

# DID YOU KNOW?

*A Look at Current Events in Higher Education*

Rowan University Institutional Research and Planning

## Federal Judge Rules That Plagiarism-Detection Tool Does Not Violate Students' Copyrights

**By JEFFREY R. YOUNG, *The Chronicle of Higher Education***

A federal judge ruled this month that a commercial plagiarism-detection tool popular among professors does not violate the copyright of students, even though it stores digital copies of their essays in the database that the company uses to check works for academic dishonesty. The decision also has wider implications for other digital services, such as Google's effort to scan books in major libraries and add them to its index for search purposes. The lawyer for the students who sued the company said he plans to appeal. Judge Claude M. Hilton, of the U. S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., found that scanning the student papers for the purpose of detecting plagiarism is a "highly transformative" use that falls under the fair-use provision of copyright law. He ruled that the company "makes no use of any work's particular expressive or creative content beyond the limited use of comparison with other works," and that the new use "provides a substantial public benefit."

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## To woo academic recruits, college makes them stars

**By Kathy Boccella, *The Philadelphia Inquirer***

Justin Chung knew Wilkes University wanted him when he got one of its first acceptance letters in February. But he didn't know how badly until he saw the mall kiosk with his name on it. And the pizza boxes. And the commercial on MTV and VH1.

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## Building Dorm Rooms Cheaper, Quicker and Quieter

**By ALISON GREGOR, *The New York Times***

NEW HAVEN — Modular construction may have an image associated with prisons and barracks, but it is also increasingly being used in a more refined setting, to create quick and convenient dormitories and classrooms for colleges and universities. These are not the flimsy wooden buildings that were the hallmark of the first generation of modular building, but hardier steel and concrete structures. For instance, [Yale](#), on a campus distinguished by sturdy neo-Gothic and Georgian Revival architecture, built a modular dormitory in 2004, covering about 7,800 square feet. The \$3 million building is part of Pierson College, one of Yale's 12 residential colleges. It bears touches of the surrounding architecture, completed in 1933, with custom antiqued brickwork, a pitched slate roof, Yorkshire glass windows with concrete lintels, and stone copings at the parapets.

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## Will a Trickle Become a Flood?

**By Doug Lederman, *Inside Higher Ed***

On Friday, Mercyhurst College became the latest of a handful of colleges and universities to announce that they would switch to the federal government's direct student loan program from the lender-based guaranteed loan program. Mercyhurst joined Pennsylvania State and Northeastern Universities in publicizing their shifts, citing a desire to, as Mercyhurst put it in a news release, "shield its students from recent upheaval in the student loan market." Are these decisions anomalies, or the start of a major trend?

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## About 20% of U.S. College Students Without Coverage

**By Aliza Marcus, *Bloomberg.com***

March 28 (Bloomberg) -- About one U.S. college student in five lacks health insurance, leaving the federal government and states to pay for their care, a report to lawmakers found. Uninsured students who got sick didn't pay \$120 million to \$255 million in bills to hospital emergency rooms and doctors' offices in 2005, according to the [report](#) released today by the Government Accountability Office. Even \$255 million is probably low because it omits care for injuries, the GAO said. America's 47 million uninsured include 1.7 million students, or 3.6 percent of the total. How to best insure the nation is a prominent issue in the presidential campaign, with Democrats Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama saying they'd expand federal health programs and provide subsidies and Republican John McCain saying he'd encourage private competition.

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## Colleges Keep Watch Over Troubled Students

**'Threat Assessment Groups' Created To Prevent Tragedies**

***The Associated Press***

On the agenda: A student who got into a shouting match with a faculty member. Another who harassed a female classmate. Someone found sleeping in a car. And a student who posted a threat against a professor on Facebook. In a practice adopted at one college after another since the massacre at Virginia Tech, a University of Kentucky committee of deans, administrators, campus police and mental health officials has begun meeting regularly to discuss a watch list of troubled students and decide whether they need professional help or should be sent packing.

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