

CHEATING:

An Update Which Asks, "How Honest Are Students?"

By TINA CAGLE and MARY MOOSE

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.

Three years ago a former ASH journalism student wrote an in-depth article on cheating. With exams just ending, the Full Moon Staff decided it was time to see if students have changed their opinions on this controversial subject.

In this survey on cheating approximately 20 students from each of the four grades were polled from randomly selected classrooms. The first question asked

Do you ever cheat on tests?

Yes.....80%

No.....20%

these students, "Do you ever cheat on tests?" The majority of students, 64, answered yes, while the remaining minority, 16, answered no. This difference shows that overall, most students do cheat. The Juniors ranked highest among the classes with 21 of the 22 people polled confessing to cheating. Freshmen followed closely with 17 of the 23 cheating. The majority of the sophomore class, 7 of 15, also confessed to cheating. Eleven of the fifteen se-

niors polled admitted cheating at some time in their high school career.

Opinions on the morality of cheating is also shown in this survey. The majority of all polled proclaimed cheating as being

"Sometimes there's a lot of pressure on a student that he feels he has to cheat"

morally wrong. However, this majority was not great. One student replied, "No" and gave this as her reason - "Sometimes there's a lot of pressure on a student that they feel they have to cheat." In opposition to these comments, common replies included, "Because it's not fair to others," and "Because you're not helping yourself learn anything." When questioned on cheating tactics, students commonly responded that "cheat sheets" are the dominant 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

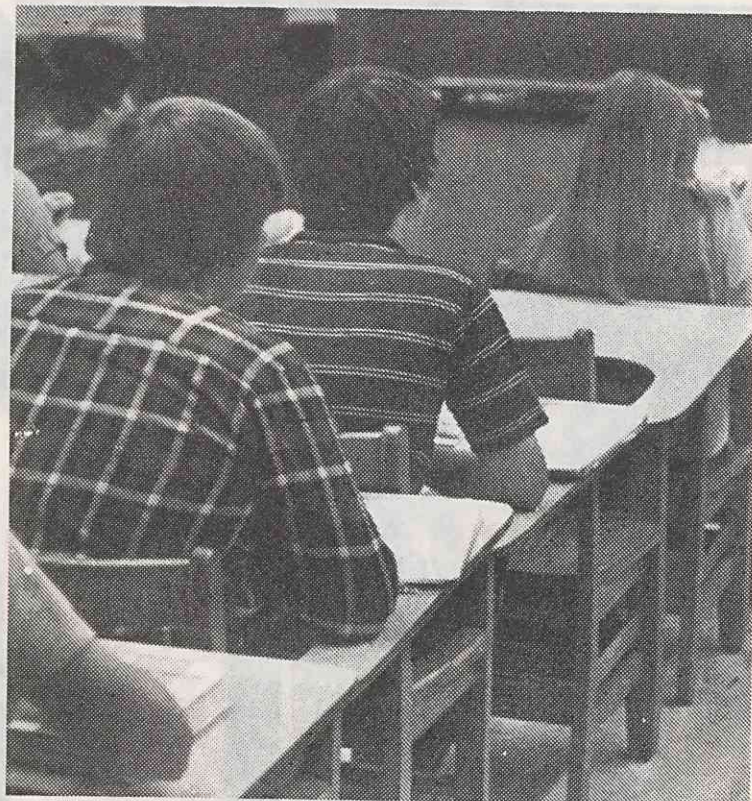
code." At the completion of tests, students must simply sign a statement pronouncing their innocence and honesty. These codes are normally strictly enforced. Expulsion and/or suspension are likely on the college level. Area high schools have no such code but perhaps it should be considered.

Who 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 it is because the child is not trying, never because he just cannot do any better. Parents must realize the true capabilities of their children.

The attitude of parents in determining 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 con-

"To cheat once is to open the door for further dishonesty. That door can be closed if the individual is determined to live by his own means" . . . a teacher



"The way in which a student copes with daily pressures is a measure of his mind, body, and character"

centrating 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 her view of cheating, one student suggested that "Teachers should alternate test days so that a student

would not have six tests on one day. It's a shame when a test is given and everyone fails and the teacher just moves on to something else." Foresight and common sense by the teacher could eliminate some possible cheating.

Quoting one teacher, "The way in which a student copes with daily pressures is a measure of his mind, body, and character." The final responsibility for cheating of course lies within the student, for he alone must choose the course of his own actions.

Moonbeams

Student Lion for January is Kelly Herrin. Student Optimist for January is Barry Brummit. Student Rotarian for January is Carol Harbers. The McDonald's Student of the Month for January is Matthew Howard, who received a free birthday party for this honor.

Shane Chavis won the essay contest, "Why I as a teenager don't drink and drive", sponsored by MADD.

N.C. State School of Textiles is sponsoring a luncheon for five interested seniors who are planning to attend State. Those attending are John Montgomery, Anthony Reese, Barry Brummit, Matthew Howard, and Darryl Shaver.

Student Lion for the month of February is Matt Howard. Student Optimist for February is Etelle Taylor. Mary Moose is the Student Rotarian, and Todd Rogers has been selected as the McDonald's Student of the Month for February.

Congratulations to Allison Smith and Kathy Love for being chosen to attend the Mars Hill Choral Clinic February 3-5.

Five ASH students have recently formed a group called SADD, Students Against Drunk Drivers. These students will assist MADD with projects such as a letter writing campaign to the state legislature. They are Louis McSwain, Pam Treece, Glenda Poplin, Anita Blake, and Rodney Davis.

Happy Birthday, Dr. King Your Dream Still Lives

By CYNTHIA ASBURY & CHERYL GULLEDGE

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would have celebrated his fifty-fourth birthday on January 15, 1983. In April of 1968, Dr. King's life was ended by the fatal bullet of a vicious assassin. The death of Dr. King was a great loss to people throughout the country and the world.

Martin Luther King, Jr., son of Reverend and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Sr., devoted his life to the civil rights of people everywhere. Dr. King's civil rights movement began in 1955 with the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. The success of this boycott showed civil rights

could be gained through a non-violent protest.

From 1955 to 1965, Dr. King led many demonstrations to promote Civil Rights and liberty for all people. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 are two laws Dr. King's demonstrations brought about.

On August 28, 1963, Dr. King delivered his well known speech "I have a dream" at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. In 1964 Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. King based his nonviolent demonstrations on theories of Henry Thoreau, author of "Civil Disobedience," and Mohandas K. Gandhi, who used nonviolence to

help free India from Britain.

Like Dr. King, I too share the dream that one day our nation will rise up and live the true meaning of its creed, that all men are created equal. I have a dream that children will live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. I have a dream that black boys and girls and white boys and girls will be able to join hands as brothers and sisters; and I pray that racism and discrimination will become an ended nightmare. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Dr. King; your dream lives within me.

