

# U. News

News from around the country

## CALIFORNIA

**But can you join the alumni association?...** Talk about paying for your education. The U. of California has uncovered what may be the largest fake diploma scam ever: a plan by a company in India to sell UCLA doctoral degrees. The fake diplomas, ranging in price from \$2,000 to \$5,000, were advertised in New Delhi newspapers and discovered by an employee of the U.S. Educational Foundation, which supervises the Fulbright Scholar Program in India. "People believed the degrees were being issued as part of a continuing education program," said Sharada Nayak, foundation director. Buyers were required to write a thesis before receiving the doctoral diplomas. The fraudulent degrees closely resembled the real thing. They contained an official-looking UC seal and the signatures of top state education and government officials, including former Gov. George Deukmejian. But the diplomas contained small errors that gave them away: the dates were crudely handwritten, and the signature of the UC Davis chancellor, not normally applied to the diploma, appeared on the document. ■ Michael Lawrence, *Daily Bruin*, U. of California, Los Angeles

## OHIO

**Head over heels...** Two years ago, Bowling Green State U. student Vanessa Hubert bet her friends she would do cartwheels across the campus if she ever received a 3.0 grade point average. And earlier this semester, she paid up. As confused spectators looked on, the senior completed the 15-minute, 78-rotation excursion she owed her friends after making the grade last spring. "If I were to try to back down, I knew my roommates would make me do it," Hubert said. Hubert, who had no idea how to do a cartwheel before she made the promise, trained with her brothers in her backyard before the event. And after she finished flinging herself from one end of the campus to the other, an exhausted Hubert said, "I feel very tired and I'm glad it's over." ■ Doug Baker, *The BG News*, Bowling Green State U.

## Overhaul

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According to Ford's spokesman, Mike Russell, the current income level "is next to nothing" when applied to the rising cost of college tuition.

Though expanding the Pell Grant program would be costly, Russell said the move is necessary "if we are serious about education." Some funds would have to be cut from other federal programs, possibly the defense budget, which Russell called a "juicy target."

And still more of the costs could be offset by the money that streamlining student loan distribution will generate, he added.

## WISCONSIN

**Dipping into the cookie jar...** Several Greek organizations at the U. of Wisconsin are suing the estate of a former university employee who auditors allege stole more than \$170,000 from student organization accounts. Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Kappa Gamma and Alpha Phi sororities and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity allege that Victor Crapp, a former university financial adviser, embezzled money from their house accounts between 1985-89. An audit by the university has traced \$60,000 in allegedly embezzled funds to Crapp's personal account and \$110,000 to other accounts. The university organizations are seeking repayment from the estate of Crapp, who retired in the spring of 1990 and died last February. ■ Sara Oppenheim, *The Daily Cardinal*, U. of Wisconsin

## CONNECTICUT

**Two, four, six, eight — you'd better lose that extra weight...** The U. of Connecticut discontinued its weight requirement for female cheerleaders after a former member of the cheerleading squad challenged the legality of the restriction. Michele Budnik was dropped from the squad when she couldn't make the 125-pound weight limit. Budnik weighed 147 pounds when she made the cheerleading squad and then lost 17 pounds through diuretics, laxatives, and a diet of lettuce and water. Her complaint, filed with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, contended the school's policy was discriminatory because women had to meet a weight requirement while male cheerleaders didn't have one. University officials said the weight requirement for female cheerleaders had been "a matter of safety" because of the stunts and pyramids involved. But both male and female cheerleaders now will have to adhere to a standard of conditioning based on several factors, including body type and fat content," according to school officials. ■ Megan Heuer, *The Daily Campus*, U. of Connecticut

Still, some Congressmen are opposed to the proposed plan to increase Pell Grants in light of the current federal budget deficit. Craig Overfield, press secretary for committee member Rep. Tom Coleman, R-Mo., said Coleman favored loans because "it's not a giveaway, but it enables those who deserve assistance."

With the current state of the economy, providing loans instead of grants is more beneficial, Overfield said.

"With loans, you're essentially renewing the money that's put into higher education," he said. "You're getting repaid. But with grants it's an expenditure year after year."

Scott Calvert, *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, U. of Pennsylvania, contributed to this story.

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