

Byte me

Term Papers Suck

OH, WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE WHEN FIRST WE PRACTICE to deceive. Kenneth Sahr, a sophomore at Florida International U., can relate. His "schoolsucks" site (<http://www.schoolsucks.com>) has stirred up enough controversy to keep the hits coming for months. And although his intention isn't to deceive professors, the site — which includes a massive file of research papers waiting to be downloaded — walks a fine line.

The site received national attention over the summer — all because Sahr forgot that students are away from campus during the summer. That proved to be his most fortunate error.

In soliciting papers to start the site, Sahr contacted his natural allies — fraternities, which are known for having exam and research paper files. But because it was summer, fraternity advisers received the messages, and plagiarism alarm bells went off. Since then, Sahr has been bombarded by the media — better advertisement than a full-page ad in *The New York Times*, he says.

"[Professors'] fear of what could happen and their lack of trust in their students gave me free publicity. I absolutely thank them for that."

Sahr gets hundreds of messages daily from professors criticizing the site and claiming it encourages plagiarism. Another site (<http://missouri.edu/~rhetnet/schoolsucks/>) was set up to provide a forum for debate about "schoolsucks." But Sahr argues that plagiarism shouldn't be a concern. He calls the site just another academic library. "I'm against plagia-

rism. It's immoral, period," he says.

Sahr reasons that there are already organizations advertised in magazines like *Rolling Stone* that allow you to buy term papers. He says "schoolsucks" — which both professors and students can access — will actually put those organizations out of business, thereby curtailing plagiarism.

If students turn in papers from "schoolsucks," they should be kicked out of school for stupidity as well as for plagiarism, Sahr says.

As for the site's name and motto — Download Your Workload — Sahr says it's just hype.

"If [school] sucked, none of us would be there in the first place."

By Karin Davidson, Bucknell U., Pa.



Point, click: homework, voilà!

Netscape

Go To: <http://www.eyesoftime.com>

What's New? What's Cool? Handbook Net Search Net Directory Software

Sites for Sore Eyes

- 1. Student Market**
<http://www.studentmkt.com>
National shopping stop for used college texts.
- 2. The Trailer Park**
<http://lyre.mit.edu/~deering/tpark.html>
Beyond artificial turf and pink flamingos, there's a collection of movie trailers, facts and interviews.
- 3. Nick at Nite's TV Land**
<http://www.nickatnitstvland.com/low.html>
Change That Girl's clothes, brush up on Hooterville trivia and peruse the on-air schedule.
- 4. Bubble Information You Can Really Use**
<http://bubbles.org/pbfa2.html>
Professor Bubbles answers any questions you could ever possibly have about soapy suds.
- 5. The Clog Page**
<http://members.aol.com/clogs01/index.htm>
You're not in Holland anymore. View 181 pictures of clogs and other wooden shoes.
- 6. Condomania Online**
<http://www.condomania.com/>
America's first condom store showcases more than 100 condoms — fully inflated.
- 7. Amusing Newspaper Headlines**
<http://www.eyesoftime.com/ssor/headlines.html>
All the news headlines unfit to print.
- 8. The Whole Frog Project**
<http://www-itg.ibi.gov/ITG.hm.pg.docs/Whole.Frog/Whole.Frog.html>
Feel like you're in seventh grade again when dissecting the virtual frog.
- 9. The Butt Guessing Game**
<http://www.thoughtworks.com/ThoughtWorkers/semcnul/BG/Butt44.html>
Butt or face? You make the call.
- 10. The Game Page of the Universe**
<http://www.pht.com/game/universe/index.html>
Let the games begin!

U. LOSE

Olympic Ordeal

What was supposed to be an Olympic dream turned out to be a busload of bad memories for more than 3,000 students who traveled to the Games in Atlanta.

Atlanta-based Creative Travel Services hired high school and college students to work concession stands in exchange for a bus ticket, housing and \$5 per hour. When workers arrived from as far as California and Hawaii, they discovered no housing, no jobs and no explanation. Organizers bused the stranded students to a local warehouse.

Brittany Marshall, a junior at Florida State U., passed on a summer job as a lifeguard to go to Atlanta. She spent two nights there — the first with 200 people, the second with 3,000.

"When we first arrived, we went over 20 hours without eating. When we finally ate, we had a sandwich that wasn't good. And nobody could have seconds. If it hadn't been for a local reverend, it would have been a total disaster. He wound up paying for 20 rooms — four people to a room."

The minister paid for one night at a hotel. The students came up with cash for a second. Marshall says some groups had 15 to 20 people in each room. Attitude, she says, was all that got her through the ordeal.

"We were the only group who made the best of it. We had a good time because we made it fun ourselves."

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and the Georgia Attorney General's Office are investigating whether the problems were criminal violations or just bad business. Officials say a resolution is a long way off.

"There's no timeline for this investigation. Everywhere we look, there's something that needs to be looked at," says John Bankhead, spokesperson for GBI.

Investigators say Creative Travel Services moved its business out of town. The business phone is listed in Atlanta, but a recording says the number has been temporarily disconnected.

Maybe John Tesh should help by stepping in with a little commentary on yet another Olympic tragedy.

By Val Lik, Pace U., N.Y.

Bits & Bytes

• You know you're turning into your mother when you start clipping coupons. Now all you thrift-mongers can chuck the scissors and start surfing the Net. H.O.T! Coupons (<http://www.hotcoupons.com>) is the world's largest online coupon site, with more than 30,000 coupons available to download. Save a pretty penny or more on local, regional and national products. It's more exciting than hitting the jackpot in Vegas.

• Pet lovers who are too lazy for the real thing can adopt a furry friend in cyberspace. For \$19.95, a cuddly CD-ROM kitten or puppy can live on your computer screen. Dogz can bark and roll over. Catz will play with yarn and chase mice. Both come in a variety of breeds, and their personalities are shaped by the attention and interaction of the user. It's unconditional love without the poop-scooper. For more information, visit the Web sites at <http://www.dogz.com> and <http://www.catz.com>.

• U. of Minnesota students can now register for courses on their computers with the school's Web site, "Online Student Access." Last year, nearly 80 percent of the 37,000-student body registered online. The "GPA computer" is also available for students to determine what grades they'd have to pull before graduation to reach their desired grade point average.

• How would you like to earn college credit without setting a foot on campus? Eleven Western United States governors are working to institute a Virtual University, the first U. on the Internet. Wyoming governor Jim Geringer says this would be a chance for college students to quiz out of certain courses to save time and would also allow Wyoming high school students to take courses for double credit. Plans are still in the early stages.

• Do Something founder and *Melrose Place* heartthrob Andrew Shue is working with America Online to sponsor a four-day Internet event to recruit the next generation of community leaders. You'll find all the action at <http://www.webstock96.com> from Nov. 1-4. Look for the neat virtual cities and fireside chats with celebrities like Michael Stipe, Ken Griffey Jr. and Cindy Crawford.

Newcastle, Wyo. — Couples are prohibited from having sex in a butcher's walk-in freezer.

Every state — It's illegal to have sex with a dead body.

Hawaii, Iowa, Maine and Mississippi — These states have the youngest age of sexual consent: 14.

Carlsbad, N.M. — It's legal for couples to have sex in a parked vehicle during lunch break as long as the car or van has drawn curtains.

Sioux Fall, S.D. — Every hotel room is required to have twin beds. The beds must remain a minimum of 2 feet apart when a couple rents the room for a single night. It's illegal to have sex on the floor between the beds.