



CHEATING:

A Candid Report with Student and Teacher Response

By LORI THOMAS

Cheating is an underlying element in all types of classrooms. Teachers and students alike are well aware of its existence. However, since at a given time or in a given circumstance different students will cheat, accuracy in this or any survey is impossible. These findings are merely an attempt to somewhat reveal student actions and opinions.

In this survey on cheating one hundred students (twenty-five from each of the four grades) were polled from randomly selected homerooms. The first question asked these students, "Do you ever cheat on tests?" The majority of students, 65%, answered yes, while the remaining minority, 35%, answered no. This difference shows that overall, most students do cheat. Of the 65% who cheat, 54% were female, and 46% were male — the difference being insignificant. When asked, "... how often?" the most common reply was "occasionally."

The sophomores ranked highest among the classes with 21 of the 25 people polled confessing to cheating. Freshmen followed closely with 19 of the 25 cheating. The majority of the junior class, 15 of 25, also confessed to cheating. The seniors polled are the only group with the majority, 15 of the 25, answering no, that they did not cheat. The difference is perhaps due to the experiences of the upperclassmen. However, only 15 of the 65 who cheat have been caught while cheating, and all but one of the 15 were either freshmen or sophomores. More frequent cheating in lower grades perhaps indicates a rise in the number of cheaters.

Opinions on the morality of cheating is also shown in this survey. The majority of all as well as the boys and girls divisions proclaimed cheating as being morally wrong. However, this majority was not great. One student replied, "No" and gave this as his reason — "Everyone else does it." Another student stated, "Students are under a lot of pressure from their parents to make good grades and feel like they have to do well on tests and turn to cheating." In opposition to these comments, common replies included, "Because it's not fair to others," and "Because you're not helping yourself learn anything."

English and math seem to be

the subjects that most students are most likely to cheat in. Foreign languages was also a common response as to what subject one cheats in.

"When the teacher isn't looking..."

When questioned on cheating tactics, students commonly responded that "cheat sheets" are the dominate method. These "cheat sheets" are small pieces of paper with the needed information. Normally this paper is concealed underneath the test paper or on the desk seat under the student's leg. Talking and looking onto another's paper were also frequent answers. Other modern methods include stolen test questions, plagiarism of scholarly work, and "ghost-writing" which is having another person do one's work.

To combat cheating most colleges, preparatory, and private institutions maintain an "honor code." At the completion of tests, students must simply sign a statement pronouncing their innocence and honesty. These codes are normally strictly enforced. Expulsion and/or suspension are likely on the college level. Area high schools have no such code but perhaps it should be considered.

Who's Responsible?

Who is responsible for cheating? This question leads an answer comprised of several different factors. Parents may be responsible in part for their demanding pressure. They may not realize the limits of their children and, therefore, continually push them harder. They feel that if grades are too low that it is because the child is not trying, never because he just can not do any better. Parents must realize the true capabilities of their children.

The attitude of parents in deter-

Students Talk About Cheating

Do you ever cheat on tests?

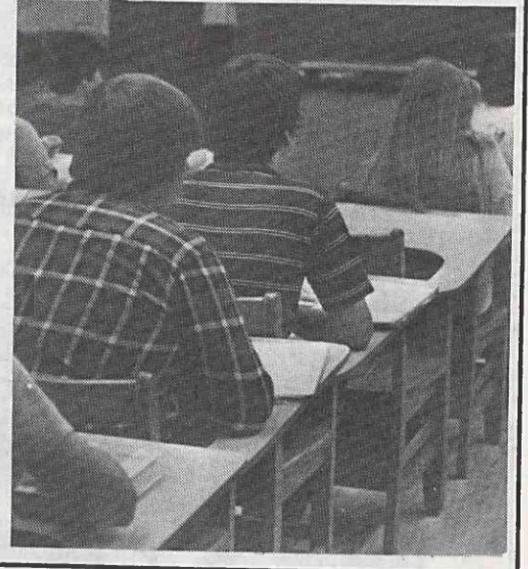
ALL	65%	YES	35%	NO
BOYS	72%	YES	28%	NO
GIRLS	60%	YES	40%	NO

Do you view cheating as morally wrong?

ALL	60%	YES	40%	NO
BOYS	56%	YES	44%	NO
GIRLS	62%	YES	38%	NO

"... the great majority will cheat at least upon occasion if given enough freedom to do so."

Morrow



mining right from wrong may further contribute to the practice of cheating. They call it "clever" to hedge on income taxes, take ashtrays and towels, pad expense accounts and speed a little here or there. Is it so different?

Another factor responsible for cheating lies within the educational "system". Too much emphasis is perhaps placed upon grades and exams and not enough on ability. Instead of concentrating on real learning and student growth, memory work and tests are of prime concern.

