

Move under way to curb activities of term paper companies

A move is under way in a small but growing number of states to curb what is becoming a successful service industry in college towns from the Ivy League to the Pacific Coast—merchandising term papers on the open market.

In the California Legislature, the New York courts and the Massachusetts attorney general's office, public officials backed or goaded by college authorities are moving against young entrepreneurs who are getting rich by churning out other people's homework.

Ever since a pair of pioneering brothers launched a Boston term paper factory 18 months ago and extended its operations to 49 other branches nationwide, more than 100,000 papers have been sold to students and the number of competing firms is proliferating.

"I am helping students overcome the busy work and repetition and wasted time of going from shelf to shelf and page to page doing term papers in which no learning is involved," says Ward Warren, 23, who with his brother, Kenneth, 27, founded Term Paper Research Unlimited Inc.

The brothers say they did \$1.8 million worth of business last year.

Term papers Unlimited and the others advertise openly in campus newspapers—"Are you cramped for time? Let us help you," reads one ad—and reach students who pay from \$2 to \$6 a page for documented research on topics as varied as Aztec social structure to Zambian foreign policy.

Directors ok appointments of faculty, staff

The A&M Board of Directors Tuesday approved the service of 13 faculty and staff members to appointive positions on boards and committees of state and local government.

State law requires such formal approval, university officials explained. None of the positions involves financial compensation, and some of the individuals are being reappointed to positions previously held, the officials noted.

Paul R. Kramer, director of the Texas Forest Service, was given approval to accept an appointment to the Technical Advisory Committee of the Texas Air Control Board.

Dr. Johannes van Overbeek, head of TAMU's Biology Department, received similar authorization to serve on the Governor's Advisory Panel on the Uses of Agricultural Chemicals in Texas.

Other state appointments included David A. Anderson of the Texas Forest Service to serve on the executive board of the Texas Advisory Committee on Conservation Education and C. P. Dugat, also of the Texas Forest Service, to serve on the Soil Conservation Service's Board of Directors in Hardin County.

Appointments to the Tax Equalization Board for the City of College Station were approved for Edwin S. Holdredge, mechanical engineering professor, and William A. Smith, forestry specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. John A. Haislet of the Texas Forest Service and John B. Beckham, associate dean of science, received board approval to serve on the city's Parks and Recreation Committee.

Approval to serve on the Board of Equalization for the A&M Consolidated Independent School District was given to W. B. Lancaster, payroll services manager, J. C. Redman, power plant superintendent; and Dr. C. B. Ryan, poultry science professor.

Appointments to the Vocational Advisory Committee for the Bryan Public Schools were approved for Pete Rodriguez, administrative assistant in the Chemistry Department, and S. A. Kerley, director of the Counseling and Testing Center.

Fashion show planned for Thursday

The Student Veterinary Wives Auxiliary is sponsoring a fashion show in the Ballroom of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

The show will consist of spring and summer fashions from Beverly Braley in Townshire Shopping Center and shoes from the Collegiate Shop.

The papers are composed by ghostwriters, including moonlighting faculty members, graduate students and technical writers—many with M.A. and Ph.D. degrees—who sign agreements relinquishing their rights to their works.

"We've given these trained people a better way to make money and the students have access to a clearing house for information," said Ed Whalen, 29, a former English instructor who

is vice president and chief editor for Creative Communications Consultants in Urbana, Ill.

The ghostwriters get anywhere from \$2 to \$5 a page for their products.

This view—and the practice of peddling term papers—is the target of a measure introduced by California Assemblyman Jim Keyser that would make it a misdemeanor to sell term papers to students in higher education institutions.

"This bill is against the sellers and not against students," said Keyser, a Granada Hills Democrat. "I think getting it passed could be a little tough because people will argue you can't legislate morality."

The reaction of educators and administrators to the term paper business has been mixed, ranging from violent opposition to philosophical re-evaluation of the efficacy of term papers.

Harvard Dean of Students Ar-

chie Epps calls the term paper companies "a blot on the conscience of American institutions of higher learning" and an official at Southern Illinois University said the firms reflect "a breakdown in the relationship between faculty and students."

On the other hand, David J. Carson, dean of students at Babson College in Massachusetts, Ward Warren's alma mater, sees the term paper companies as a spur to new thinking.

"Perhaps there will be some serious and beneficial gains out of all this if it causes some re-evaluation of the whole process of which term papers are a part," he said.

Ward Warren said students seem to have no second thoughts about buying a term paper. He told a story of a freshman who bought and submitted as his own work a five-page paper entitled, "Why I Wouldn't Use a Professional Term Paper Writing Service."

Not every student is a pro customer, Warren said, and papers Unlimited occasionally advises would-be clients to work themselves if the paper is a short one.

Would he himself purchase term paper prepared by a commercial service? Warren asked.

"No, sir," he replied with a straight face. "I've got a lot to protect."



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