

10-8-2007 Cheating

1 (File: 20071008mwm)

2 JOSH CENTOR: Dr. Brand, a simple question, should we
3 accept cheating as commonplace? It seems to be happening all
4 over the place.

5 DR. MYLES BRAND: Cheating's not a good thing. It
6 shouldn't be accepted at all in the classroom, on the field.
7 Cheating reflects on the character of the individual. And
8 cheating, whether it's in recreational sports or competitive
9 sports like intercollegiate athletics, it's just unacceptable.
10 It reflects poorly on the character of those individuals and
11 on coaches and teams as well.

12 JOSH CENTOR: I'll tell you one of the reasons that I
13 bring this up. Obviously, we've seen the chatter about Bill
14 Belichick and the recording on the sidelines with the video
15 tape.

16 But last week, we had the Indianapolis Corporate
17 Challenge, and the NCAA had a team, and we did quite well. I
18 was participating in the race walk. And while I was
19 competing, when there weren't judges around, people would pass
20 me as they were full-out jogging, and I couldn't help but
21 thinking that this was cheating in a recreational setting.
22 And if it happens here, then we have to assume that it happens
23 on the college fields and the professional fields and in the
24 classrooms, and it's bothersome to me.

25 DR. MYLES BRAND: It should be bothersome. That's why

1 we have officials and that's why we give sanctions and that's
2 why we have rules within the game of not cheating. But to
3 cheat in recreational sports, come on. I mean, that's
4 low-class. Why would anyone want to do that? Winning is
5 important, competition's important. But if you don't do it
6 the right way, it's no fun to win. I mean, winning isn't as
7 important as winning in the right way.

8 JOSH CENTOR: Dr. Brand, you are a professor of
9 philosophy. What were the penalties when you caught a student
10 cheating?

11 DR. MYLES BRAND: I'd throw the book at them as much
12 as I can. The worst cheating, of course, is academic fraud --
13 plagiarism, copying. And I would, as much as possible,
14 according to the rules within the institution I was at, I
15 would prosecute those cases.

16 JOSH CENTOR: How often did you see a student cheating
17 in one of your courses?

18 DR. MYLES BRAND: Not very often, not very often. It
19 happens sometimes. It's not very difficult to find out.

20 You know, one of the things that are going on in the
21 classroom these days is that people take information off the
22 web. They copy off the web and they turn it in as a paper. I
23 tell my classes at the beginning -- and, you know, I still
24 teach -- I tell my classes at the beginning, we now have
25 software that if I suspect even for a second that this isn't

1 your writing, I'll run it through the software, and we'll find
2 out if it was plagiarism or not. And if it is, I'll throw the
3 book at you.

4 JOSH CENTOR: Do you think that you see less cheating
5 in maybe your courses because you have such a tough stance?

6 DR. MYLES BRAND: You know, I don't know that. That
7 would be just anecdotal. I don't have evidence for that. But
8 I think if you don't pay attention to cheating, whether in the
9 classroom or on the field, human nature being what it is,
10 people take advantage of it.

11 JOSH CENTOR: Is it worse to cheat in the classroom or
12 on the field?

13 DR. MYLES BRAND: I think cheating is a life issue,
14 whether it's in the classroom or on the field. It's very
15 similar. You shouldn't permit cheating at all.

16 Now, gamesmanship, for example, in football and
17 basketball is permitted within certain conventions.
18 Gamesmanship is not the same as cheating. And basketball,
19 including recreational basketball, you know, if one of the
20 persons has a lot of fouls on him, his teammate will sometimes
21 raise his hand to try and take the foul. Everyone kind of
22 giggles at that, and the refs understand. I wouldn't call
23 that cheating; it's an attempt to be gamesmanship. It pushes
24 the edge. You don't have to be nice when you play to be a
25 good competitor, but you do have to be fair. And for that,

1 you really shouldn't cheat.

2 In golf, when you write down your score, in
3 recreational golf -- I mean, you know, I don't think it makes
4 good sense to cheat in recreational golf, and certainly you
5 don't cheat in professional golf or in intercollegiate golf
6 because people check on that.

7 JOSH CENTOR: We've seen the officiating scandal in
8 the NBA. We've had Bill Belichick and the Patriots recently.
9 Is there more to cheating now than there was maybe 10, 15
10 years ago? Or is it just coming to light now?

11 DR. MYLES BRAND: Gee, I don't know. There's no good
12 data for that. Anecdotally, it might seem more now because we
13 have better means of communication, and everyone's on a social
14 network if they get caught. Belichick got a lot of bad
15 publicity on this and so on. But stealing signs in baseball
16 or football is not new; so I can't tell you whether it's more
17 or less.

18 And whenever it occurs, though, particularly in a
19 setting like professional sports or intercollegiate athletics,
20 it's absolutely reprehensible. People should be ashamed of
21 themselves.

22

23

24

25