Teachers may also contribute to the practice of cheating. They may leave during a test, give the same test to each class or not test frequently enough, creating the "do-or-die" exam. Expecting too much in the way of facts, figures, dates, and small details may also drive the potential cheater to his limit. When questioned on his view of cheating one student replied that he does not think cheating is wrong because, "Some questions you didn't even study with the class — out of the blue questions!" Foresight and common sense by the teacher could eliminate some possible cheating.

The final responsibility for cheating of course lies within the student, for he alone must choose the course of his own actions.

Teachers Speak Out

In addition to the student response, teachers were also asked for their input.

Mrs. Jenece Smith, guidance counselor, comments on cheating as being "totally unfair to a student who doesn't cheat." She points out that the valuable time spent studying by the honest student is a reflection of his character just as cheating is.

Describing the cheater, Mrs. Smith states, "Students that cheat are lazy or not willing to put their minds to the task."

Mr. Morrow, Spanish instructor, views cheating as "one way of rebelling, or trying to beat the system, and in some cases of avenging themselves against the teacher." Stressing that cheating is not a moral issue, Mr. Morrow believes that "all students are potential cheaters ... because I believe that most behavior, especially in the teen years, is a direct result of what is acceptable to peers."

Teachers were asked what causes students to cheat. Clearly, almost all agree that the student who cheats has not taken the time

to prepare himself adequately. One teacher replied, "Making choices is a constant way of life. If a student chooses other activities instead of studying or getting extra help from the teacher when he doesn't understand, then he is faced with the problem of unpreparedness."

Another common reply was the pressure placed on them by parents and themselves to make all A's or a passing grade. The student's "unpreparedness" places pressures upon him which cause him to choose between cheating and failure. Quoting one teacher, "The way in which a student copes with daily pressures is a measure of his mind, body, and character."

Moonbeams

A Date To Remember

The Junior-Senior Prom is scheduled for May 17. "Badge" will provide musical entertainment for this special occasion to be held on the terrace at Stanly Technical College. "Stairway to Heaven" has been designated as this year's theme.

Taking A Break

Pat Parker was honored as the Student Lion for April, and Scott Herring as Rotarian.

Applause, Applause!

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association has awarded *The Full Moon* a superior rating in its annual newspaper contest/critique.

Half Moon

The younger half of the journalism class assumed positions on this issue. They are: Tammy Dwight, editor-in-chief; Lori Thomas, news editor; Kenneth Russell, feature editor; David Moose, sports editor; Shari Robertson, back page editor; Lydia Williams, business.

Coming Elections

Petitions are due May 5, for those who plan to compete in the upcoming student council elections. Campaigning week will be May 6 through May 12. On May 13, an assembly will be held for the candidates to present their skits and speeches. The requirements for candidacy are: all candidates must have at least a B average, 100 signatures on the petition, and a teacher recommendation. The president should be a rising senior, the vice-president, a rising junior, the secretary, a rising junior, and the treasurer, a rising senior.

DECA Winners

More than 2,000 student leaders and faculty advisors in marketing and distribution attended the Thirty-Sixth Annual State Leadership Conference of the North Carolina Association of the Distributive Education Clubs of America on April 17, in Asheville. Representing the Albemarle DECA Club were: Pat Parker, Stacy Hunsucker, Tammy Alexander, Debra Tucker, and Jeff Burleson. Tammy Alexander and Jeff Burleson served as voting delegates during the conference. Pat Parker received a performance award in General merchandising as Owner/Manager. Stacy Hunsucker won the Performance Award over the 200 participants. She was also first runner-up in the selling event and was given state recognition at the Awards Banquet. Stacy is presently one of the top 10 in this state.

Debra Tucker succeeded in winning the Performance Award for Food-Service on the Owner/Manager level at state competition. She is now eligible to enter the National Competition in Miami, Florida in June. Debra was presented with a trophy and plaque for our school. These awards provide outstanding students with the opportunity for advanced study in Marketing, Management, and Merchandising. Congratulations to all.

ICT/VICA and FBLA Winners Represent Sr. High

ICT/VICA
Congratulations to the ICT/VICA students winning honors in the District VI VICA Contest. Janet Brown captured

first place in the job interview category. Beth Fitzgerald placed second in the prepared speech competition. Both are presently eligible for state competition.

Jackie Hopkins competed in the Miss VICA contention and Phyllis Wilhoit in the Extemporaneous Speech contest. Jo Glover, Tamala Burr, and Tim Brooks served as voting delegates.

Todd Hopkins also deserves recognition for placing third in the Graphics competition.

FBLA

An outstanding performance by Donna Laton placed her first in Shorthand I on the State level. Competition on the National level awaits Donna and we wish her great success.

Aretha Sellars was elected as the District VI Chairperson. She will be in charge of the District VI FBLA Conference for the coming year.

