Grades

By Storm Kauflman
MIT has hit its second grade scandal in two weeks; the newest is that of the Special Committee on Grading.

This semester, for the first time in more than a year, the Committee has made 14 recommend-
dations to the President on the grading system.

Recommendations vary from favoring the status quo in one subject to pushing for an entirely new grading system in another. The overall trend seems to be one of maintaining most of the present system while slightly deemphasizing the impor-
tance of purely numerical grades.

A mechanism should be provided to allow for non-linear written comments by in-
structors. My high school used a method similar to this several years ago and it worked very well. The grading system is somewhat depera-
ized — comments help explain to the student how he received the grade (he did). They will also permit notation of excep-
tions and adjectives.

4) Internal fail should be instituted for all undergraduates. This should take those less than one week to work out. Perhaps, with internal fail, students will be motivated to take other courses which often prove so interesting.

5) The grades D and OX will remain.

6) A new temporary grade, T, will be added. This is necessary, but the faculty seems to feel that making a final is far more preferable than missing the last quiz in a subject without a final.

7) Grades will be retained, but only internally. This should remove a lot of confusion involved in explaining my transac
tion subjects to ourselves.

8) A student may take a subject over in hopes of improving the grade, but without receiving credit again. Great idea — students who feel that they did not perform the material the first time round will be encouraged to take the subject again. Wronged professors can try for the A they feel is a must.

9) Retain the I grade. So what?

10) A new temporary grade (instead of D) will be added to the term. This may be an unnecessary distraction, but it is probably helpful.

11) The IA grade will be retained with the extension of upperclass opportunities to take such a grade at any time during the last two years. This should permit eating of course load dur-
ing the spring term.

12) The exam will no longer appear on the grade report. While it may remove the otherwise, I still like to know the numbers and many may feel obliged to calculate their own averages.

13) Attention of registration proce-
dures. At last we get rid of roll cards, and neither a negative nor an exam can be scheduled without a registration.

All these suggestions are sound and will help in the long run, but perhaps I hope the faculty accepts the lot.

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Fumbles economic ball

Jack Anderson

By Jack Anderson
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WASHINGTON — Our White House sources tell us regrettably that President Ford is mismanaging the economy worse than former President Nixon did during the Watergate crisis. There is confusion in the White House, but they are aware how to cope with economic problems.

The President is also distantly stating that inflation is the nation's number one problem. The measures he has adopted to fight inflation, however, are pushing the nation into a recession, and this, many economists believe, has become the number-one problem.

There is now evidence that the Presi-
dent got his economic wires crossed. White House insiders say his economic advisers delivered a confidential forecast to him several weeks ago that unemployment would hit 7 percent next year. This was a sure sign of a recession.

But their confidential prediction never reached the Economic Policy Board while it was working out the President's economic program.

This board is the nation's top eco-

nomic policymaking group. Yet, in its mem-
bers went ahead with a plan to fight inflation unaware that the President's economic advisers, in effect, expected a recession.

Thus, an increasing number of eco-
nomists believe the President is fighting inflation with the wrong weapons at the wrong time.

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The new Congress will be dominated by junior members who have been elected within the last six years. Even before the election, 61 junior members retired, rather than face the electorate again. Most of them were obstructionists who had helped bring the White House down.

Now a majority appears to favor re-election of the first two classes, of course, when the House Democrats hold their organizing caucus. The newcomers will set up a host for congressional reforms. They are also talking about checking the power of the president. The White House, they may remove the need for a constitutional amendment that would permit Congress to remove a president in a three-fifths vote of each house.

There is even talk of establishing a constitutional president who would attend to the formalities of the office, while a constitutional president who would concentrate on governing the nation.

Some of the lessons of Watergate, they say, may finally be acted on by the new Congress.

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WASHINGTON Whirl

During the last days of the Nixon Administra-
ton, one state citizen for-
time the issue of a package of drugs enclosed in the White House. The package broke open at the post office and a nervous poten-
tially interested to know what to do. They decided that regulations are regulations, and wrapped up the drugs and dispatched them to the Executive Man-
agement system of the same form as used now. Great idea, but missing the last quiz in a subject

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Grades

MIT has been hit with its second grade scandal in two weeks; the newest is that of the Special Committee on Grading.

From the information in the Report alone, it would appear that the Com-
mittee has done a commendable job in looking deeply into the wide safety of the problems involved in grading. In total, the Committee seems interested in giving instructor, student, and advisor a better indica-
tion of a student's progress.

1) The faculty should retain a grading system of the same form as used now. This would be a significant improvement. Inter-
dependent notification procedures. At last we get rid of roll cards, and many may feel obliged to calculate their own average, other courses which often prove so interesting.

2) Grades D and OX will remain.

3) A mechanism should be provided to allow for non-linear written comments by instructors. My high school used a method similar to this several years ago and it worked very well. The grading system is somewhat deperalyzed — comments help explain to the student how he received the grade (he did). They will also permit notation of excep-
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THE WIZARD OF ID

by Bruce Parker and Johnny Hart

I'LL JUST HAVE A PLATE OF WORKED-WELLED PROBES

"I just wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about my recent experience with the chief physician. I had a bit of a pain in my side, and he prescribed me a new medication. After taking it for a week, I noticed a significant improvement in my health. I was really surprised by how effective it was and am grateful for his recommendation."