

Reagan tells blacks tax-exemption was 'beaut' of mistake

United Press International CHICAGO — Standing before inner-city black students, President Reagan admitted he made "a beaut" of a mistake in granting tax-exempt status to private schools that racially discriminate.

Reagan told students at Providence St. Mel's High School his sole motivation for the decision early this year was to keep government agencies from harassing private institutions.

Reagan said he didn't know there were any schools in the country that still discriminated on the basis of race.

Reagan made the comment in answer to a student who asked if he had made any decisions that did not turn out the way he wanted them to.

"Oh yes," the president said. "I got a beaut."

Reagan announced early this year he was changing current Internal Revenue Service policy and granting exemptions to pri-

Graduates receive a Frisbee-diploma

United Press International PROVIDENCE, R.I. — College diplomas look dandy framed and hung above the mantle. At the Rhode Island School of Design, the 440 members of the class of 1982 will have a much more utilitarian certificate.

It's a Frisbee, with a twist: a folding, cloth disc with the school seal. Thus its name, FRISD (pronounced friz-dee).

The design diploma, handed out each year with the traditional sheepskin, is the work of fifth-year architecture student G. Legare Porcher, 26, of Charleston, S.C.

Porcher was inspired by a former professor's difficulty in pronouncing the popular acronym for the 104-year-old art school.

"I transferred from Clemson, in South Carolina, and I had a professor who couldn't get the school's name right. He kept calling it 'Frisdee,'" Porcher said Monday.

Each year, students submit offbeat design proposals to a panel of fellow students, who make the selection. The college finances the production of the design diplomas, and each graduate is given one at commencement.

This year's design diploma will be handed out, or tossed, May 23.

Porcher's entry won over such prospects as a wax mold of the school ring, which would allow students to cast their rings in the metal of their choice, and a jewelry creation.

The FRISD is a hiker's model, made of nylon with flexible wire so it can fold into a backpack, Porcher said.

"I think the idea is students feel that RISD is a very unique school and they ought to have something that is unique to celebrate their graduation," said Neil Severance, vice president of student affairs.

"They just want something special every year to commemorate this great event."

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