

A Closer Look Inside

Grace, a friend who recently returned to school after two decades in the workforce, has expressed concern about the seeming lack of moral grounding of some of her classmates. Beginning on the day of placement testing, Grace says she has seen a few new college students committing acts devoid of ethical consideration. For instance, the young man sitting next to Grace during the placement test was, contrary to the rules that were printed on the instruction sheet, on signs throughout the testing center, and explained in explicit detail by the proctor, texting on his phone. Each time this student clicked on a new question on the computer, he texted on his phone, wait a minute or so, and then answered the question on the computer screen. Grace, being incredibly nervous about how she would place on the tests after such a long hiatus from school, decided that she had best concentrate on her own work and get through the tests, which were timed. Still, she could not help wondering how this young man expected to do well in classes into which he “placed,” without the proper knowledge base with which to qualify on his own merit. Now that Grace’s first semester is half over, she has a multitude of similar stories, the most alarming of which is too hard to ignore. Grace was sitting in a classroom waiting for a lecture to begin when she overheard two classmates talking about their nursing home jobs. One told the other that the home she worked in as a nurse’s aide was hiring and that it was a great place to work, “because in the two and a half years that I’ve worked there, they’ve never drug tested me.” Grace was sickened at the thought of a nursing student thinking it is acceptable to care for patients while under the influence of drugs. Grace is still trying to discreetly determine the home where her classmate works as she feels a moral obligation to report what she perceives a crime against the patients in question. One must wonder what happens in a young person’s life to make him or her devoid of conscience. At what point has society failed if our youth have not attained the self-knowledge to know right from wrong?

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