

Greek exam files support cheating, should not be emulated by Selleck

Exam files as good as the Greek houses.
Oh boy.

I take it Joe Hayman meant that because Selleck's exam file was as large as the Greek's, and because it imitated the Greek's, that such a system of old tests and exams was inherently "good."



Bill Allen

I don't know, you take it how you want. An article in Monday's Daily Nebraskan on Selleck Quadrangle's new exam file ended with a quote by Hayman, Selleck president: "With a little more time, we believe that we can have an exam file as good as some of the Greek houses."

I read the article just like you did. So you know how these exam files work. Students turn in their old tests, exams, yes, even paper, to be put into the file. Another student taking that class can then check out these tests, exams, yes, even papers, to study.

I know that different things have different connotations for different people, but to me such practices are cheating.

Cheating. There, I wrote it again just in case you missed it the first time.

And it's so blatant, too. When I was in elementary and secondary school, cheating was kept secret. There were always bits of gossip about someone who was caught trying out some novel way of cheating. And every once in a while someone tried to copy your paper during a test. But no one ran around yelling, "Lookee, lookee, I have a copy of an old test; that means I don't have to study or do the work. I can cheat."

But now that I'm in college, that seems to be exactly what is happening.

From almost my first day on campus I heard about the Greeks having exam files. So, after that, every time I heard of a fraternity doing well academically as a whole, my first reaction was, "So what, they probably just have the best exam file." It's too

bad my first reaction couldn't have been one that said something about their outstanding study habits or their helpful tutoring of all members. No, my first reaction had that element of cheating in it.

Now, I'm not saying that was a fair first reaction. I would like to think that there is a majority of fraternity men and sorority women which shuns the whole idea of a cheating file and chooses to study instead.

Let me get back to the article for a minute. According to the front-page piece, one fraternity actually awards points at the end of the semester to the person who turns in the most old exams.

Incentive for cheating. Two persons quoted in the article said there could be problems if a student relied solely on the exam file and didn't study and yes, some people studied just old tests and nothing more.

I'm sure that many people can productively use such a file as a complement to regular study habits. I'm equally sure that many people will use such a file as an excuse not to study and thus cheat.

My question to anyone contributing to such a file is this: After all the work you've put into a class, and after all you've learned, do you want someone else to use your test to get an equal or better grade without trying at all?

Are you really helping this person by letting him cheat?

And to those of you who use such a file: Are you really using it as a study aid, or are you cheating, selling yourself and your abilities short?

It's a question of ethics. I happen to take the side which says a person achieves more growth and knowledge by experiencing the work themselves, not by cheating off of someone else.

So I think Hayman was wrong when he said Selleck could have an exam file "as good as some of the Greek houses'."

Maybe Selleck could have one as large as, or as in-depth as, the Greeks' but qualitatively an exam file is not "good."

I would ask Douglas Zatechka, housing director, to put a stop to the exam file in Selleck.

More importantly, I would urge Selleck residents, and Greek members to have faith in their own abilities and reject the cheating file idea.

Now I'll get down from my soapbox and go study.

Satellite...

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In fairness, there were some things about the space-repair mission that did remind me of earthly experiences. The first visit was a failure; they couldn't get a grip on the problem. The men explained their failure in full-tilt repair-person-speak: "Current opinion is that the failure to dock with the Solar Max Mission trunnion pin Sunday was due to a thermal blanket retaining stud which extended out over the trunnion pin."

Nevertheless, the stunning accomplishment of this air-shuttle mission is that NASA succeeded where consumers failed.

As Astronaut Bob Crippen of "Ace Satellite Repair Co." said, "Satellite servicing is a viable thing that we, as a country, should be pursuing." Now I just have to figure out how to get my hair dryer into orbit.

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