



CHEATING: EVERYBODY'S DOING IT!

● by Dr. Nancy J. Baker, Education Advisor & Editor

Teachers know that students from secondary to college will do almost anything to get a passing mark, but when the headlines scream at us that teachers have cheated by selling the answers to the SLC exams, we take particular notice. Yes, we have all cheated in some manner, especially in our youth. When a Nepali college professor told me last night that “everyone cheats” as if, so what, it is part of the culture! Then, it is time to step back and look at our ethics and what is behind this..

Although people cheat in their daily lives (golf scores, leaving a ciyah shop without paying, not paying tempo fares, not working full days, etc).., society tends to point their fingers at the educational system for the root of the problem. Students feel a need to succeed. Statistics in a review by Rusty Wright show that 80% of the students at Duke University had cheated and 53% didn't feel that it was seriously unethical. The papers were just weekly assignments and not major pieces of work. Duke University started a program to stop this plagiarism by including students, faculty and the community into a study to begin a new “honor system” which would raise the standards of academic achievement at the university and expel those students that were caught cheating on papers and tests.

In research by the Amy Foundation, they found that the erosion of ethics comes from two forces: the internet and portable digital devices.

Students are able to use these devices to copy part of or entire term papers, text answers to each other before or during tests, and seen recently in Nepal, teachers can copy and sell entire test questions. “A bigger factor, though, is the way bad behavior is seen across society. Ballplayers popping steroids, business executives fixing corporate books, journalists fabricating quotes, and even teachers faking test scores to make schools look good... (this) signals that nothing is out of bounds when success is at stake.”

Lance Winslow feels that having students memorize facts to be parroted back on tests later on is “training human minds to be formatted wrong”. Why memorize facts that can be looked up on the internet in a few seconds? We need to teach students to be creative. He feels that copying answers leads to cheating, or copying, on a test.

Our students need to be taught at home about good morals and high standards of conduct and this certainly needs to be modeled by teachers who are professionals put in a position of working with sensitive children who learn by example. As a teacher, I never wanted to be responsible for teaching morals or ethics. Whose do I choose? My own? Some other cultures? It was difficult to select a list of values to teach to others, other than standards that everyone seemed to accept: Don't steal, don't kill, don't commit adultery...these all seemed reasonable to me, but they are now being erased from America's public buildings because some citizens don't agree with them. So, whose standards do we teach?.

In Nepal, what morals and values do you want your children to have? Who is to teach these values? Do you want the person who walks away from the ciyah shop without paying? Who puts a gun in the arms of a child? Do you want the teacher who steals questions to give to students? What values and morals are to be learned? Who do you

want teaching and modeling these? Does the parliament make your standards? What happens when there are no morals or ethics that are agreed upon?

A school teacher usually has a set of rules that govern a classroom. Do you know what those rules are? Do you agree with them and do you want your child to live by them?

A CONVERSATION WITH NIRJALA KAKSHAPATI by Nancy Baker

Nirjala is one of the original members of EJG having been a member for five years. She is presently Vice President of EJG. Married to Suresh Sharma, a fellow journalist, Nirjala is a radio reporter and broadcaster at Image Channel Pvt. Ltd. She was raised in Nepalgunj and resides in Kathmandu..

Know your vice prez at close quarters!

Date of birth: June 27th
Favourite place: Netherland
Favourite colour: Red
Favourite food: Daal, Bhaat, Tarkari (Nepali food)
Special interest: Education, Travel
Favourite book: Literature
Favourite movie: Indian
Favourite flower: Rose



Ms. Kakshapati
Vice President

How do you feel being elected as Vice President of EJG?

I feel very proud and happy. It will give me the opportunity to do something for EJG. I am interested in bringing in some new programs to EJG.

What programs are you interested in presenting?

Mainly programs that would be around children and education. Education is a right! It is a necessity! So many people do not know how important education is and that it is important that ALL people are educated. People go into their homes and shut the door and don't realize that education is out there.

How do you expect to approach this?

It is very difficult. I would like to form a team of people to approach donors and get money. Money is the answer.

How do you feel about being a woman in journalism?

I feel happy and proud. It is difficult to compete with men. Women have difficulty in working at home and getting out to do their jobs. They don't have the same freedom and facilities as men are given. I have been supported at home and am able to leave early or work late, but younger women in journalism who have children and families are not always supported. Women are not always inspired or supported with the type of stories they are given. I was given stories about children and women. Now, after proving myself for being a good writer, I am given more challenging, and better stories about education. Stories about politics or other genres are given to the men. Young women journalists are not always attracted to the lower salaries and the stories offered to women entering the journalist profession and work for other more lucrative areas. The salaries for women are limited.

