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Naval Postgraduate School Barometer (newsletter), 1970-1975

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1970

**Naval Postgraduate School Business School**  
**Barometer '70 / v.2-1**

Monterey, California. Naval Postgraduate School

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<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/50142>

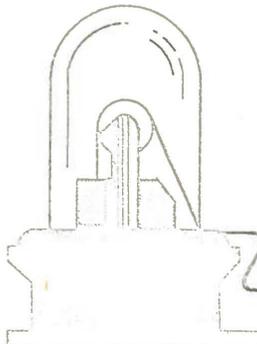
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## Naval Postgraduate School

# BUSINESS BAROMETER '70

VOL. II, No. 1

**EDITORIAL: "THE PASS-FAIL MARKING SYSTEM"**  
By Dr. W. H. Githens, Vtg. Assoc. Prof.  
Dept. of Bus. Adm. & Econ.

I'm in favor of it -- but only half-way! I'm in favor of a "pass" system; the other half, the "fail," I leave to those more sadistically inclined.

A "pass" system would, of course, involve some changes in the way courses are structured. They should, in general, be smaller in scope (2 quarter credits each?) and have definite criteria to establish if the student has satisfactorily achieved in the area. Responsibility for achieving would rest with the student; the professor would serve as an aid or guide to assist the student. Ideally students could take as much (or little) time as they wanted to complete a course. Graduation would require a certain minimum number of courses to be completed. No one fails. The less talented academically just do not complete many courses. The academically talented can demonstrate their ability by completing many courses; being as diverse or in-depth as they desire.

Is all this some radical experiment not appropriate for a graduate school? I would think that a "center of learning" would be an appropriate place for learning more about systems for facilitating learning! Our present system of grading should itself be regarded as an experiment. I doubt if we have much information to indicate it is better or worse than other systems.

The present grading system has one aspect that makes it undesirable for our school. Officers have formal performance evaluations covering their entire military service. Their performance mark during assignment to NPGS is based primarily on their grades. Since the relationship between academic grades and on-job performance is very dubious, there is always the risk of having academic school performance misused by detailers and promotion boards. For this reason I would like to see our grading system replaced, or at least the grades and their influence removed from the students' records.

As a researcher, I would have some misgivings over eliminating grades. How can the relevancy of courses be improved? Grades reflect success in mastering whatever the goals of a course are. Their relationship to other variables (like on-the-job performance) provides important information for evaluating this "relevancy."

From a selfish standpoint, I think a "pass" system as I've roughly outlined would involve a lot more time and effort by the professors, but it would certainly be fascinating, stimulating and challenging. (Hopefully, for the students, too.)

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### ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOW ABOARD

A Visiting Committee of distinguished educators and leaders in the field of management will be aboard NPGS on 6, 7 and 8 July. The committee is expected to help the Business Administration and Economics Department decide what kind of management education naval officers are going to need in the future, an assessment of the present strengths and weaknesses of the departmental educational offerings, the directions of recent and planned future development of the department and its programs, and the balance and quality of the departmental faculty for the accomplishment of the identified objectives.

The members of the Visiting Committee are:

Dean William F. Pounds, Sloan School of Management, MIT; Chairman.

Dean Henry Reining, Jr., School of Public Administration, USC; member.

Mr. John Magee, Executive Vice President, Arthur D. Little, Inc., Cambridge; member.

Rear Admiral John A. Scott, USN, Commanding Officer, Ships Parts Control Center; member.

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### OPPORTUNITY FOR PROJECT WORK

Naval aviation's proficiency flying (CRT) program is undergoing fresh scrutiny from the Congress, OSD and CNO. One of the current changes in the program is the introduction of leased jets at Monterey. Some research was conducted by a faculty/student group during Spring quarter.

Opportunities exist through 1970-71 for term papers, class projects, directed study and theses in many real-world problem areas within the broad subject of CRT. Students in any curriculum or specialty may find interesting topics here, but there is a special need for aviators in Management. Contact CDR Scott, SMC #1836, or LCDR Rasmussen or LT Fry for further details.

**NOTE: IF YOU WANT TO SIGN UP FOR THE DIRECTED STUDY COURSE, MN 4109, PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR CLASS CARD WITH YOUR PROPOSAL FOR DIRECTED STUDY**