

Cheat to Compete

"What We Know about Cheating in College" by Donald L. McCabe and Linda Klebe Trevino, in *Change* (Jan.-Feb. 1996), Heldref Publications, 1319 18th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-1802.

Although it doesn't show up in the glossy "viewbooks" that colleges give out every year to prospective students, cheating on exams has long been a feature of undergraduate life. And McCabe and Trevino, organization specialists at Rutgers University and Pennsylvania State University, respectively, report that it seems to have become much more common in recent decades.

Surveys of students at nine state universities found that the proportion admitting to copying test answers doubled between 1963 and '93, reaching 52 percent. The proportion admitting to helping another student to cheat rose from 23 percent to 37 percent, while the share of those who said they used crib notes jumped from 16 percent to 27 percent. Of the nearly 1,800 students surveyed in 1993, 38 percent said they had cheated on tests

more than three times.

According to the authors, female students are responsible for the increased cheating on exams. Whereas only 59 percent of the women in 1963 admitted having cheated at least once, three decades later, 70 percent did. In that, women were merely achieving parity with men.

"Thirty years ago," McCabe and Trevino explain, "fewer women were competing with men in majors such as business, science, and engineering," in which student cheating is rife.

One hopeful sign, from a 1990-91 survey of students at small, highly selective colleges: only 29 percent at schools with honor codes said they had cheated at least once, compared with 53 percent at schools without honor codes.

Orphanages, Pro and Con

"The Rise and Demise of the American Orphanage" by Dale Keiger, in *Johns Hopkins Magazine* (Apr. 1996), 212 Whitehead Hall, Johns Hopkins Univ., 3400 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Md. 21218-2692; "Orphanages: The Real Story" by Richard B. McKenzie, in *The Public Interest* (Spring 1996), 1112 16th St. N.W., Ste. 530, Washington, D.C. 20036.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich ignited a firestorm a while back when he recommended a return to orphanages for abused and neglected children as part of an overhaul of the wel-

the modern social-welfare system.

Orphanages first appeared in significant numbers in the United States in the early 19th century, Crenson tells *Johns Hopkins Magazine* senior writer Keiger. They were founded by private charities as well as by states and counties. By 1900, according to Crenson, author of a forthcoming book, *The Invisible Orphanage: A Pre-history of the American Welfare System*, there were close to 1,000 of the institutions, housing some 100,000 youngsters. No more than 10 to 20 percent of the children were orphans; most had parents who were alive but destitute, unwilling to care for them, or considered unfit.

Although some 19th-century orphanages were well run and had compassionate adults in charge, conditions at many others left a lot to be desired. Many of the institutions were highly regimented, with corporal



A century ago, boys at the House of Industry, a New York City orphanage, learned useful trades.

fare system. Ironically, notes Matthew Crenson, a political scientist at Johns Hopkins University, it was reaction to the problems with orphanages that originally paved the way for