

Mags Attack!

"Hi, I'M JEFF, AND IF YOU BUY A SUBSCRIPTION to *Field and Stream*, I get a paid vacation to Tahiti."

Sound familiar? Sure it does. Magazine subscription salespeople regularly tour campus areas seeking to divert some of your financial aid their way. But recent allegations of overaggressive tactics on campuses have stung an industry riddled with customer complaints.

On Sept. 12, 1996 a salesperson representing New River Subscrip-

tion Service, based in Christiansburg, Va., approached a woman near the U. of Missouri, Columbia, campus.

"I said, 'I don't want to buy your magazines,'" the woman says. "And he put his hand on my knee to keep me from getting up and said, 'because you're a f—king whore,' and spat in my face."

Columbia police have identified a suspect, but he has moved on to another state. New River company president Terry Ethridge says such incidents are rare.

"You can have a bad apple out there who

can hurt all the good apples," he says, adding that he put the salesperson on 30-day probation for the incident.

But in a similar case, Missouri junior Jaime Zurheide was about to buy a subscription from a New River salesperson when she realized the cost was more than she had figured.

"Stupid me, I had let him in," she says. "I said that I couldn't afford it. He got very mad, stormed out and slammed the door."

According to the Council of Better Business Bureaus, direct (in person) magazine subscription sales companies garnered 1,503 complaints in 1995, ranking these businesses in the top 50 in terms of customer complaints.

In recent months, the charges have grown more serious. In August, three subscription salespeople were arrested for robbing the home of a woman in Bristol, Conn. And in September, two salespeople were charged with beating a co-worker to death in Buffalo, Wyo., after robbing a convenience store.

Caveat emptor!

By Pierrette J. Shields, U. of Missouri / Illustration by Miles Hestand, Colorado State U.



Eye In the Sky

SECURITY CAMERAS and metal detectors — is this what campus life has come to?

Yes, say officials at schools like Eastern Kentucky U., the U. of Virginia, Northeastern U., Stanford U. and the U. of Maryland, College Park — all of which have boosted security in response to campus crime.

In October, ECU school officials installed a \$200,000 surveillance system that monitors 95 percent of the campus.

ECU junior Raelyn Forston says the cameras make school feel like prison. "It's good to have cameras that overlook parking lots," she says. "But your every move is being watched and it makes you feel that you can't even go out for a walk without being on camera."

School officials say the cameras are a necessary precaution. "With the campus expanding, it's impossible for campus police to be everywhere," says Tom Lindquist, ECU's director of public safety.

ECU senior Kellie Davis agrees. "The cameras offer students a sense of security — especially to female student who have to be out alone on campus at night," she says.

Maryland and UVA are also installing cameras, while Northeastern and Stanford are mandating metal detectors at campus functions.

"Metal detectors do take away from that relaxed party atmosphere," says Keno Mullings, a Northeastern junior and president of the Caribbean Students Organization. "But if a fight breaks out, the pros outweigh the cons."

By Kristy Gilbert, Eastern Kentucky U. / Illustration by Tim Slusher, Moorhead State U., Minn.



A Degree from the Diploma Mill

A graduate is suing his alma mater because he believes that getting a doctorate was too easy — and others agree.

James Houston filed a \$1 million lawsuit against his former school, Northern Arizona U., alleging consumer fraud and breach of contract.

"I simply bought a degree with money and a little bit of seat time," he says.

In 1995, Houston received his doctorate from NAU and an award for outstanding service to Arizona education, but he says he's willing to return it all in exchange for a degree from a credible university.

"I am a victim of fraud," Houston says. "They sold me a program that doesn't exist."

Houston says the NAU Center for Excellence in Education — or, as he calls it, the Center for Excrement in Education — promises training in the education of public- and private-school students, as well as the role of government and corporations in education. But Houston says professors only taught the basics of teaching kindergarten through 12th grade in public schools.

