

on everyone else. These were the people who helped make life in the nineteenth-century UK into a hell of work and worry. Today similar people, constantly citing the necessity for increased “competitiveness” under the pressures of globalization, are turning our society into a corporatist work state.

Wilde said it was important to take time aside for oneself to do what one really enjoys doing – as important as paid work. This is not selfishness, he said. “Selfishness is not living as one really wants to live,” Wilde said. “It is asking others to live as one wants to live.”

Wilde was an accomplished scholar of the Greek and Latin classics. The philosophy of Aristotle informed much of his work and literary art. Wilde would have been aware of Aristotle’s emphasis on leisure as a human necessity and as a basis for profound, searching knowledge. In his *Ethics*, Aristotle said, “It is commonly believed that, to have happiness, one must have leisure; we occupy ourselves in order that we may have leisure, just as we make war for the sake of peace.”

Our society could use a little more of Aristotle’s and Wilde’s perspective.

Learning, Thumbs up Grades, OMG

**Burton Alexis,
Contributor**

Grades, of course, are important. They are designed to determine the level of students academic progress. But there is something I have noticed (I am sure I am not the first one), students seem to focus too much on the grade they expect to receive. It seems like they worry too much, and it gets the best of them. I think students would be better off focusing on the material, rather than the grade that material will earn them. If you are thorough with your work, then you will get a promising grade.

First let’s look at some possible factors that might be involved in making students worry so much about just the final grade. The first and probably the most obvious one is standards. I’m sure some students may set personal standards for themselves to ensure they get the grade they want, but this will only work if you set realistic standards. This is not to say that students shouldn’t be confident, but being realistic keeps you level.

Despite what you may set out to do for yourself, it becomes more probable that when you focus on the material at hand, the work load seems to be much easier.

How about accountability? Do students worry about their grades so much because they want those A’s and B’s to ensure other educational facilities, or businesses recognize them as capable individuals? That sounds reasonable, but once again if you focus more on the outcome rather than what you have to do to achieve that outcome, then you will struggle in your course load.

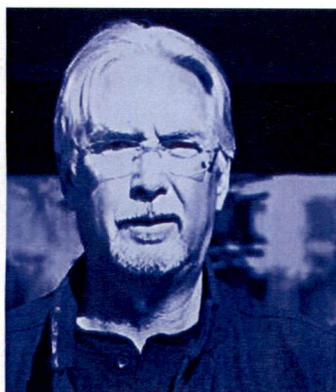
Another factor could be, expectations. Perhaps some students are pressured by parents or peers, so the student who has someone else setting the standards for them most of the time will feel that thier backed into a corner.

Other possibilities are external. Perhaps the student picked the wrong time to get back into school, maybe they are dealing with addictions that are affecting their performance, or could simply be that the student needs assistance, but does not have the resources to seek out the help they need to be successful.

For whatever reason, I believe students would get further if they just focused on the material they are here to learn, rather than the grade they are hoping for. Because when you focus on the material, do what your instructors tell you to do, the grade you are hoping for will follow.

Learning is important, always remain positive. When setting, or following standards always make sure you remain realistic. I believe that education is about gaining knowledge from the content you are learning, skills from what you have learned, and the proper attitude to uphold and pursue further education.

The Confluence 8



BARRY MCKINNON
Chapbook Awards 7

April 13, 2012 7:30 PM
CNC Room 1-306