

(of the students) at a large number of colleges, often with no apology or sense of wrongdoing.”

This scathing indictment of college students is apparently well-founded, but to get a true picture of the situation we must look at another factor—the nature of our society. Today, a great emphasis is placed on “getting ahead” in the business world. Business practices, either illegal or bordering on the dishonest, are frequent. Tax loopholes, over-pricing of articles, and loan-sharking are recognized by most adults only as ways of making “the almighty dollar.”

In a society that condones this kind of behavior, why should we be shocked when we learn of students cheating? They are only imitating the conduct of adults. Dr. Edward D. Eddy, Jr., vice-president and provost of the University of New Hampshire, told a discussion group that cheating throughout the country “has become a part of the student culture—it’s taken for granted.”

Clearly, if this is the condition of our society, then the “honor system” has no place in it. This is not to say that the honor system is not a good system, only that it is idealistic. Before such a system can be instituted in our schools, the opinions of society on what is honest and dishonest must be radically changed.

You and Me

Vicki Kessinger

Face that must press against the cold damp sweat of roughly-hewn
stones,
Swollen lips kissing the razor’s edge,
Tender feeling wrapped in barbed wire,
Seared conscience galloping through cow pastures
The embrace of severed arms.