

Continued from Page 12  
grades bear little or no relationship to any measures of adult accomplishment."

Were the selector left to his own resources he would probably do a better job. We should encourage him.

Second argument. Grades certify that their holder has submitted himself to examination and proved his competence with regard to special skills. Would you want to be operated on by a doctor who has not submitted to such examination?

Comment. No matter how you toss it it comes up the same. Certainly a doctor must submit to examination. Certainly a doctor must prove his competence.

A doctor proves his competence by meeting criteria. With respect to an examination or a university course, the candidate may be awarded "credit" if he meets minimum criteria. If, on the other

hand, he does not meet minimum criteria then he does not receive credit.

One meets criteria or one does not meet criteria. This is what we need to know. And this is all we need to know to establish competence.

All else is irrelevant. A doctor does not establish his reputation on the basis of a grade-point average.

In fact, a study by Price, Taylor, Richards, and Jacobsen finds grade-point average "a factor almost completely independent of all factors having to do with performance as a physician (Journal of Medical Education, 1964, 39, 203-211)."

This was true for all four groups investigated: full time medical faculty, rural general practitioners, urban general practitioners, and specialists.

The letter grade bears no relation to competence.

Howard Halpern

IF YA GOT SOMETHIN'  
IT'S CAUSE YOU'RE GOOD

IF YA GOT NOTHIN'  
IT'S CAUSE YOU'RE  
BAD...

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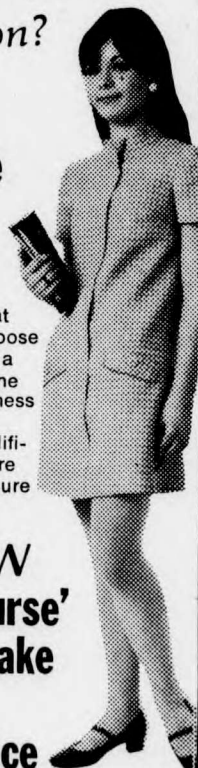
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