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PKU Students Are Not All Geniuses

How would you feel, when others ascribe your failure to sloth, despite all your hard work? Would you be as happy, if the credit of your impressive achievements goes only to pure talent? The truth is, the overrating of talents of PKU students, though enjoyed by lots of my peers, is a phenomenon that I find extremely irritating and discouraging.

I first noticed the problem when chatting with my mother on wechat. With the scores of our mechanics midterm exam that she somehow obtained, she asked me with an air of contempt that, whether those students who scored less than 60 spent most of their time playing computer games. Puzzled at first, I then came into realization that, as an engineer, she must have thought mechanics was too easy for “smart guys who got into PKU”; thus, the only explanation for such low scores was lack of dedication. The incident reminded me of a conversation during a debate tournament. After a preliminary round, I discussed the motion with an opponent. Upon learning that I was from PKU, she almost automatically burst out that, with the IQ of a PKU student, she could have gone through less training. The afterthought is, nonetheless, terrifying—no one seems to recognize that mechanics and debating are just as difficult for students from PKU and from other universities; in time, even PKU students forget about the significant role diligence played on their path to success, forming blind confidence on “talents.”

As the most prestigious university in China, PKU indeed boasts diligent, creative and inspired students. However, they are not geniuses who manage everything with their alien brains. For the sake of everyone, I genuinely wish that the public viewed PKU students more objectively, and PKU students were willing to put down hypocrisy and admit that they are not omnipotent.