

'Tap Method' Suggested to Prevent Cheating

Editor's Note: This is the last in a four-part series dealing with student cheating. Today's article looks at methods of prevention in a general review of the topic.

By TOM KOTUOC

Between 35 and 50 cases of student cheating came to the attention of University department chairmen last semester, according to the chairmen of these departments.

This figure does not include the 60 cases detected in men's physical education.

The greatest amount of cheating was reported in lower level courses, with little or no cheating in graduate and professional schools.

Department chairmen admitted that a considerable amount of undetected cheating had occurred in addition to the cases reported, but were reluctant to estimate the amount.

Yet, at some Universities, student cheating is virtually non-existent. Why?

At Stanford University, a student seeing another student cheating during an exam

taps his pencil sharply on his desk three times, informing the students and instructor that someone is cheating, said J. P. Colbert, dean of Student Affairs.

The instructor goes to the area of the room from which

Academic Honesty Code

the tapping came and watches for the cheating student, as other students, alerted of the condition, are more cautious to protect their exams from the cheater.

So effective has this system been at Stanford that student attitude now condemns the cheater, instead of tolerating him, Colbert said.

Student reaction at Nebraska to the "tap" system is largely favorable. The majority of some 50 students interviewed said that it is at least worthy of being tried here.

One law student, however, contended that the system is a "good way to keep the instructor confused."

All interviewed agreed, however, that unless such a system is accepted by the large majority of University students it would not be successful.

"A useful step in reducing the amount of cheating would be a clear statement from the faculty setting forth the value of intellectual honesty as it applies to student work, defining cheating and indicating the penalties for violation."

This idea, shared by many of the 25 professors interviewed, was expressed by Dr. Alan P. Bates, professor of sociology and a member of an Arts and Sciences committee which is developing a code on academic honesty for that college.

"Such a statement should be stated in general enough terms so that it could be applied uniformly throughout the campus," said Bates, "and be incorporated into the various University catalogues."

The Department of English

includes a statement on plagiarism in the manual given to all freshman English students:

"If a student's work clearly reflects the organization, phrasing, or wording of another's work, we consider the student's paper plagiarized. A plagiarized paper is sufficient cause for the student's being dropped from freshman English with a failing grade."

At UCLA, the Student Judiciary Board passed this directive on student dishonesty last year:

"A student who steals work or cheats in any way is refusing the responsibility that is his and forfeits his rights to remain a member of that academic community. . . . A student found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will be dismissed from the University."

The UCLA resolution suggests that students be punished, too, for failure to report instances of cheating.

University student Joel Lundak had these thoughts on cheating during finals:

"Finals represent to good students who have consistently worked hard, an opportunity to review their subject matter and evaluate each part in relation to the whole course. To all students, finals are a chance to raise their averages. This chance is lost when an instructor is forced to discount the last examination because a few — or more — have obtained it beforehand."

"The general apathy of the student body takes on an almost comic aspect when we see that, even after realizing they had been sold fake exams, no one apparently did anything to 'discourage' the people who were peddling the phonies from doing it again."

"The students of this campus are exhibiting not only a tragic moral laxity but a somewhat stupid reluctance to protect their own interests when they permit the honor system to be made completely ineffectual. Action on the cheating problem must not only come from the administration and faculty — who can probably be most effective by working primarily for greater security in the future — but from elevated conscience and improved conduct on the part of the student body."

Many University professors do not report cheating cases to the division of Student Affairs, because, as they say, "Usually no action is taken on such cases other than the cheater receiving a failing mark."

Thus, individual faculty members have often developed their own ways of dealing with the cheater.

"We are here to serve the students, not to catch them cheating," said Theodore Aakhus, professor of mechanical engineering and past Student Tribunal member.

"I assume a student is honest," he said. "When I suspect him of cheating, I talk over my suspicions with him immediately, instead of watching him and trying to catch him in the act."

"When the evidence that a student has been cheating on an exam appears positive, but the student claims that he was not cheating, I require him to retake the exam," Aakhus said.

