

U. News and Notes

Long about now, you folks should be through with midterms. You're either flunking out, prepping for finals or spending massive hours at the fruit counter of the local grocery store purchasing apples — that last all-out attempt at bribing professors who consider you, according to midterm grades, a borderline student.

While students across the nation have been studying, partying and stressing out over class loads, we have been tracking some nutty stories.

"I've fallen and I can't get up!"

A new epidemic has campus administrators in a frenzy and universities are scrambling to get a handle on it. Newspapers are rushing to get the scoop, and students are too frightened to sleep. It's not AIDS. It's not campus crime. It's not rising tuition. It's the ever-present danger of falling out of your top bunk.

According to one campus newspaper (see page 4), the potential for serious injury is ever present. One of the big surprises from the data already collected is that excessive drinking is a major cause of students falling from their bunks. Can you imagine...

On the hotline

One of our readers, responding to our poll on random drug testing and whether it should be considered on college campuses said he was against the idea. "I might piss on 'em, but I won't piss for 'em," he said.

In Sane

In other news, we are starting a new entertainment publication, *In* magazine, which will focus on college entertainment trends and interests. This month it is inserted in *U.* and will soon spin off into its own publication.

While working to pull *In* together for the first issue, we ran into a few stumbling blocks.

One of our front page stories is on the band Mary's Danish. We think they are a hot, up-and-coming band that will be big on the college market soon.

But the band made getting the story tough on us. Our crew from USC had 90 minutes with the band while they were eating dinner in Santa Barbara before a concert. Photographer Kris Chun, couldn't even get the band, which for years has been on the verge of breaking up, to pose together for a photo. They must really love each other.

If you enjoy *In*, send us a letter. If you don't... call Ty Wenger. He's the editor who coordinated the first issue. I'm sure he would love to hear from you.

—J.S. Newton

Editor on Fellowship, *Eastern Kentucky U.*

College towns: Where the livin' is easy

By TROY D. HALL and MELISSA MARKS
Battalion, Texas A&M and Daily Cardinal, U. of Wisconsin

Don't chalk it up to mere coincidence. College towns perennially score high when considering places to live, as universities wield an enormous amount of cultural, economical and social influence in their communities.

The pattern resembles a chain reaction: The academics attract students and faculty members; merchants locate businesses in the area because of the money students and employees spend; and finally, industry and research companies locate their facilities in college towns because of high education levels and strong economic conditions.

Being home to a major school can catapult a city to the top of a livability survey, as happened in *Money* magazine's recent list of the top places to live. Of the top 10 schools listed in that survey, only Bremerton, Wash., isn't a college town.

In order, the top 10 are: Provo, Utah, (Brigham Young A&M); Boise, Idaho, (Boise State U.); Lubbock, Texas, (Texas Tech. U.); Billings, Mont., (Eastern Montana State U.); Fayetteville, Ark., (U. of Arkansas); Madison, Wis., (U. of Wisconsin); Austin, Texas, (U. of Texas); Lincoln, Neb., (U. of Nebraska).

And the relationship between the school and the city doesn't go unnoticed or unappreciated by students and residents.

It makes the world go 'round

Between the money students pour into local businesses and the jobs that universities provide as major employers in the cities, the financial figures are impressive.

"At the University of Texas, students are a built-in population that want to stay in the Austin area," said Susan Tully, senior economist for the Texas Department of Commerce. "UT acts as an anchor for the area economy."

A 1991 in-house study at nearby Texas A&M estimated the school generated about \$1.23 billion into the area during 1990. Students comprise nearly a third of College Station's 122,000 population, and the school employs nearly 6,400 individuals.

"It is that sort of economic impact on the community that provides additional enrichments in the area, including cultural support, scientific and scholarly enhancements," said E. Dean Gage, Texas A&M's provost and vice president of academic affairs.



