

Editorial Opinion

Outdated Virtue

After reading articles and books written around the turn of the century one may get the idea that honesty was a virtue respected by everyone.

Reading articles and talking to people today one often gets the impression that only the fool is honest and those who don't "fudge" just a little will never be successful.

Half a century ago the cheater was disgraceful or even cowardly. Today he is merely clever.

In 1958 75 per cent of college seniors questioned in a survey admitted cheating and only 13 per cent felt cheating was basically dishonest.

Undergraduates whine that they have to cheat because "when you're graded on a curve, you have to cheat to keep the cheaters from pushing your grades down." We wonder what excuse they give in courses in which they are marked on straight percentage points.

The trouble is that today's high school or college cheater is tomorrow's citizen who cheats the government on his income tax or a company on his expense account.

He is the quiz contestant who cheats the audience and the disc jockey who gets a payoff. He is the dishonest advertiser who tries to convince buyers his product has qualities which it does not.

Financial success has become a virtue in itself exclusive of the method of attainment, and honesty—well, we just don't hear much about it anymore.

Anthropologist Margaret Mead blames the present trend on prohibition. "We have to remember that a whole generation of Americans grew up watching their parents break the law for their own personal pleasure," she said.

Whatever the cause, we think its high time the trend to view honesty as out-of-date should be reversed and the place to begin this reversal is in the schools. Somehow the student who looks for security by any method must be replaced by the student who knows the value of truth and honesty.

This is partly a job for the students themselves who must learn that honesty is really much more sophisticated than cheating.

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56 Years of Editorial Freedom

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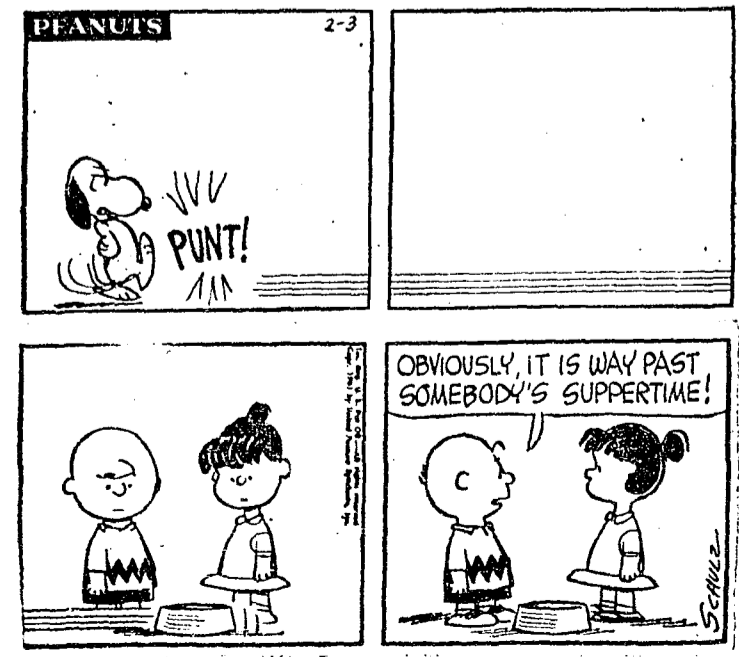
JOHN BLACK
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CHESTER LUCIDO
Business Manager

Member of The Associated Press
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Letters

Coed Finds Lounge Life No Picnic

TO THE EDITOR: Are we here for decoration appreciation, or are we here for an education? We sometimes wonder, because we are not given the opportunity of uninterrupted study.

Our problems began when we were moved into the lounge in the first place, instead of being given a regular room. Interruptions all the time... people using the lounge as a thruway, coming in here at all hours of the day and night "just to see what the lounge looks like."

It was not enough these strange people passed through, but we had many of them staying with us while their rooms were being painted. Needless to say, this was no asset to our concentration powers.

Now, when we (foolishly) thought things were settling down at last, they took the study chairs from our room, and have just informed us that the lounge will be painted during the week of finals.

We repeat: Are we here for an education, or are we here for attractive rooms?

—Barbara Silver, '64
—Joyce Leonard, '64

Jr. Praises ROTC 'Profs'

TO THE EDITOR: I am sending this note concerning the "Compulsory ROTC" question as discussed over WDFM on the evening of Jan. 11, 1961.