"Reducing the number of closed book exams would reduce the number of students who believe they must write formulas and names on crib sheets, gum wrappers, backs of chairs and shirt cuffs to remember facts," he added.

Four common excuses are used to justify most cases of dishonesty, from embezzlement to classroom cheating, according to a study made

by an insurance company: (1) Everyone else is doing it; (2) It isn't hurting anyone; (3) They owe it to me; (4) It's all right to be a little dishonest.

"Public apathy," said the study, runs through the en-

Excuses 'Justify' Cheating

tire subject of dishonesty and embezzlement.

Dr. Charles E. Miller, assistant professor of physical education, pointed out that the cheating student often continues his dishonest practices into business life by forgery, embezzlement and passing "no fund" checks.

"The cheater develops the attitude that the world owes

him a living, when he discovers that rigors of business life can be circumvented in the way that exams were in college.

Miller said, students cheat to get a grade for athletic eligibility, to make an initiation average, or to avoid preparing for an exam.

"Our abstract view of honesty has been diluted and whittled down in almost every area of society, except in the intellectual community where men emphasize the search for the truth," said Bates.

"One unforgivable sin for a person in the professions is to be caught in an act of dishonesty because the punishment is ostracism."

"If thieves broke into my neighbor's house on the east one night and into my neighbor's house on the west the next night, no doubt I would be concerned and call the police," said Colbert.

"Yet what is cheating," he asked, "but the stealing of honest work."

Secretaries Meet At Nebr. Center

The Eighth Annual Institute for Secretaries was held Saturday at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education.

The institute, "Secretarial Image—Professional and Personal," is planned to help secretaries in their understanding of their true value to their organization and how their actions influence what others think of them and their organization.

The institute is being sponsored by the Cornhusker Chapter of the National Secretaries Association and the University College of Business Administration.

Miss Dorothy Stephan, secretary of the Nebraska State Education Association and president of the Cornhusker Chapter of the National Secretaries Association, will also speak at the Institute.

Campus Calendar

TASSELS initiation banquet will be held Tuesday, March 13, at 5:30 p.m. in the Pan American of the Union. The banquet will also honor the old and new officers and the outstanding active and pledge. After initiation, the pledges will entertain with a skit.

IRANIAN CLUB will meet Sunday at 4 p.m. in 332 Student Union.

NEBRASKA INTERNATIONAL BOOK PROJECT will meet at the Campus Episcopal Chapel, Saturday, March 10 at 9 a.m.

Dental School Given \$30,000

A \$30,000 grant has been made available to the University's College of Dentistry by the U.S. Public Health Service.

Dr. Ralph Ireland, dean of the college, said that the funds, which are used for research, are Nebraska's share of a yearly appropriation to schools in the nation.

The dental school will use the funds in three areas: (1) To continue a part-time student fellowship program to encourage research, (2) To augment salaries of part-time research staff members, and (3) For individual or departmental research projects.

Now underway are such projects as a continuing investigation of cleft palate conditions, a joint mechanical engineering-dental study of the mouth, and an anthropological-dental study of twins.

Miller's Writings Merit Publication

Dr. James Miller Jr., chairman of the English department, has written a book on Herman Melville and contributed an essay on Walt Whitman for recent publication.

Dr. Miller's "A Reader's Guide to Herman Melville," was published by Noonday Press of New York.

A second publication, "Whitman, A Collection of Critical Essays," contains Dr. Miller's essay "America's Epic," a discussion of Whitman's "Leaves of Grass." This book is one in a series on "20th Century Views," and was published by Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Nebraska Applauds

Jim Lucas is the newly-elected president of Delion Union Literary Society. He will be assisted by Bill Kaufman, vice-president and Larry Brannigan, secretary-treasurer.

Kappa Phi, the Methodist girls' service sorority, recently initiated nine University coeds at a formal ceremony in Cotner chapel.

The girls are: LaNeta Collicott, LaDonna Cowell, Doret-

ta Darling, Ann Lamphier, Ann Munnis, Kathleen Robertson, Leila Stevens, Judy Sheldon, and Linda Williams.