Why do you think women are not listened to as leaders?

There has always been a separation between men and women. The women will have to be the ones to take the steps across the old values. It is the old gender issues of discrimination where the men dominate. The "male voice always rises to the top".

What is the greatest challenge we face at EJG?

It is being a non-profit. We have the rules we must follow as a non-fit and the rules of each of the donors. Often the rules don't match, which makes it difficult for us. We are competing for funds with other organizations who want to do similar projects or very different projects and it is difficult. Funding is the big challenge.

How do you plan to build capacity at EJG?

We definitely want to get more women journalists. (Sudarshan Sigdel said he wants at least six!) There are several groups of journalists who meet but most do not have the focus of education as their prime interest.

How do you intend to use your voice as a woman on the Board at EJG?

Well, they love me! (Yes, we do, Nirjala!) I will try to increase the number of women journalists and I WILL TALK TO THEM! (AND NIRJALA'S VOICE WILL RAISE TO THE TOP, TOO!)

NATIONAL STUDY ON CHILD ABUSE IN INDIA BY SAVE THE CHILDREN

A new report by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in India, (supported by Save the Children and UNICEF) released today, reveals the extent and magnitude of child abuse and neglect in India. This is one of the world's largest empirical, in-country studies covering nearly 12,500 children and 4800 young adults in 13 States.

The Study looks at three different forms of child abuse – physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse and girl child neglect in families, schools, work places, on the street and institutions. The Study complements the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children, 2006.

The Study aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of child abuse, which will help formulate appropriate policies and programmes meant to effectively end child abuse in India.

Major findings of the Study:

- Boys, as compared to girls, are equally abused
- Persons in trust and authority are major abusers.
- 5-12 year old children are in the high risk category: across the forms of abuse, the percentage of abuse among them is the highest.
- 70% of the children have not reported abuse to anyone.
- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar and Delhi almost consistently report high rates of abuse in all forms as compared to other States.
- 2 out of every 3 children have been physically abused.
- Two out of every three school going children are victims of corporal punishment. Half of these incidents are in government run schools.

- More than half of the child respondents reported facing one or more forms of sexual abuse.
- Every second child reported facing emotional abuse. In more than 80% of the cases parents were the abusers. Shireen Miller, Head of Policy, Save the Children UK, India highlights "Family is the place where children should be the safest and yet this is the context in which much of the abuse takes place. The Study reveals an urgent need for both stronger legislation to protect children and parenting education in India."

Save the Children calls for stronger legislation to deal with Child Abuse and for the establishment of a separate and coherent National Child Protection Policy.

Editor's Note: Children who are abused at home rarely do well in school. They can be the children who are "listless", quiet, don't get attention from teachers, don't get homework completed, and often have poor self concepts. They are the children that need extra attention and affection from their teachers in order to do well. Street children are often ones who have been abused and run away.

WALDORF TEACHER TRAINING-Saturday, 9:30-3:30

If you would like to learn more about this teaching technique, you can contact Halina Rubisq at 4427033 or RTC 4416412 . The third class is being held this Saturday at the RTC Annex across from Mahaguthi in Lazimpat. The Waldorf method teaches children in a creative, stimulating way.

JOURNALISTS WORKING WITH CHILDREN

As a journalist who works with children, either interviewing them, photoing them, or having them participate in group discussions for documentaries, you must know these guidelines put out by the United Nations. These are safety measures for YOU as well as for them. Please

read them and review them with all of your colleagues who assist you in shoots.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children

(first 13

Article 1: Everyone under 18 has these rights

Article 2: Protection against discrimination: race, language, sex, religion, color.*

Article 3: All adults should do what is best for you.

Article 4: You have the right for your rights to be made a reality by the government

Article 5: You have the right to be given guidance by your parents and family.

Article 6: You have the right to life.

Article 7: You have the right to have a name and a nationality.

Article 8: You have the right to an identity.

Article 9: You have the right to live with your parents unless it is bad for you.

Article 10: You and your parents have the right to live together in the same country*

Article 11: You should not be kidnapped.

Article 12: You have the right to have an opinion and to be listened to and taken seriously.

Article 13: You have the right to find out things and say what you think through making art, speaking, and writing unless it breaks the rights of others.

(* paraphrased)

President's Information Box

NEWS SUMMARIES - ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN NEPAL - APRIL 9-12

April 9

KP The body of missing teacher, Chakra Katuwal was found after being missing since his arrest by the police in December, 2001. Police burned his body to ashes to avoid detection.