As to whether ROTC should be compulsory or not is not why I am writing. My reason for writing is that I tend to disagree with those who feel that the ROTC instructors are inadequate to teach their subject. I am referring specifically to Army ROTC instructors. These officers have received training and successfully met the requirements to teach their subject.

Due to their military experience and prior training, I cannot presently see who could be more qualified to teach Military Science than these officers.

As an added comment, I have had various instructors in my prior schooling here at Penn State who have done a poorer job of instructing than the instructors I have had in ROTC.

—Earl F. Ervey, '62

Confiscation Plagues Coed

TO THE EDITOR: I wish to protest about the inaccuracy of the information given to freshman coeds during summer counseling. In the summer, they were told that kitchenettes are available in the dorms for their use.

Since utensils are not provided they are urged to bring a pot for heating water or soup. What happens! They arrive at State to find said kitchenettes not available for use.

When they adjust to this and instead make instant coffee or tea using hot tap water, their rooms are checked and their coffee pots are taken from them, even though it has no electrical attachments to it.

What will they confiscate next, our high heels and soap so that we won't put marks on the floor or rings in the tub?

—"A Freshman Coed"

Gazette

TODAY
Dean of Women Workshop, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 212 HUB
Faculty Talk, 2-3 p.m., HUB assembly room
Outing Club, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., HUB 1st floor lobby
Pa. Jersey Cattle Club, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 217 HUB
Student Insurance, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., HUB 1st floor lobby
UBA, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., HUB cardroom

Interpreting

JKF Conferences Receive Praise

By J. M. ROBERTS
Associated Press News Analyst

Just when President Kennedy's news conferences were beginning to threaten the morning and evening coffee breaks with serious competition, there has been a change of signals.

Perhaps as an experiment with audience appreciation, perhaps for other reasons, the next conference will not be televised and broadcast "live" but will be taped for later showings.

The hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. which are the most reasonable for the conferences are hours when few except housewives can watch, and many of them are shopping.



ROBERTS

For those who could watch, however, Kennedy was rapidly approaching a stardom which he may not attain on cold film.

There's something about watching him stand there and knowing that he's battling those balls back without hesitation, right in front of your eyes, which could be lost in watching recordings.

So far as news conferences are concerned, Kennedy's first two news conferences have out-distanced anything like them before.

He walks to the podium like a man who is just off a fast express, and immediately endears himself with the news crops by tossing out two or three brand new headlines. The

air of hurry vanishes, and as the questions flow you are amazed by the man's vast range of detailed knowledge about current topics. He does not hesitate or parry.

It is obvious that he reads a great deal more than just the Sunday papers, and that his assistants are in close touch with him on the problems they are studying.

Both conferences have run over the 30 minutes customary under former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Wednesday he even stayed to answer a last question after the "bell" which reporters ring themselves.

I kept wondering how long he would stay if quitting time were left to him. He gives every appearance of appreciating the opportunity to talk about what he's trying to do.

Naturally he wants to reach the largest possible audience. He can do that by evening broadcasts.

But at 4 p.m. he will be talking to late editors of afternoon papers all across the country. They and the radio will take away some of the edge of first interest if the televisors wait until night.

Presumably what he wants now is a chance to weigh the results of both methods. Nothing has happened so far to cause any great fear of "non-correctable" slips on live broadcasts.

Letters

Pocahontas Controversy

TO THE EDITOR: I was surprised to read your reporter's account in Wednesday's Daily Collegian of Dr. Philip Young's Liberal Arts lecture on the validity of the Pocahontas and John Smith story.

Surely Dr. Young cannot still be ignorant of the true facts of John Smith's "rescue" by Pocahontas as recently revealed in that admirable book, "The Sot-Weed Factor," by his colleague in your English Department, John Barth.

Yes, I am sure Dr. Young must know that John Smith

waited 16 years to mention Pocahontas only because he dared not write the truth. As Barth so strikingly brings to light, Smith's account in 1662 turned out to be a complete fabrication.

I feel called upon to explain this to your readers, although not, I hope, to Dr. Young's embarrassment, for I feel I understand his reluctance to speak the truth in public. It must be made clear, however, that Barth's revelations are a boon to history and cannot be hidden from the world any longer.

—Ted Serrill, Alum

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE A LITTLE LATE FOR WORK, EDDIE, I JUST GOT WORD WE'VE A FACULTY MEETING."