MARK BEEMER, DAILY CARDINAL, U. OF WISCONSIN

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— E. Dean Gage
Provost, Texas A&M

In Lincoln, UNL students supply a strong labor force, according to Mark Essman, vice president of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. The university also provides information and research development for local businesses, who often cross paths with UNL for resources or assistance, he said.

And we'll have fun fun fun...

Between the artistic, cultural, entertainment and sports events, students and residents benefit from a full slate of entertainment options.

Universities bring world-renowned performers, such as the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra and the Bolshoi Ballet Company, sponsored by the Memorial Student Center

Opera and Performing Arts Society at Texas A&M this fall. And the impact of an outstanding theater and music department is particularly felt in rural cities, where commercial performers rarely play.

Add to that a competitive sports program, and towns have invaluable exposure as well. In fact, Cornhusker craze is so great in Lincoln that when UNL plays at home, Memorial Stadium's 76,000 fans make it the third-largest city in the state. And the 55,000 seating capacity at the U. of Arkansas' football stadium is 15,000 more than the entire population of Fayetteville.

Give and take

Students simultaneously play the role of blessing and burden; while they're a vital part of the city, at times they strain civic resources.

The Mormon influence dominates Provo, where BYU students uphold the religion's strict moral code. "We are devoted to a high standard of morals and values," said Adriane Schwartz, administrative director of programs at BYU.

But BYU isn't all that unique when it comes to giving something back to the community.

UW student Christine Larson serves as an alderperson on Madison's Common Council, the city's governing body, a role she called "very rewarding."

Fellow alderperson Andy Heidt characterized Larson as full of energy, integrity and spunk. "It's essential that we have students on the council, or people who represent students," he said.

Despite the schools' positive contributions, there are downsides to the relationship between cities and universities. One such case is move-in day at UW, where the majority of the school's 43,000 students live off campus. Faced with an enormous amount of trash left on curbs and sidewalks, the city has to employ extra garbage trucks and workers.

"The city has to shift resources to accommodate student life at times," which can frustrate city residents, said Lilach Goren, co-president of the Wisconsin Student Association. "But as long as we both use each other's resources and compromise, I think this place will still rate as one of the best places to live."

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Overhaul could mean more student money

By DEBORAH SOLOMON
The GW Hatchet, George Washington U.

Jason Cohen depends on his Pell Grant to help finance his education. And the George Washington U. sophomore could find paying for school a little easier if Congress passes its proposed overhaul of the Higher Education Act.

"If they can expand the Pell Grants so that a larger number of students can receive money, it would be very beneficial," he said. "I know it would alleviate some of my financial problems."

Under the new legislation, the maximum Pell Grant amount, currently \$2,400, would increase to \$4,500, and the maximum income limits for recipients would be raised from \$35,000 to \$44,000.

And a new government-sponsored Direct Loan Program would offer money to students through their schools at the same 8 percent rate as the current Stafford Loans, which eventually would be phased out. All students would qualify for the new direct loans, but students would have to meet eligibility requirements for the government to make the interest payments while they are in school.

Eliminating the bank middlemen would save the government interest subsidies that are necessary to guarantee the loans. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated the savings could

amount to \$900 million in the first year alone.

The legislation, proposed by the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, would be the first major change in the Pell Grant program since it was established in 1972. A Senate subcommittee also is drafting a bill, and lawmakers plan to merge the two and send a single bill to President Bush in the spring. Changes would take effect with the 1994-95 academic year.

Advocates say the new system would be less confusing and more accessible for students than the current method of distributing grants and loans.

"There is a desire to make the system less complicated and more comprehensible to students," said Rick Jerue, an education adviser to Rep. Pat Williams, D-Mon., a member of the House committee.

Pell Grants also would be classified as an "entitlement" program, meaning Congress would have to provide benefits for all people who qualify. Currently, the number of recipients and the size of their grants varies yearly depending on how much Congress can appropriate.

Congressmen, such as William Ford, D-Mich., favor raising the maximum Pell Grant income requirement to help middle-class students, though that move could cost an estimated \$11 billion per year.

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