April 10

HT - Taxpayer money totaling 44.7 million rupees was wasted on teacher training according to Renu Kshetry by the National Center for Educational Development and the Department of Education. The ten month program to train 1,490 teachers ended with only 16% finding employment and were hired in lesser primary positions in community schools. 97% were women and 57% dalits.

HT - Experts say that the Expense of Education is unproductive. It takes 16% of the nation's budget and has failed to stop dropouts, make education accessible to marginalized students and provide livelihood and security. Only 81% of children are enrolled, and only 6-8% of those complete the SLC according to Dr. Poorna Kattla Adhikarni.

HT - Raj Achary, Udesch Pandiy and Shree Aans Agrawa received literature and art awards.

HT - TU will appoint a Vice Chancellor soon says NOES Minister of Education Nepal. The university has been without a VC for over 10 months.

RN - The leakage of exam papers needs to be looked at and who in top levels may have assisted in the leakage and what will be done.

April 11, 2007

KP - Parents in two villages at Aankhibhui VDC which includes 33 families must walk students to school at Siddhadevi Primary and wait all day to walk them the three hours home because of the hazardous conditions. They need to have a school built near their village.

KP - Shir Shankar Mukherjee granted 28 million and 17.5 million rupees for two schools from India for vocational and nursing schools. There have been over 190 programs sponsored by the Indian government which bonds the two governments in support of education.

KP - "Education for Democracy and Development" by Nishesh Dhungand is an editorial which states that education should be

knowledge based where students learn practical skills and technology. Research is important for factual and proper knowledge.

KP- “Across Cultures, English is the Word” by Seth Mydans, (editorial). States that 80% of the stored information on internets is in English and most of the countries in the world do business in English. English is becoming the predominant language. The United States and the UK represent only 20% of the English-speaking people in the world.

April 12

HT/RN - Director General Janardan Nepal and human rights activists have asked for the release of DEO Officer Saptari Nimraj Joshi who was abducted.

KP - Editorial: TU CAMPUS: CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE by Dr. TR Khaniya. Higher education must show flexibility and “produce citizens with the skills, abilities, aptitudes and the commitments to cope of emerging needs of the times.” “There is complete absence of responsible and accountable leadership (at the principal’s position at TU). “Once this campus is given full autonomy with charter, it should look for stakeholder...promoted as a business and academic centre offering quality education through practical experience and resource mobilization with joint business”. (Dr. Khaniya is an advisor to EJG)

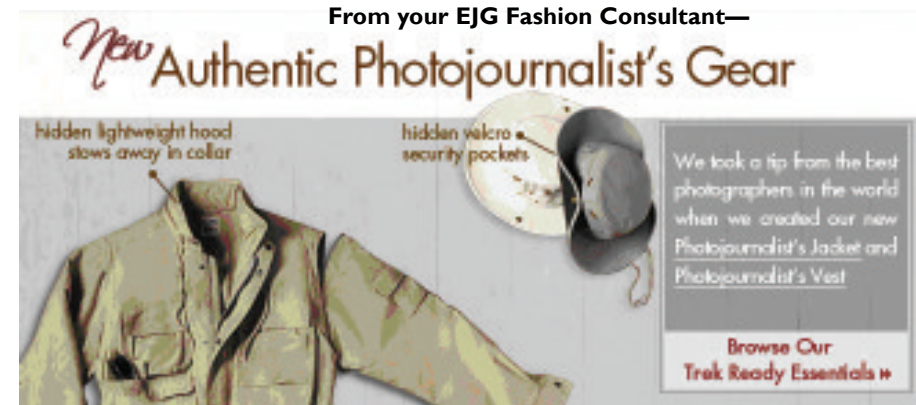
GOOD NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS: We are proud of you and your efforts

ARJUN KHADKA took his exams with excellence...that’s the way to go, Mr. Secretary!

HARI THAPA received a grant for a documentary and book on a unique tribe of Nepali natives.

SUDARSHAN SIGDEL processing a grant to continue work on radio journalism programs

WANT TO LOOK LIKE A “REAL” JOURNALIST?...just go to service@travelsmith.com for the look, then to Thamel in KTM for prices at half or a quarter of the cost!!!



School Visitation

Have you visited your child’s school? You should and I will be more than pleased to go with you and discuss the “qualities of education” we observe. I challenge you to do so.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT IN THIS NEW PERIOD.

If you would like to visit any of these private schools, let me know(Nancy):

Chelsea Academy

British School

Ekata Sadan Secondary School

New Millenium High School

Send comments, suggestions for us:

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