

Survey finds most students admit to cheating

By Stephanie Corns
U-Wire

TUCSON, Ariz. — There's nothing worse than a lousy, rotten cheater.

But according to recent surveys, most undergraduate students are in no position to judge.

A nation-wide study conducted in 1995 by Bowling Green State University revealed that 70 percent of undergraduate students surveyed admitted to cheating in class.

The survey also found that business and engineering majors attract the highest percentage of cheaters, at 89

percent and 78 percent, respectively.

On a local level, the University of Arizona reported 113 cases of alleged academic integrity violations last year, said Alexis Hernandez, the associate dean of students.

He said the majority of cheating occurs during mid-term and final exams.

According to the Bowling Green study, many students blame faculty for the high incidence of cheating.

Those surveyed said professors provide easy opportunities by using the same test year after year and are too lenient with students who get caught.

Hernandez said instructors have an obligation to

minimize the probability that cheating will occur.

"Faculty members are responsible for their classrooms," he said. "Part of their duties include being aware of what's going on in the classroom. If they see anything improper in terms of cheating, it is their responsibility to review the case."

Different measures such as spacing students apart during exams, collecting and redistributing blue books and giving different test versions help reduce the chances of cheating, Hernandez said.

Research done by Jose Kerkvliet, an economics professor at Oregon State University, indicated that the percentage of students who cheat could be as low as

0.02 percent if professors took stronger preventive measures.

Kerkvliet's study found that the biggest factor affecting whether students cheat is who is present at the time the exams are given. If teaching assistants monitor tests, it is 31 percent more likely that student will cheat than if a professor is in the room.

"It's really easy to cheat," said a junior who wishes to remain anonymous. "Kids in my sociology class cheat all the time."

Stephanie Corns writes for the Arizona Daily Wildcat, the student newspaper of the University of Arizona.

Convocation

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Qualitative terms human security represents the degree to which human beings are protected from ignorance, sickness, hunger, neglect and persecution," he said. "It is the standard that dignifies human life. It is a child who is saved, a disease that is cured, an ethnic tension that is soothed, a dissident who speaks freely, a human spirit that has hope."

Arias presented his case for increasing attention to human security despite the progress that has been made. He pointed out that 40,000 children die every day from disease and malnutrition, one-third of the residents of the least developed countries have life expectancies less than 40 years, and 1.3 billion people have incomes of less than one dollar per day.

Arias said that the battle against poverty begins on the individual level. "Each one of us must shoulder some responsibility for the deprived conditions found within a greater part of the world's communities," he said. He said that students need look no further than the labels on their clothes to discover their own responsibility, as they wonder if those who made the clothes labored for a just wage.

He looked to cuts in world military spending for resources in the fight against poverty. Arias said, "If we channeled just \$40 billion of that figure over the next 10 years into anti-poverty programs, all of the world's population would enjoy basic social services such as education, health care and nutrition, clean water and sanitation. Another \$40 billion dollars over 10 years would provide all people on this planet with an income above the poverty line for their country."

"Unlike many previous generations, you will not be sent onto some ethically dubious battlefield with orders to kill. Instead, you are called into moral combat against greed and corruption, poverty and injustice."

Oscar Arias
Costa Rican President

Arias blamed the disproportionate spending on arms for poverty and lack of human development. He said, "Unfortunately, half of the world's governments dedicate more resources to defense than to health programs."

Even poverty-ridden Sub-Saharan Africa, which occupies the last 12 places on the Human Development Index, spends \$8 billion per year on the military.

Arias said that elimination of the military in some nations is a viable option. For example, in 1989 he helped persuade Panama to abolish its national army, as Costa Rica did in 1949. "As a result, Costa Rica and Panama now enjoy the safest border in the world," he said. He has also helped to promote legislation in Haiti concerning elimination of its military.

He said that despite the feasibility of eliminating the military, many people in industrialized countries extol the economic benefits of arms production. "Nevertheless, world leaders must accept the fact that we cannot let the free market rule the international arms trade," Arias said. "We must not enrich ourselves through the commerce of death."

He described the international arms trade as "a friend of dictators and an enemy of the people."

In order to combat the negative effects of international arms sales, Arias has pro-

posed an International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers, which has been endorsed by 15 other Nobel Peace laureates. He said that this proposal "would prevent undemocratic governments from building sophisticated arsenals."

Measures taken would include denying military training to governments that violate international human rights and preventing the sale of munitions to countries that commit genocide, engage in armed aggression or support terrorism.

Arias answered the criticism that the free market dictates arms purchases, and we have no right to prevent countries that demand arms from purchasing them.

