

The GPA takes a beating High marks no mystery

by Andrew Watts

Good marks. Everyone wants good marks. The students, the profs, and perhaps most of all the administration; the better their overall Grade Point Average reflects the quality of education they're providing. If they can show high GPA's, more students will be attracted and more money will come from the government.

So what is the administration doing to improve your chances of getting good marks? Well, let's take a look at what a high level meeting on that subject might look like.

"Okay, Standish, let's get started. We have a lot to do this morning."

"Yes sir, I have here the Cumulative Distribution of Grade Point Averages Received By Full-time Intramural Winter Session Students."

"The what! The what!"

"The Cum..."

"Never mind, can't we shorten that, Standish?"

"To what sir?"

"To one word like we always do, by taking the first letter of every word and forming one word from it."

"Of course it will; it always does. Just look at UNICEF. Work on that, Standish."

"Yes, sir. Now from these statistics we can see exactly what faculties are achieving the best grade point averages and which are showing the worst."

"Yes, and then we can decide on how to improve the students' chances of getting good marks."

"Yes sir. Now, if we look at Medicine we see that for the year of '78-79 the GPA was 6.8, which is very good and should not need any action from us."

"Tell me, Standish, what was the GPA for the Nursing program for the same period?"

"Uh, 7.1. Why sir?"

"Well, don't you see? All we have to do is switch all the nurses into the MD program and all the doctors can become women."

"Sir!...?"

"Well, the nurses get higher marks so we just transfer their GPA into the Medicine faculty and the doctors will probably do better in nursing anyway."

"I don't think you have the idea of what we're doing, sir."

"Of course I do. Now go on Standish, how did the Arts faculty do?"

"Uh..., Arts, yes sir, here it is. The BA general program showed a GPA of 6.1 and the honors program showed one of 7.6."

"The Arts faculty always was pretty easy, we should make the honors program harder or if the smart honors students could pull up the general program, maybe we could transfer some honors students back to general."

"I don't think that will work sir. The difference in the averages is due to the difference in the numbers of students in each program. The general program has 1610 students while the honors had only 167."

"That doesn't matter. All we do is allow more general students into the honors program and the marks will even up, right Standish?"

"Nooo, I think you've got it all wrong, sir."

"I am not wrong! Your problem is that you do not know statistics, Standish."

"I thought I did."

"Well, it is obvious that you do not. Lets carry on with this thing. Can you find the averages for the Science faculty?"

"Science, sir? Yes, all right, here the general program showed an average of 6.0 and the honors presented one of 7.2."

"Hmm, the honors section is higher in Science, too; we'll have to do something about that. Make a note, Standish."

"Why sir?"

"Well, we have to raise the average in the general to meet the honors. Sometimes you worry me, Standish."

"But I thought we wanted the averages to be higher, sir?"

"We do, but we have to lower the honors mark to 6.6, so that it is the same as the general, you see?"

"Well not exactly sir."

"Standish, you are not with it. I'm concerned about you, Standish; perhaps your problem is that you're stupid. How many years of university do you have?"

"Eight, sir."

"There you go. I finished my schooling in only three years."

"But I have a Ph.D. sir."

"Ah, a learning disability; well that explains it. Let's go a little slower and I'm sure you'll catch on. Now tell me, what is one of the lowest averages and what is the highest?"

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Photo Ray Griguere

HUB finally opens

A unique "christening ceremony" took place on campus on September 2, according to an invitation received by the Office of Community Relations last week.

The infant, now nine years old, has been called many names during her brief life, but is now to be known as the HUB Mall.

Little HUB, whose parents were the Students' Union and the architects A.J. Diamond and Barton Myers (assisted in their fatherly duties by R.L. Wilkin), is quite a cheerful child.

Born with very few defects, none really debilitating, the child has been afflicted by various adversities during her tender years.

Although the parents were respectable — solid conservative, middle class background — and were properly married, the family soon suffered from financial dif-

ficulties.

To be fair, the father architects were not expected to pay for upkeep of the child and they still maintain a care for their offspring and her home. The mother, SU, on the other hand, could not properly provide for the child, with the result that papers were drawn up and HUB was adopted by a single parent with many children, Alma Mater.

Mrs. Mater is not a single parent in the truest sense of the word; her husband, Albert, continues to supply support payments on an annual basis and no divorce is envisaged.

Albert, however, maintains a costly residence on the other side of the river and is, therefore, quite strict about such things as money for housekeeping.

Indeed, very few of Alma's children are allowed cosmetics and some are even clad in clothes

that are constantly coming apart.

Little HUB herself was recently brought to the attention of the health authorities for her unkempt appearance. Her mom was ordered to clean her up and not to be so negligent in the future.

Despite all her problems, Alma Mater struggles on caring for her family as best she can. HUB's natural mother, SU, was never known to have a good head for figures and still suffers financial problems to the extent that she may have to declare personal bankruptcy unless long-suffering Alma comes to her aid.

Little HUB is now a healthy, robust child. Even the effects of her accident in May 1973 — she was almost run over by a garbage truck — are no longer evident. We wish her well for the future and hope we'll be invited to her eighteenth birthday.

Folio

"I need money"

Pres talks in his sleep

Funversation with Phil Soper

Phil: I've come to put the touch on you, Kingo.

Midas: I just love your laid back lingo.

Phil: Got an S.U. in need and a University looking for some big bucks.

Midas: Shucks. Not to worry. How many tons of my gold favor do you curry?

Phil: Check with my person Gaudet, and get back to you. But in

my view it's a lot.

Midas: Lot schmot. You got it baby.

Phil: Elise will be riotous; Myer high as a kite. Maybe Norwood'll weep for joy.

Midas: Hell, I'll make millionaires of the whole hoi polloi.

Phil: Me and the Su coffers will be enough, good ol' boy King.

Midas: Nothing for Kirk? Don't forget, he showed you how not to win an election.

Phil: I'll whip his ass if he

throws his weight around too much.

Midas: Coming to the matter of your touch, Phil, gimme some dope on how you transmute gold into dross. I need to turn these glittering profits into a loss, if I want to do a simple thing again like eat. What I crave is your reverse *Midas* touch, *tout de suite*.

Phil: Relax, Kingo. Anyone who is touched by me *Midas* well go into bankruptcy.

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