



Scenes like this could be a common sight if students begin "buying" instead of composing their term papers. Photo by Duffy Coffman.

**Tom Rhodes**  
**The Print**

They are posted in every building, tempting students looking for the easy way out with such promises as "an end to unnecessary suffering . . . improve health, and achieve a greater peace of mind." What are they? No, not the members of the Church of Scientology or Army recruiters out to grab unsuspecting students, encouraging them to join their cause, good or bad. They are 13cm x 21cm sheets of paper titled, "Term Paper Ideas Cured!" The company is called Pacific Research (P.R.), and they offer prewritten research papers. The papers are four to 12 pages long, and include footnotes, bibliographies, and lists about everything that a term or research paper should include. Based in Seattle, Wash., P.R. started with a handful of recent college graduates who had an idea. "We pooled all of the papers we had written, and selected a bunch from our friends, and we started offering the service to students," said a representative from P.R. in a telephone interview. The small company grew, and they put out their first mail order catalog in 1974. Their advertisements are now posted in colleges all across the nation. The term papers are written by 40 professional writers who are specialists in different academic fields. P.R. has well over 10,000 papers on file with topics ranging from Marxism to Citizen Kane. Those 10,000-plus papers are all listed in their mail order catalog, which costs \$1. If the customer sent in another dollar, he or she would also receive a special booklet, "Writing Effective Term Papers." The booklet explains how to use big words that impress the profs. In writing to P.R., I just slipped two George Washingtons in an envelope and mailed it,

with an order form, to Seattle. Much to my surprise, within a week I received a 393-page catalog, an order form for the research paper, and a notice stating, "Due to the overwhelming demand for "Writing Effective Term Papers," there will be a slight delay of three to five weeks for delivery." The catalog lists information concerning how to order a paper, how much they cost, (\$3 a page), and many of the other services the company offers. The company has a special phone number to call in orders. Before I phoned, I had to choose a subject. I chose a typical paper:

13008—THE EFFECTS OF MASS MEDIA ON VOTING BEHAVIOR. An analysis of how the uneasy marriage of media conglomerates and big government developed to the point where it is threatened by legislative control. Features an historical perspective as well as current concerns about the influence of media corporation on voting behavior. 6 pages/5 footnotes/4 bibliographies.

I picked up the receiver and dialed the number, (206)-282-8800. This conversation took place:

P.R. Hello . . . Pacific Research.  
ME: Hello . . . I'd like to order a research paper.  
P.R. What is the number of the order?  
ME: 13008  
P.R. Okay, I'll see if we have it on file . . . (long pause) . . . Okay, the paper is on the effects of mass media on voting behavior, and it's six pages long.  
ME: That's right.  
P.R. Okay, what is your name?  
ME: Thomas Rhodes . . . that's R H-O-D-E-S.

P.R. Your address, Tom?  
ME: 17402 S.E. Boardman Court . . . Milwaukie . . . Oregon...97222.  
P.R.: And how would you like to pay for that, COD? (\$5 extra for COD)  
ME: Yup.  
P.R.: Let's see . . . \$3 a page, it's 6 pages, plus \$5 for COD, that comes out to \$23.  
P.R.: Okay, it will be here around Thursday.  
ME: All right.  
P.R.: Thank you very much, Tom.

That was it, a three-minute conversation and I had a research paper on the way to my house. It was that easy. But, could I pass a class like WR 123, where you spend the entire term writing papers, by ordering a 22-page paper on a subject?

"Conceivably, it could work," admitted WR 123 teacher Dick Andrews, "but it would be awfully difficult." Andrew has taught WR 123 for some time, but has never encountered a student who has admitted using a term paper written by a company such as Pacific Research. "I don't think the students here at the College are affluent enough to purchase a term paper," he said after being informed that the maximum charge for a term paper is \$70.

"We basically know the individual students' style," commented Andrews, "so we could tell if they used a pre-written paper." He added, "I suppose the student could buy one then re-write it, but that would take too much time and effort. They might as well write it themselves." Two days later, my paper arrived. It was just as P.R. described it. Clean, well written—but not too well written. All in all, it was a good paper. P.R. takes it in good faith that the person who orders a paper will not use it as the paper turned in for class, by having the customer sign the following statement:

Hey, you—  
come here!  
Do ya wanna  
buy a term paper?

"I fully realize that the material I am contracted to buy from P.R. is designed and intended to be used solely for research and reference."  
Pacific Research does offer more than just research papers. For example:

**CUSTOM RESEARCH:**  
If a person wants a topic that is not listed in the catalog, he or she can write in the subject of the paper, what is to be covered such as symbolism of a specific story like BOEWOLF, how many pages, footnotes, bibliographies, charts, illustrations, etc., are needed. Cost: \$7.50 per page with five-page minimum. Science, business, and economic papers are \$8.50 a page. Thesis assistance is \$15 a page.  
**WRITER'S GUIDE:**  
—Send in paper. P.R. will proofread and correct errors in both style and grammar. Cost: \$3 a page with five-page

minimum. P.R. will retype paper for a fee of \$4.50 a page with a \$22 minimum.  
—P.R. will provide an outline for any topic. Bibliography costs extra. Cost: \$30 per outline; \$40 with bibliography.  
—Send in paper and P.R. will return a one-page critical analysis. \$15 for 15-page or shorter paper. \$1 extra for each additional page.  
—P.R. will send a notated bibliography to help in research for topic. Cost: \$15 per page (five sources).  
As one can see, Pacific Research's services are not cheap. There is a great deal of money involved in this business and the student should look things over carefully before ordering for assistance.  
Before spending money for help from P.R., students might also remember that there are teachers here at the College who will offer the same assistance—for free.

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