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The Daily Collegian

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Something Else We Can Do About Cheating

Twelve thousand students are interested enough in a degree to come to State College every fall, but unfortunately and probably naturally, all 12,000 of them cannot be expected to want to learn. A diploma will help them get a job, but an honestly gotten diploma has little more apparent value to many of them than one stolen from a set of crib notes.

So, students cheat. This, also may be natural, but it is hardly desirable unless the school's rating can stand an academic jolt.

It's a common belief that the size of Penn State and the fact that it is a state university are responsible for the high degree of cheating. "The school's too big," is the most frequent reason student give when they say, "It'll never work here" and "Some students are always going to cheat."

But this pessimistic thinking is not valid. The University teaches calculus. Some people learn it and others do not. The University does not teach honesty. If it did, some people would learn it and others would not, but this is not reason enough to abandon efforts to install some kind of course in honesty?

In an article for the April, 1956 McCall's Elizabeth Pope said a poll conducted by New Jersey's Fairleigh Dickinson College among 3500 students in 40 high schools and colleges showed less than a third of the students regarded cheating as an act of delinquency. People making the study were confronted with comments like, "How else are you supposed to get ahead?" and "It's okay if you get away with it," and "It can't be so bad when everyone I know does it."

Mrs. Pope elaborated upon the many reasons why students cheat, other than that they could see little harm in it. She mentioned home pressure and average requirements for graduate school. But there is no sense going into these causes since the University can do little to correct them. Parents will always want their children to do well in class; there will probably always be some conflict because of it, but the University's concern is to educate students and not appease mothers and fathers.

The University must be equipped to educate its students to be honest right along with educating them to be informed. Its methods must be so geared as to reach all students regardless

of their pre-college cheating habits, their home background, and their "set" ways.

Regardless of the form a future honor system might take or the scope it might eventually take in, concrete plans must be made now to change student attitude and pave the way for honesty at the University.

In a school the size of Penn State, indoctrination certainly presents a problem. The tools of implementation are many, but the most practical seems to be the utilization of advisors for the task. Of course, the relationship between advisor and advisee varies from curricula to curricula, but he usually knows his advisees by name by the end of their freshman year and should enjoy a better level of communication among them than he does among the students in his classes in general. For this reason and due to the fact that he is in a position to gain the student's respect as a leader in the student's field or profession, he is the person to introduce the student to a system of academic honesty.

Naturally the advisor will have to undergo a period of training before he is equipped to instruct his students, so this is where the already established Academic Honesty Committee can be useful. Since these committeemen are supposed to be familiar with honesty policies and principles effective at other schools, they should be in a position to set standards of procedure for the advisor to follow in the honesty indoctrination.

This training should cultivate such an attitude in the students' mind that they would realize the necessity and certainly the desirability of being honest, especially in academic work. They should be shown the results of cheating on a level that will be understandable to them.

This suggestion may sound ridiculous, but Penn State is on the bottom rung in honesty understanding, and to get through to the average cheater is to take this first, very practical step.

The indoctrination the advisor would give his students should open their minds to the possibility of establishing small-scale class and departmental honor systems. Systems in workable condition should be referred to, perhaps in the hope of inciting a feeling of rivalry among the members of these individual groups. But nowhere should coercion be used, for if the students don't really want to work on their honor, success on any level is almost impossible.

In classes where students prefer close proctoring to the honor system, now-existing University regulations for classroom discipline should be followed. It is conceivable that classes might even be divided when tests are administered, with one group under rigid supervision and the other on its honor.

Many details are yet to be worked out, but it is with these details that the Academic Honesty Committee should concern itself and not so much with how to catch and punish students who are "expected" to cheat. The committee has definitely started out on the wrong foot in its rigid classification of degrees of dishonesty and vigorous attempts to stop cheating at all costs.

Because this is Penn State, education for the masses, we must not be discouraged in our attempt to teach honesty to the masses by a flood of below grades. Of course there's nothing that says we can't toss the failures out of school, but right now we must begin to teach these 12,000 students something about honesty.

Apparently they know very little.

—Jackie Hudgins

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"I SEE THEY'VE PATCHED THINGS UP."

—What's Our Ultimate Aim?

Foreign Policy To Be Reappraised

By J. M. Roberts

Associated Press News Analyst

In his promised reappraisal of America's foreign aid policy, one of the first things Secretary Dulles will need is a recapitulation of just what the nation is trying to do.