Since announcing his lawsuit, things have gotten ugly. Houston has received death threats, other students have filed similar suits, the dean of the college has stepped down and several professors have resigned in protest. A. Keith Carreiro, one of the professors who resigned, told the Arizona board of regents the college has a tendency to suppress the rights of free speech, independent thought and intellectual opinion.

"We no longer have leaders in education," Carreiro says. "We have bad bosses."

School officials maintain that the complaints are groundless and that the lawsuits stem from disgruntled students not being able to find jobs. If Houston wins his lawsuit, he says the money will go to a foundation that he formed with other dissatisfied students and faculty to promote higher standards in education.

By Amanda Henley, U. of Tennessee, Knoxville

Dinner For One...Buck

FACE IT. THE DIET OF MOST COLLEGE students isn't exactly what you'd call healthy. C'mon, how much nutrition can you get from a box of mac and cheese?

That's what Elissa Della-Piana is trying to teach her students with the Meals on the Cheap program at Montserrat College of Art, Mass.

The program, which only costs students a buck, gives them the chance to watch a real meal in the making — and eventually eat it. Once a month, students gather at a faculty or student home to watch a faculty member cook a well-balanced meal. The cook of the night teaches students how to prepare the meal and gives them take-home recipe cards.

Della-Piana, chair of the illustration program, came up with the idea after noticing the poor eating habits of her students.

"Poor nutrition has a direct effect on your performance level in classes," she says.

At most colleges, knowing how to cook isn't vital, but at Montserrat — a school with just over 300 stu-

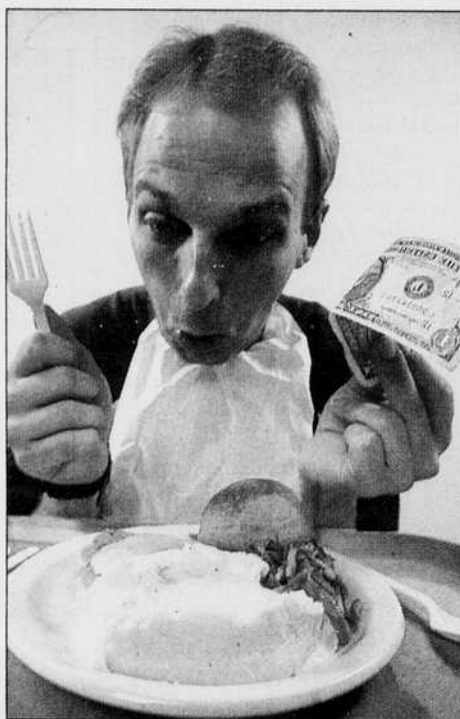
dents and no food services — it is.

And the types of meals are as varied as the people who cook them. Della-Piana, who tends to stick with foods from her Italian heritage, says the novice chefs usually pick ethnic dishes for their Meals night.

The number of students who participate varies, but as many as 60 students attended one meal last year.

"Try cooking for that," she says. "The sound of food brings them out."

Junior Becky Rousseau, a frequent Meal attendee, says she likes the program because it's cheap and easy.



Yummy!

"It's just like a home-cooked meal for a dollar," she says. "There hasn't been a meal I haven't liked."

How many college-cooked meals can you say that about?

By Melissa Shaw, U. of North Carolina, Wilmington/Photo by Amy Conn, U. of Texas, Austin

Stacy Sykora, volleyball, Texas A&M U. Brings a stuffed clown with her to matches.
Todd Fusner, soccer, Muskingum College, Ohio Puts his clothes on in the same order and wears the same pair of socks and underwear (washed).

Anthony Lowenberg, crew, Trinity College, Conn. After the coach's prerace pep talk, he gives each rower in his boat a "power dot," which is either a Spree candy or a sour ball.

Vicki Poehler, track and field, North Dakota State U. Holds the shot put in her right hand and cleans her shoes, then holds the shot put in her left hand before she walks into the throwing ring.