

# Academic integrity vs. academic dodgeball

by M. A. SANTULLI

When I was in college I was interested in sports, booze and chasing girls—not necessarily in that order. I also read books, took courses and found academic regulations to be at best a necessity, at worst an obstacle to be overcome.

Now more than twenty years later I look back on my college experience and still remember the sports, booze and girls and to a lesser extend the books and courses. It seems to me in retrospect that my inclinations at the time I was in college were my worst enemies and my instincts my best friends. My instincts got me fat, secure and married. My inclinations gave me grief. I still fight old demons and dragons born of my inclinations.

My inclinations told me to avoid difficult courses, work on academic subjects only when forced and generally regard college as something interfering with my social life. When a teacher said this is important, I groaned and translated it as this is more work. When the school said this is necessary, I read nuisance. Above all, when anyone older than I said this is valuable I felt that they were too old to know any better.

There are today in college similar traps and pitfalls, similar to those I experienced. I think however that these are even more severe and intensified than when I went to school. There was the guy who said don't study, let's drink, have pizza, etc. Today there are more of them and they have better persuaders. The last thing in the world I wanted was a serious, demanding teacher who said this is important, necessary and valuable and you will do it. Today some teachers say the same thing and your survival in academic and economic terms depends on your response.

Eventually what happened was that I read enough books so that I acquired a professional position trying to get other people to read books. Students today know how to play the Catch 22 game, Drop a course, Find the easy prof, Cram, Avoid difficult courses. This is a way fraught with peril. Although this way may not lead to perdition it will certainly lead to recrimination, misgivings and the kind of Monday morning quarterbacking formulated as "I told you so."

Survival, if that's the name of the game, depends upon one upmanship, alertness and knowledge of the lay of the land. Comfort, security and advantage depend upon wise choice, relevant background and excellence in character and performance. If competition is so keen, and it is worse than you think, you can't afford to follow your inclinations, indiscriminately. I am sure this sounds like the typical hypocritical sage who says—do as I say not as I did. Confession may be good for my soul and bad for your eyes but if the way is hard—evasion, avoidance and similar strategies only postpone the problem. And the problem is you—not the teacher, the school, the rules. You have to learn and learn to discipline yourself, learn to write, read comprehensively and study. No less is demanded of you, down the line in education and in a career. To quit, evade and dodge the problem of education no matter how clever the self deception is to commit oneself to the perennial game of catch up. Survival and the advantages do not go to the quick drop, the easy A or the practitioners of academic dodgeball. You are the only game in town—the player, the ball and the object.

## Kafka is remembered

The Highacres Collegian would like to pay tribute to Professor Andrew K. Kafka, a retired English and speech communications teacher at the Hazleton campus, who passed away recently. His 44 years of dedicated service to the teaching profession, 20 of which were spent at Highacres, ended on Professor Kafka's 71st birthday.

Professor Kafka came to the Hazleton campus in 1955 as an English instructor and, during his 20-year teaching period at the campus, was promoted several times. Kafka retired in June of 1975 as an Associate Professor, teaching both English and Speech Communications.

In addition to teaching at Highacres, Professor Kafka taught Speech Communications to many area organizations and groups including nursing students at the Hazleton State General Hospital, the Rainbow Girls, and the Greater Hazleton Jaycees.

What Professor Kafka is best-known for among former students of Hazleton campus is his involvement in various student activities throughout his teaching career. He served as advisor for Belle-Lettres Literary Society, the New Horizons Literary Magazine, and the Highacres Collegian newspaper. He also founded the annual Tri-County High School Interpretive Reading Festival, which is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year. He was also active in the community, serving as moderator for the Greater Hazleton Great Books Society for over 20 years, and working for the Art League's Theatre of the Muses for several years. Professor Kafka was well-known in the area for his writing of play reviews, many of which were published in the Standard-Speaker when a local group presented a play.

Professionally, Kafka was recognized by various local, state, and national organizations as a judge and critic for speech and writing contests. He judged the National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Awards for over 15 years and many forensic competitions throughout the Eastern United States.

Kafka was an avid writer, whose articles have appeared in such publications as the Pennsylvania English News Magazine, the Journal of Higher Education, The Concourse Discourse, and New Horizons. Since retirement in 1975, Kafka was working toward the completion of two books on philology, the study of words and their origins.

Highacres  
Collegian  
Welcomes  
Letters  
to the Editors

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter as I am preparing to leave Highacres. I have been here for the past five terms, and during my stay I have encountered things that I did not expect to encounter. One thing I found difficult to believe, was that it costs \$30.00 each year for an individual to park a car on campus. I'd say roughly and conservatively that 600 cars are registered here this year, and about that same amount was registered each term last year also. This means that approximately \$18,000.00 was collected each year I attended this campus. The Administration tells the students that it costs each of us \$30.00 to "maintain" the parking lots. I don't think the people in our Business Office, however, could show us records verifying \$18,000.00 is used each year to maintain the parking lots. If there was, show me! I seriously doubt they could, though.

I recently talked to my cousin who attends Bloomsburg State. His charge for parking a car on campus for a year—nothing. Furthermore, the charge at Mansfield—\$2.00, and at Williamsport Area Community College—\$1.00. I realize that Penn State is huge compared to B.S.C., Mansfield, or W.A.C.C. However, does this account for a difference of \$28.00? No way!

Why do we have to pay to go bowling?

Why is the Gym closed on weekends?

Why can't we use all of the activity rooms in the Gym?

Why are higher price stickers placed over the (lower) publisher's price on the books in the Bookstore?

Why does the Library have limited hours on weekends?

Why can't people over 21 drink alcohol in the dorm?

Maybe there are legitimate answers to these questions, maybe there aren't. But I think it is time some of these policies are explained. After all, don't we, the students, have a right to know?

Jim Ambrose

Dear Jim,

I believe you bring up some good points. However, I'm curious to know whether you really tried to find the answers to the questions which you have posed. Each of the questions could have easily been answered by a member of the Administration or the Faculty. The personnel in the Business Office have always been very helpful in answering my questions, whether I have been doing an article for this newspaper or simply trying to satisfy my own curiosity. Sometimes we as students must take the initiative to seek the answers to our questions.

However, considering the good points you have raised, this may suggest to the Administration the need for some type of publication answering this kind of question. The Highacres Collegian would be more than willing to print the information students want, if the Administration is willing to work with the Collegian in this way; by supplying us with the information. After all, the Collegian's main objective is to provide the students with the articles they are interested in.

Nora Reichard  
News Editor

Highacres Collegian

## Personal Ads

Trapper, I'm glad Henry gave Frank the pass for 2-2-80 so we can have the Swamp to ourselves!

Hawkeye

Suzie Creamcheese: "Whoah baby, what's got into you?!"

F.Z.

Beware! F.P. has the Tenzor effect—for further developments watch on April 15.

E.N.

Come to St. Alfonzo's Pancake Breakfast. 2-10-80 7-11.

Nanook of the North

Frank Zappa lives!

S.Y.

I love you Dawn—Glenn Soccer players do it for 90 minutes.

A.H.

The Steelers do it again!

Frank says, "Brown shoes don't make it."

J.R. The Fat man loves you!!!!!!!!!!!!!! May Loni be in your dreams forever!!!

Beautiful Michelob girl—just love your capsule—how about a rendezvous in space?

"Naught now Kato, you stupid fuel!"

I.C.

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