For nearly 10 years now the chief emphasis of American foreign policy has been on development, of a system of alliances, political, economic and military, with which to insure that the post-war tide of Russian expansion will rise no higher.

The nation is now carrying global commitments, through the Western Hemisphere Pact, NATO, SEATO, and bilateral agreements. It has become an active participant in the economic phases of the Baghdad Pact. Hardly a nation anywhere has not received some form of American aid since World War II.

Yet a number of nations remain uncommitted in the cold war, either by treaty or by sentiment, and some of them, like India, are of great importance.

In the beginning, American aid was extended through the United Nations, UNRRA. It went directly to the grass roots of postwar agony, taking care of people.

Then came the Marshall Plan, the first great unilateral action by the United States designed to prevent Communist expansion in Europe. It was offered to everyone, but the Communist bloc turned it down in one of its first open declarations of cold war.

The four years of the Marshall Plan were not over when developments in Europe and Asia, particularly the Korean war, shifted American aid emphasis from the economic to the military. And there it has stayed until Russia, taking a page from the American book,

adopted the lessons of the Marshall Plan to her own use.

Through all these meanderings there has been a tendency in the United States—a tendency frequently criticized by foreigners who have not been heard very well amid the din of the American-Russian quarrel—to let fundamental objectives drift into the background.

Froth to Stay on Sale

Froth will continue on sale today at the Corner Room, Mall bulletin board, and the Hetzel Union desk.

Gazette

- Today
- INTERLANDIA FOLK DANCERS Balkan-Slovak Party, 7:45 p.m., 3 White Hall
- INVER-VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, 7:30 p.m., 405 Old Main
- NEWMAN CLUB Spring Fling, 9 p.m., Church Hall
- University Hospital
- Robert Brandl, Samuel Feinstein, Thomas Foster, Harry Fuehrer, Erwin Maxson, James Sponser, Richard Sutton, Lynnwood Sweigard.
- Student Employment
- Camp Sinking Creek, Pennsylvania—April 29
- Camp Echo Trail, Pennsylvania—April 24
- Indian Lake Camp, Pennsylvania—April 27-28

Tonight on WDFM

- 91.1 MEGACYCLES
- 6:45 Sign On
- 6:50 News, Sports
- 7:00 Jazz Panorama
- 7:30 Hubzapoppin'
- 8:00 Musical Marathon
- 9:00 Special Events
- 9:15 III Fl Open House
- 11:00 Sign Off

Kneecaps: Naughty?

Bermuda shorts are respectable on the ground floor of the HUB. But they're indecent and unlawful on the first and second floors. Isn't that amazing?

Isn't it startling that in 1956, 36 years after the adoption of the woman's suffrage amendment and the same year that women own some 80 per cent of the nation's capital wealth, Penn State's coeds have to battle for the right to wear Bermuda shorts on the golf course or above the ground level of a building constructed for student recreation?

Isn't it a sorry commentary that these archaic, Victorian age rules are on the books?

Isn't it silly that Penn State's Women's Student Government Association has to concern itself with where Bermuda shorts shall and shall not be worn?

Isn't it paradoxical that in sociology classes in Sparks we learn that only society itself can dictate its folkways while in Old Main we deny this?

In fact, isn't it all conduct detrimental to the good sense of the student body?

—The Editor



Shocking?

Safety Valve

Grace's Figure (of Speech)

TO THE EDITOR: In Miss Conklin's article on the Matrix Banquet, she reported Mrs. Crist as saying, (quoting from the article) "—a well known figure like Grace Kelly." We should like to know who told Mrs. Crist that Grace Kelly has a figure.

—John Newlin
Bruce Batdorf
Ed Stoker
Joseph Stecker

What you should know about—
SENIOR BALL
Music by
Billy Butterfield
Time: FRIDAY, MAY 4; 9-1
Price: \$5.00 per Couple
Dress: Semi-Formal

Spring arrived — So Did Our
'NEW' CARD ASSORTMENT!



Want a card (greeting, get well, congrats) that's different? Want to say something special to someone? Well, our new selection gives you the chance to be unique!!!
P.S. Also remember to get your Mother's Day cards early while there's still a good supply.

TREASURE HOUSE
(The Store With "The" Window)

Where — University Park, Pa.
When — April 28th - May 3rd
But What ?

Ask her now to SENIOR BALL May 4