is success. There is a lesson to be learned from both. Success should whet the student's appetite for deeper knowledge and urge him on to greater conquests. On the other hand, failure in study for the student of college caliber, or low grades for the superior student, is usually a sign that he is not working up to the level of his ability. That is the great tragedy. That is the cardinal academic sin. God gives grades, too. They are based upon whether or not a man uses his God-given talents. On this alone shall a man be truly judged.

Dean Of College Discusses Academic Grades...

(Continued from Page 1) rate only one aspect of the student's total personality. But that aspect is a very important one. Hence, grades mean a great deal. They cling to a student wherever he goes and thwarts or promotes whatever he does.

It is the hope of every teacher that students will do their best all the time without thought of possible results. A teacher would be naive, however, if he operated on the principle that students are so wrapped up in ideas as to be unaffected by the approval or disapproval of other people. Experiments in letting students grade themselves have been attempted at some colleges. The results have not been encouraging. Throughout life we are constantly being judged by other people. In the student's case the person best equipped to render judgment is the teacher.

Unfortunately, grades are not always accurate. This is especially so in quantitative grading. Does the mark of 80, for instance, mean 80 per cent of what the student is capable of learning, 80 per cent of the content of the course, or 80 per cent of what the instructor knows? The arithmetic grade does not tell us. That is why a system of qualitative grading is used at Providence College. It cuts down the margin of error and provides a more precise evaluation of mental achievement.

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