MOODY TRIES ACADEMIC INNOVATION

by Paul Gleason

Mr. Richard W. Moody of the sociology department is using a course grading system based on students evaluation of their own academic progress.

Students in all of his courses every week or two, depending on the course they are taking. These reports deal with the student s personal goals in the course, his evaluation of his own activity, and his judgment of the effectiveness of the classroom experience in helping him to attain personal goals.

Students suggest a course grade to Mr. Moody at midterm time and again at the end of the course. All grades are subject to the approval of the professor. 'I vary in the degree to which I let their grades stand, states Moody

Professor Moody considers this method of grading to be 'only one part of a total approach to the classroom. This approach involves, in his words, "trying to do everything possible to make the student realize that he has to set his own educational goals, that he has to determine the best means for him to reach these goals, and that he has the responsibility to measure his goals and standards against some objective norm, which is established by the academic community.

This approach is intended to work against the student attitudes which tend to develop when course goals and evaluations of performance are decided upon for, rather than by, the students. Mr. Moody is concerned that in such a situation students assume no concrete responsibility for their academic work. He feels that, generally, they merely do the specific assignments they are told to do and, on examinations, attempt to please professors; Moody questions whether such a system is really giving students the quality educational experience they need.

Professor Moody is disturbed by the authoritarian attitude, blind submission to any authority, which can be fostered by the present system of College education. He feels that students must learn that 'submission to an authority should be resonsible and critical.'

Student reaction to Mr. Moody s philosophy has been mixed. He reports that, on the basis of progress reports he has received, 'a number of students are threatened by this approach. Approximately five per cent of his students feel that the whole method is worthless. On the other hand, some of his students would like to see his approach go further at the College.

Concerning actual grades suggested by the students, Mr. Moody reports that, in general, these follow a normal distribution around a mean grade of B, with about equal numbers of A s and C s and very few D s and F's suggested.

An exception to this rule are freshmen students in Sociology 1, who tend to be about evenly divided between A s and B s with very few C s and virtually no lower grades. Mr. Moody states that these particular results are contrary to his previous experience with the system, causing him to question 'whether the system shoul be modified for teaching freshmen.

His personal opinion regarding student honesty in self-evaluation is this: I m convinced that there

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Career Days

Forty-two business firms as well as representatives from the federal and state governments are scheduled to conduct job interviews with seniors at Allegheny College during the months of January and February. Arranged by Mrs. Virginia Fletcher, placement director, the sessions are designed to introduce seniors to possible job opportunities.

According to Mrs. Fletcher, Allegheny College is 'the only college in the country, as far as I know, that brings business firms to campus on a mass basis. This unique set-up of 'career sessions' differs from interviews at other colleges, where employers are brought in individually. At Allegheny, the business sessions are conducted in two parts: group meetings at which companies and job openings are presented to students and then individual interviews.

'Proof of the success of this type of program, explained Mrs. Fletcher, 'is shown by the fact that it has almost doubled the number of students who participated.' It allows more time during the individual interview to concentrate on the candidate himself, since the companies and positions have already been explained. Because it focuses on three days, scheduling is more convenient for

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EDITOR S NOTE: THE WEDNESDAY CENTERFOLD PHOTO CREDIT WAS INADVERTENTLY NOT INCLUDED IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE CAMPUS. JOHN BURKE SERVED AS PHOTOGRAPHER, ASSISTED IN LAYOUT BY JIM EHMANN AND DAVE SQUIRES. OUR APOLOGIES.

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ATTENTION: ASG President Steve Baker will appear on a Cablevision Channel 13 program, Monday January 27 at 5:30 p.m., discussing student government.

NOW IS THE TIME (JANUARY 22ND TO FEBRUARY 13TH) TO MAKE SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR 3RD TERM.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

To the Editor:

I am waiting--waiting for what? More time? New time? Old time to pass? Or, am I waiting for me to come by and say . . . 'Here I am. ? Is it natural--what I am waiting for---is it natural? Am I the only one in line? By-the-way, just how long have I been waiting? What time is it now? Will my bag of cookies last?

concerned about action,

Geoff Harris

"CLEAR" REFLECTIONS by Phil Landon

The interest expressed in the launching of CLEAR offers hope that students will find an effective voice for their grievances with the college. But the new organization will have to be skillfully led if it is to avoid the fate of past reform efforts.

This is not the first time Allegheny has seen a burst of enthusiasm accompany a vigorous call for change. Too often groups that advocated reform have become entangled in deadening committee structures or divorced from active student support. Reform movements tend to lose their enthusiasm as fast as they gain it.

This need not be the fate of CLEAR. But the groups will

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the students. The recruiters enjoy the sessions, since they also have the chance to meet with the other representatives and with college professors at luncheons sponsored by Allegheny.