New members of Orchesis, University dance group, chosen last Tuesday are Christy Opland, Sandy Prawl, Guna Bite, Helen Shearer, Joyce Burns, Sally Jones and Cori Cabela.

Two new members of Pre-Orchesis are Roxie Mann and Julie Eakes. Pre-Orchesis members work to earn a certain number of points in order to be in Orchesis. They do this by selling tickets to Orchesis shows, working in shows and attending extra rehearsals.

Health Institutes Support Studies

Sol Garfield, professor of medical psychology, and Michael J. Carver, associate professor of neurology and psychiatry have each received continuation grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Garfield's \$3,772 grant will be used in the research project "Patient-Therapist Interactions and Continuation in Psychotherapy."

Carver will use the grant for continued research of the "Effects of Phenothiazine-Deficiency."

A \$13,000 continuation research grant was awarded to Robert J. Ellingson, associate professor of medical psychology at the College of Medicine in Omaha.

Ellingson will use the grant on a project which has been under study for seven years: "EEG's and Cortical Evoked Responses of Human Infants." This is the fifth year that NIH has supported the project.

Corn Pest Study Receives Grant

The University has received a \$5,000 grant from Geigy Agricultural Chemicals of Ardsley, N.Y., for continued research on the control of rootworms.

Corn rootworm control studies are being conducted here by Dr. Gerald T. Weekman, assistant professor of entomology at Ag College.

The grant is to be used for screening various chemicals in the control of the corn rootworms, which caused serious damage to corn fields in central Nebraska the past two years. It is also to be used for studies on the behavior of organic phosphate insecticides in the soil.

Esquenazi Works On Castro's Talk

Recordings made of Fidel Castro's month-old speech following Cuba's ouster from the Organization of American States are being studied by Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo associate professor of romance languages.

Prof. Esquenazi and four students, using the facilities of the Air Force ROTC radio station, recorded all hour and a half of the four and one-half hour speech directly from Havana.

The language professor plans to analyze the recording with the help of personal experiences of the Cuban students and to "Show the evil way of Red propaganda as well as how to combat such speech."

Applications Ready For Qualifying Test

University men who are eligible to take the College Qualification Test for the Selective Service System should pick up their applications at local board offices as soon as possible.

Applications should be filled out, according to information in the bulletin and mailed to: Selective Service Examining Section, Educational Testing Service, P.O. Box 586, Princeton, New Jersey. Applications must be posted before midnight, March 27.

The tests will be given to the local boards and used in assessing deferment as a student.

WHY DO SO MANY SMALL BUSINESSES FAIL?

Last year, 16,000 U.S. firms went out of business. But, says Commerce Secretary Luther Hodges, many could have pulled through if their owners had known the ABC's of economics. In "Speaking Out" in this week's Post, he gives the two main reasons for business failure. Says most Americans are "economic boobs." And outlines a 3-part plan for coping with economic problems.

The Saturday Evening POST MARCH 10 ISSUE NOW ON SALE

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A good sword nowadays is hard to find—and in olden times, too. Many a feudal lord saw it pointless to joust with a faulty halberd, and for worthy steel alone the Visigoths sacked Rome.

Today, centuries later, the search for stronger steels goes on. And among those making most dramatic strides in advancing the state of the metallurgical art are the research teams at Ford's Scientific Laboratory in Dearborn, Michigan.

In exploring the "world of microstructure," these scientists, using methods of extreme sophistication, have been able to look at iron and steel on a near-atomic scale. They have discovered secrets of nature leading to new processing techniques which yield steels of ultra-high strength unknown a decade ago.

The promise of such techniques seems limitless. As man develops the needs and means to travel more swiftly on earth and over interplanetary reaches—wherever economy of weight and space is required—strength of physical materials will become paramount. This is another example of how Ford is gaining leadership through scientific research and engineering.

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FRIDAY AFTERNOON CLUB—TRADE WINDS

Sigma Chi Combo
3:30 - 5:30
All Campus Invited