

# Plagiarism persists at all academic levels

(CPS)—A marginal student, at the end of the term, turns in a major paper that is academically perfect—brilliant thoughts, wonderful analogies and insightful analysis.

Unfortunately, the words aren't his.

The student has taken paragraphs verbatim out of a research book and included them in his paper without citing the author. In real terms, this student is a thief—he is stealing someone else's work and passing it off as his own.

Plagiarism, which comes from the Latin word meaning "kidnapper" or "literary thief" brings up a plethora of knotty problems for students and academicians.

If a professor suspects a student of plagiarism, how should the case be handled? Do students get enough background on plagiarism to understand what it is? With rapid advances in the ability to make copies of print and electronic media, how does modern technology fit into the scheme of defining plagiarism and its consequences?

These questions tend to muddy an already gray area.

Plagiarism has existed as long as people have written, and despite widespread knowledge that it is a form of academic cheating, it still is practiced.

"If students do not understand the importance of doing

their own work and being honest intellectually, they will fail to understand that when they get into the work world," said Elizabeth Baer, dean of faculty at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. "It is necessary for colleges to get students to understand the gravity of it. We need to help them (students) to understand that it is not acceptable."

Plagiarism occurs at all levels of college, from the freshmen year to doctoral work. Some cases that have received extensive publicity, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and other sources, include:

- The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the slain civil rights leader who plagiarized much of his doctoral dissertation. King received his doctorate in 1955 from Boston University. A panel investigated the finding, made public by Stanford University researchers at the Martin Luther King Jr. Papers Project, and upheld the plagiarism charge in 1991.

- H. Joachim Maitre, the dean of Boston University's College of Communications, resigned in 1991 after he used several passages of an article in a commencement speech without citing the author.

- U.S. Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., admitted in 1987 that he plagiarized part of a law school paper in 1965. He copied five

pages from a law review in a 15-page paper without citing the source while at Syracuse University Law School. While running as a Democratic presidential candidate in 1987, he also used quotations in speeches from former British Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock and the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy without giving them credit.

These are well-known cases that received much attention in the nation's media. But plagiarism also exists on a much quieter and anonymous level, from the student who copies verbatim out of research books and passes it on as his or her own work in freshman composition to doctoral candidates who secretly use the services of research companies.

"I see it as a very critical problem. It seems to me that the incidence of plagiarism has increased in the past 10 years," said Kevin Brien, a professor of philosophy at Washington College in Chestertown, Md. "I see it as something that is eroding academic institutions. Unless we work collectively to turn it around, we will continue to have problems."

Part 2 of this story will run in Tuesday.

## VACANT

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wasn't rebuilt as a residence hall, the people that are living in it would be living in Williams."

According to Piper, the results of an engineering study said Tonopah could not structurally accommodate the additional weight an office building demands. The results of the study were revealed after the construction of Williams Hall had already begun.

Piper said the vacancy occurred because future residency needs were considered. "When we budget, we don't budget to have every bed occupied," Piper said.

Piper said that in all there are 1,077 rooms with 800 presently occupied. He also said that in order to compensate for the vacancy, Williams Hall will house visitors to conventions that come to town in order to offset high overhead.

In addition to Williams Hall, Gym Road Residence Hall C was also vacant. According to Piper it now has 20 residents.

The residential halls are a self-funded auxiliary, so if there is less revenue, there is less money to spend.

"This mostly affects management," Piper said. "Supply and travel budgets will be reduced. Staff won't go to travel workshops. Some resident assistants were switched to office workers and adjustments were made in the hours of the dining commons."

He added that the empty

dorms "will have no direct effect on students." However, the university is holding off putting more ventilation in Gym Road bathrooms.

"The empty building is a concern because it is a continuous cost," Ackerman said. He added that three years ago the university experienced a growth spurt and had a waiting list of 250 for the residence halls which was part of the reason for the expansion.

"There was a need to accommodate the demand," Ackerman said.

He also said the university would have built to projected capacity if Tonopah Hall had become an office building, but as things are, there is room for further growth.

"For whatever reason, growth has leveled off," Ackerman said. "I would hope they fill up, because if they don't, the university hasn't grown."

Dave Nicholes, a linguistics major, gave an alternate reason for the vacancies. Nicholes, who was a campus resident two years ago said, "You can live in apartments off campus that are closer to campus than the dorms."

Nicholes said he was sure that the low occupancy rate was due to their high cost which he said was his reason for not living there.

"If you ran occupancy like that in a hotel for three to six months, you would be fired," Nicholes said.

## FACELIFT

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Lucchesi and two other part-time architecture instructors resigned, stating their private firms would suffer financially if they could not bid on public projects.

Litigation on the matter is pending. According to an informed source in the architecture department no decision has been made on the design of the building and the project has been delayed indefinitely.

According to interim Dean

of Libraries, Dean Myoung-Ja Kwan, the future \$40-50 million university library is still in the planning stages. The building is not yet funded. A project of this size will take another five or six years of planning.

Right now the administration is seeking \$3 million to cover the costs of the planning. The library will be built on the parking lot across from the EPA building to the west of the Marjorie Barrick Museum.

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