Besides the business sessions, there are government days with the federal government and with the Pennsylvania and New York state governments. Federal Government Day was held on January 17. The Pennsylvania state recruiters were on campus earlier in January. On February 6, New York state representatives will hold interviews. The Peace Corps, VISTA, and the General Accounting Office will also visit Allegheny later in the year. The business interviews run from January 21-22, February 3-4, and February 18-19.

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need to maintain student interest and convert it into effective pressure on the administration.

It will have to involve students in campus issues, and quickly, if it is to become more than a small association of powerless reformers.

It might make its first show of strength by backing the RAB proposal for open dorms with some sort of action to which Bentley would respond.

CLEAR could, for example, organize the seniors to withhold their class gift until the open dorm policy is approved. Although this single act would probably not gain immediate results, it could demonstrate to Bentley that student discontent is going to amount to more than a spate of letters to the CAMPUS editor. CLEAR might then use other tactics.

The reformers must recognize one fact: Time is on the side of the administration. Delay will result in defeat for students.

If CLEAR makes suggestions and then waits impassively for Bentley s answer, the organization will lose student support and the reform movement will decline and die without accomplishment. A major challenge to the organization lies in the difficulty of keeping up student interest and putting pressure, through effective tactics, on the administration.

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are some students who are untrustworthy and everyone is convinced that some students are very trustworthy.

Professor Moody does not consider his philosophy of education to be particularly radical. In his view the various parts of his approach are basically the beliefs of most of the faculty although there is a tendency to overemphasize the aspect of evaluation against norms of the academic community, which acts to the detriment of the rest of the approach. Mr. Moody feels that there is a "tension between the elements of his approach to education which must be maintained for it to be most effective.

Moody does not advocate the adoption of his grading system by the entire faculty. He believes that the present system of college education, which must screen students for job acceptances and graduate school admissions on the basis of grade point averages, precludes more than a limited use of such a method of grading at present.

Additionally, he feels that some professors with philisophies of education which differ from his own could not be comfortable using his techniques. In fact, Moody has said that one of the worst things that could happen would be for all of the faculty to agree on grading systems.

Cootie Harris, scheduled to present a service of liturgical jazz Sunday morning in Chapel, has found it necessary to cancel the service due to illness.

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Gators Squeeze By Bisons, 74-69

John Howald and Doug Trenkle led Allegheny to a 74-69 victory over Bethany, Wednesday. The Gators are now 3-1 in the Presidents Athletic Conference.

Ahead by as many as 18 points in the second half, the Gators employed a stall to stop the Bethany surge in the final minutes. Behind 67-49, the Bisons quickly scored 20 points, but two free throws by Trenkle and a basket by Howald put the game out of reach.

The Gators hit 28 of 59 shots from the floor and out rebounded the taller visitors, 37-34. Trenkle scored 13 points and pulled in eight rebounds. Howald had 19 points; Tom Miller, 14; John Gunselman, 16; and Tony Rozzi, eight. Gunselman picked off seven rebounds, while Miller had six.

Mel Cratsley started, but was hampered by an injured hand.

Holding a large lead throughout the game enabled Coach Don Schriefer to go to his bench. Tim Mahady, Bruce Kiskaddon, and Doug Olsen saw action.

Allegheny scored first and was never headed, holding 18 point leads at 49-31 and 67-49. The Gators held a substantial lead at halftime, 38-27, and continued their dominance until late in the second period. Early in the contest, Bethany threatened at 17-15, but scores by Gunselman, Howald, and Miller widened the margin.

The Bisons employed a pressing defense in the latter stages of the game, forcing Allegheny into mistakes which were converted into scores, but were too late to catch the streaking Gators.

Bethany took great advantage of center Harry Bourdeau s 6' 7" height and in the first half called on him repeatedly as he scored 12 of his 19 points. The accurate second period shooting of guards Mike Nevitt and Don Jackson enabled the Bisons to close a tremendous gap.

The Gators travel to Cleveland to meet John Carroll, Jan. 24.

A.C. Outshoots Duquesne

Allegheny s rifle team opened up its winter term schedule by destroying Duquesne University 1299-1183 at the David Mead Field House. The Gators remained on top of the league with an 8-0 record. The Dukes slipped below the .500 mark and are now 4-5.

Impressed by Allegheny s strong showing thus far this season, Duquesne s first team did not participate in the match. This enabled their freshman and sophomore teams to pick up match experience. It also allowed the Gators to roll up their 2nd highest margin of victory this season.

Captain Fields led the squad with a 270 and was closely followed by freshman Bob Rudolph and a 266. Two more points back with a 264 was Greg March. Scott Reilly s 251 and Ed Layng s 248 rounded out Allegheny s top five.

The number 2 team in the WPIRL, Clarion State, journeys to Meadville on the 31st of January. Match time is 6:00 PM at the field house.

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