

Cheating by Students Said To Be Commonplace in American Schools

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

Cheating has become commonplace in American schools. Many students profess to see nothing wrong in it. Some teachers tacitly condone it by doing little or nothing to prevent it.

If you are shocked by these statements—as you certainly should be—you can easily test their validity. Simply ask a few students.

Most students are quite con-

fidential, 46 per cent readily admitted that they had cheated on examinations more than five times in the past year.

This survey was conducted in a large public high school of superior academic rating in a suburban community populated by respectable, middle-class, church-going families. Educators say that the situation in the average high school is certainly no better, and may be considerably worse.

Academic dishonesty has

also become a casually-accepted thing in higher education. Studies in several typical colleges indicate that from 60 to 90 per cent of the undergraduates condone cheating "when possible" or "when necessary."

School Teachers Customers

A New York grand jury revealed earlier this year that many graduate students have been hiring professional ghostwriting agencies to prepare their theses for the M.A., Ph.D., or other advanced degrees. The grand jury's most

appalling discovery was that a "substantial number" of the customers for this racket are school teachers.

Why do so many of today's students—and even some of their teachers—take a laissez-faire attitude toward cheating?

In earlier generations, there were students who cheated. But most of them did so with a deep sense of guilt, and with full recognition that they were doing something which is morally equivalent to lying and stealing. Many mod-

ern students apparently do not know, or do not care, that cheating is a clear transgression of two of the Ten Commandments which supposedly form the basic ethical code of Judeo-Christian civilization.

But this observation merely pushes the question one step further. Why have today's youth developed this moral blind spot?

Answer Suggested

The Rev. Andrew Greeley, a Chicago priest-sociologist, suggests an answer. In an article in the Catholic maga-

zine, Sign. Fr. Greeley says: "Cheating by young people is merely part of an emerging national pattern. Young people practice the morality they have learned from the actions of their parents. If the youth of America is infected with dishonesty, then it is merely reflecting the sad state into which the observation of the Seventh and Eighth Commandments ('Thou shalt not lie' and 'Thou shalt not steal') has sunk in the whole nation."

Fr. Greeley documents his

point by citing corrupt business practices, deceptions in advertising, betrayals of trust by government officials, the TV quiz scandals, fixed athletic contests, and other manifestations of moral rot among "respectable" adult Americans.

What can be done about it? One immediate, practical step would be for teachers and school administrators to begin cracking down on cheating. The fact that many adults also have become liars and thieves can hardly jus-

tify a widespread winking at dishonesty by an institution which is supposed to be helping to mold the characters of the young.

But even if the schools do their part—which many of them have not been doing—they can't carry the load alone. As Fr. Greeley points out, "Such reforms will not be sufficient unless parents, the most important transmitters of value, begin to practice as well as preach the highest standards of personal morality."



Small Worlds Around Us
By Lynn M. Watkins

Bats Performed Miracle Among Singing Wires

It was only starlight—there was no moon in the sky. The little cafe sat at the top of the hill, ablaze with light. The hill was locally called a mountain by the natives, one of a series of high elevations that stretched across several states.

It was late at night. Only a couple of trucks were parked alongside the restaurant. A lone driver came up the long road and parked beside the trucks. The driver dismounted, stretched and started across the lot toward the lighted building.

Being of an observant nature, he detected many rapidly moving shapes against the star-lighted sky. By their numbers and rapid zigzag flight he quickly identified them as bats, cruising the night sky in their hunt for flying insects.

The man took up a position with his back against a tree, to watch.

Performing Miracle

Nothing unusual at all about the bats being there in great numbers; on several occasions he had investigated the many caves in the vicinity and had, many times, found numbers of bats both in winter hibernation and on their summer flights; but here on the top of a hill he was actually observing one of the mysteries of bat life, for these animals were performing a miracle and accomplishing it in a matter-of-fact way.

Alongside the highway and running parallel to its winding length were veritable "curtains" of telephone and electric wires. The man counted the crossarms on the nearest pole. There were 12 of them and on each crossarm were 10 wires, not any two of which were over six inches from another.

This totaled at least 120 wires, a regular curtain of them, but a curtain that ran lengthwise for many miles. He estimated the "depth" of the wire curtain to be at least 12 feet.

Nearly Invisible

In the dim light from the stars the wires were nearly invisible to the human observer on the ground 20 feet

below them. Night-flying insects of a dozen or more kinds were literally filling the summer air. Very carelessly, or because they had no sense at all, they were flying in and between the maze of tightly stretched, singing wires. And in rapid pursuit of them were the feeding bats.

With justified astonishment, the man watched the tiny, flying mammals swoop in and between the wires at full speed; with reckless abandon the bats tipped sideways to allow their membranous wings to pass between the humming wires.

For an hour he watched; never once did one of the fast-flying animals as much as lightly touch a wire. He reluctantly left the scene somewhat perplexed as well as awed, for here was a flexible and an elastic maneuverability and flight control by flying mammals, in and among the "singing wires," beyond our human power to comprehend.

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Russian-Expelled Tourists Head West

Waidhaus, Germany — (UPI)—West German border police said today two Americans expelled from the Soviet Union after one was convicted on spy charges are believed heading for this Iron Curtain crossing point.

The two Americans, Mark I. Kaminsky, 32, of Jefferson Township, Mich., and Harvey C. Bennett, 34, Bath, Maine, were understood to be motoring across Czechoslovakia and to have stopped for the night at Pilsen, about 75 miles from here, police said.

The expulsion of Kaminsky and Bennett was announced Friday by the Russians after repeated inquiries from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow about their whereabouts. The two disappeared two months ago while touring the Soviet Union together.

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