Colleges disagree over honorary degrees

United Press International ens of thousands of college rees are displayed across the on on the walls of people never earned them in a

rr-year course of study. The degrees are honorary. we were less are all thousand are being beser if you we need this spring.

AUPI survey of colleges indiwhat you kee many schools bid for big es and honorariums. Others

wn on the practice. Recipients range from presi-nts and premiers to cookbook

Mort Zuck

ionaire. Id go on and

Consider Charles A. Lindgh, who flunked out of the wersity of Wisconsin in 1921. Yen years later his old school ehim an honorary doctor of s degree in recognition of his 7 first solo trans-Atlantic

Last year, Harvard honored ther Teresa of India and awright Tennessee Williams. erman gotaji year. By agell year before, Notre Dame gled out President Reagan Premier Pierre Trudeau of

a sampling of honorary deonly rule on the rearemost the few years turns up such es as Boston Pops conduc-

Lyndon B. Johnson, artist Georgia O'Keefe, CBS newsman Mike Wallace. for a Roman Catholic. Notre Dame's preside years, the Rev. Theodory

President Reagan's first trip outside the White House after



John Hinckley tried to assassinate him was to receive a degree and speak at Notre Dame.

His visit prompted nostalgic references to his role as the given the principal commence-'Gipper," the late Notre Dame football star George Gipp, in the film in which Pat O'Brien (also receiving a degree that day) played legendary coach Knute

Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford and Dwight D. Eisenhower all received degrees from Notre Dame while in office. President John F. Kennedy received the Laetare Med-

burgh, has worked for these presidents on national boards.

He knows them — and they know "Notre Dame is a highly visible platform for Catholics in this country," said Richard Conklin, Notre Dame spokesman.

Columbia University doesn't use degrees to obtain speakers. Its commencement speaker always is the university president. But like Harvard, it wants degree recipients there for the show. It doesn't announce their names until graduation day. No show, no degree.

Degrees often go with the honorarium and travel expenses



Notre Dame's president of 31 can be embarrassing when surveyears, the Rev. Theodore Hespears, the Rev. Theodore Hespears, the Rev. Theodore Hespears, the Rev. Theodore Hespears and the College invited U.N.

Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick to speak and receive an honorary degree at its May 22 ceremonies this year. Students organized CROAK — Committee
Responsible for Organizing
Against Kirkpatrick. They planned a silent protest. Mrs. Kirkpatrick withdrew.

She still will receive her degree, the trustees decided.

Colleges and universities, asked for their criteria for such degrees, speak of distinguished careers, outstanding achieve- have not been generous to the

They don't like to speak of

money. Someone who has contributed money to the school may be honored, but "it is long after the event" and money is not the deciding factor, said Carleton Whitehead of Reed College in Portland, Ore.

Reed typifies schools that prefer to honor people with a tie to the institution. Among its recipients has been cookbook writer ames Beard, who attended

"I don't want to say people who received honorary degrees

mouth spokesman.

'We don't base honorary degrees on how much someone lion. contributes. We're not playing Pr that game," said Dr. Fred Brown, executive vice-president of Buena Vista College, Storm

In 1980, Buena Vista did give for a degree.

tor Arthur Fiedler, President al, the university's highest honor Lyndon B. Johnson, artist Georfor a Roman Catholic.

ment speaker. Competition for ment, service to humanity, conspeakers can be fierce. It also ognize something they have unnamed because of a contract nection with the school or state. done in society," said a Dart- between the school and the person. If the degree was exceptional, so was the gift: \$18 mil-

> President Norman Hacker-man of Rice University said his school won't give honorary de-grees because "we just don't want to lower the requirements

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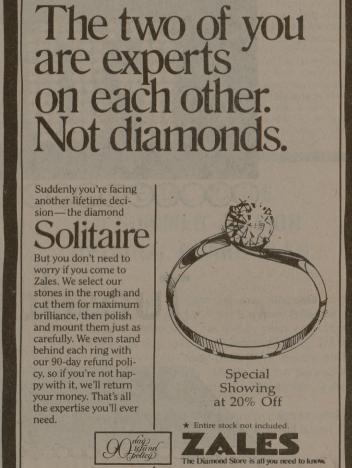
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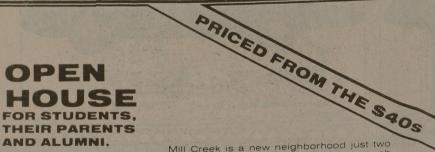


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