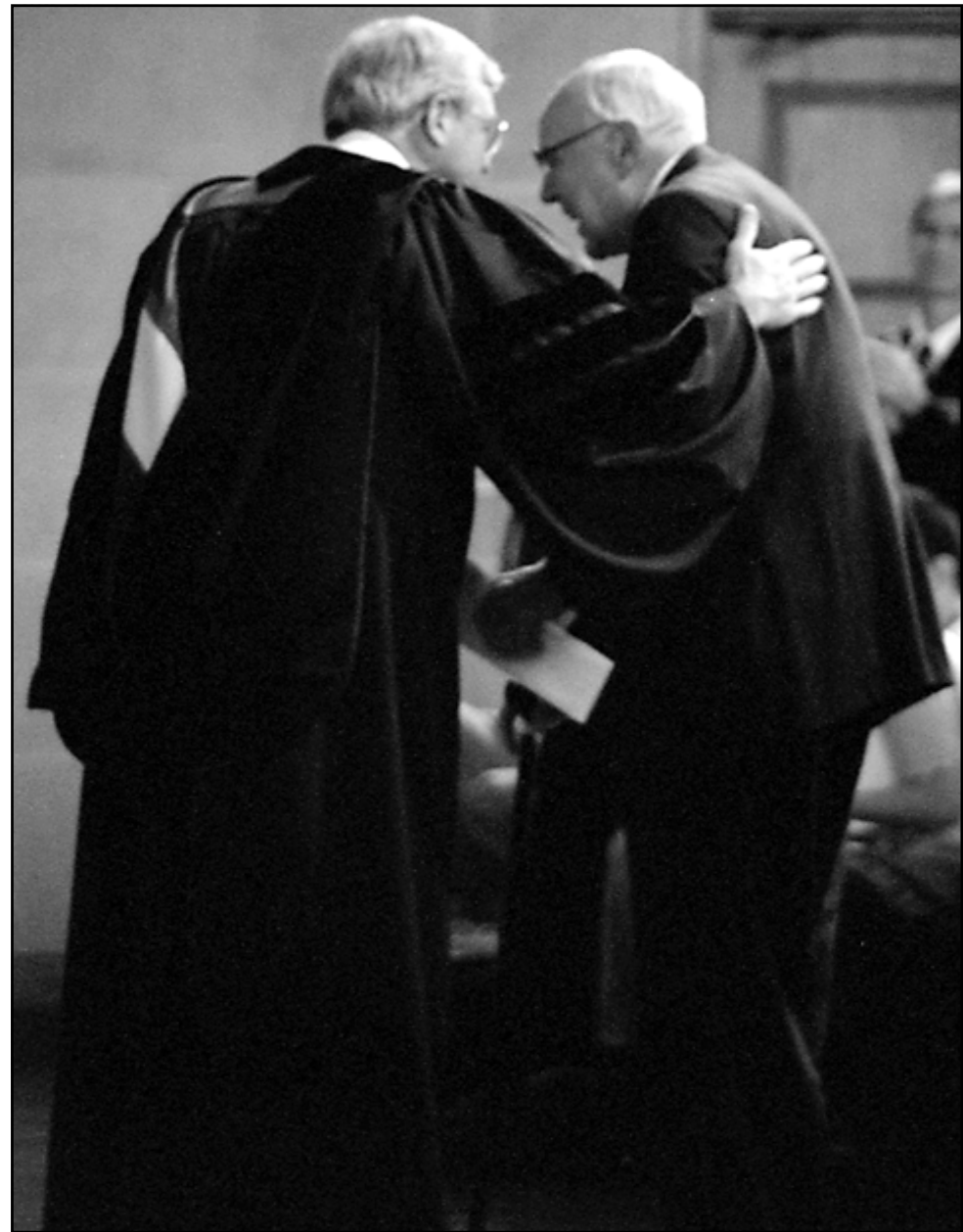
First, he said that arms sales have been pushed aggressively, which distorts the market for them. Second, he questioned who really wants arms when we claim that a certain "nation" asks to purchase them. "Is the single mother in Indonesia or the street orphan in Egypt pressuring government leaders to buy tanks and missiles?" he asked. "Or is it a dictator — who sees arms purchases as the only way to maintain power?"

Arias also addressed the argument that if one country refuses to sell arms to another, a third party will fill in the vacuum and make the sale. He said, "That is precisely why all arms-selling nations must agree to certain common restrictions."

Arias concluded his address by asking students to become agents for change.

"Unlike many previous generations, you will not be sent onto some ethically dubious battlefield with orders to kill," he said. "Instead, you are called into moral combat against greed and corruption, poverty and injustice."

Other proceedings at the Convocation included the presentation of new faculty members, and members of the judicial system's Honor and Ethics Council and the Board of Investigators and Advisors.



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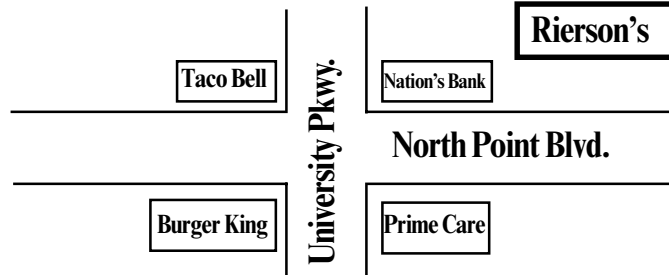
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