

COLLEGE COMMUNICATIONS

January 4, 1945

MID-SEMESTER GRADES

Mid-semester reports on the work of all students whose work is unsatisfactory (D, Inc., or F) are due in the College Office on Monday, January 8.

Full mid-semester reports on the work of veterans should be made on the special veterans' report cards which will be sent you for each veteran. Please note that there are two cards for each veteran, one of which is to be returned to Mr. Axe and the other to the Dean's office.

ABSENCES

For a good many years the College has followed a middle path with regard to absence reports. On the one hand, we do not ask for daily or weekly reports of all absences; on the other hand, we do not ignore absences. The middle path we have been following calls upon instructors to report the absences of any student when these have amounted to a total of more than a week's work, except in those cases where the instructor is sure that the student's absences have been due to a confining illness.

When this office receives such absence reports (on the excessive absence cards provided for them), we immediately call for the student, warn him against further absences, and in the great majority of cases nothing more needs to be done. In only a few cases each year, the student does not "play ball", so on receipt of an additional excessive absence report, the only college rule on absences is invoked. This rule is as follows: "Students having excessive absences may be withdrawn from the course by the Dean, with failure."

On the whole, we believe this plan works very well since most students who tend to become careless about class attendance are saved from failure through a prompt check-up. The plan breaks down when instructors do not report absences as promptly as they should. For example, there isn't much we can do to help a student who has been absent from class three or four weeks except to withdraw him with a failure. The same student, if reported after a week's absence, can usually get back into class, make up the work, and be saved from receiving a failing grade.

When a student has had over one week's absence, PLEASE report it promptly.

COMMITTEE ON WESTERN CIVILIZATION

In accordance with recent faculty action, the following committee will be in charge of the program on Western Civilization: Sandelius, chairman, Beth, Davis, Mabel Elliott, Gibson, Howey, Osborne, and R. H. Wheeler. The committee is planning to have the reading outlines ready before school closes this spring.

The Committee to coordinate the work in Western Civilization, English, and Speech, consists of Sandelius, Margaret Anderson, and Virtue.

THE EDUCATION VETERANS NEED

. . . . "The danger is that the already large number of uneducated technicians in the country will be increased by the G.I. Bill of Rights. And since the oversupply of technicians is certain to be great, disappointment awaits those who for vocational reasons pursue a technical education.

"What the country needs is a good liberal education. And then it needs to have everybody have it. The obstacle to everybody's having it has hitherto been financial. Now this obstacle is to be removed as far as the returning veteran is concerned. The temptation to give him what he thinks he wants is likely to be so compelling that the opportunity to give him the liberal education he ought to have may be thrown away. From the standpoint of the country this will be a calamity. Although it is important that the returning veteran fit into the economic system and be able to support himself, it is far more important that he be able as a citizen to contribute to the solution of the great problems which the country will face in the next generation. This is the object of liberal education."

--Pres. Robert M. Hutchins
University of Chicago

1945

May the New Year bring you:

- The greatest advancement in your field of study.
- The highest degree of skill in the classroom you have ever achieved.
- The greatest respect and friendship of your students.
- The happiest relations with your colleagues.
- The deepest joy in your family circle.

And may 1945 bring to all the world--PEACE!