Paraphrasing Strategies
~ Part 1 of 2 ~

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*Try recording yourself on your phone!
BYU students protest university's beard ban
By: Associated Press | September 28, 2014 10:16 am

A group of Brigham Young University students is protesting the Mormon church-owned school's ban on something its namesake once sported: a beard.

About 50 students, some donning paper beards, biked, skateboarded or rollerbladed their way from the Provo City Library to campus during the “Bike for Beards” protest on Friday night.

“I love BYU. I love being a student here,” protest organizer Shane Pittson said. “But the rule on beards I find particularly outdated.” The 23-year-old international studies major and other students have launched a petition drive to get the school to lift the ban.

University spokeswoman Carri Jenkins said students agree to its grooming standards before their first day of class and the beard ban was set in place by students. “It’s nothing against beards. It’s just how we choose to represent ourselves at the university,” she told The Salt Lake Tribune.

Brigham Young and many other early leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints grew beards as they aged. A statue of Young in downtown Salt Lake City depicts him with a beard, but another at BYU shows him clean-shaven.

The BYU Honor Code, created in the 1940s, states that “men are expected to be clean-shaven” and beards are not acceptable. But students can be exempted from the prohibition if they have a medical condition such as scarring.

Among other things, the university’s mandatory student contract also forbids premarital sex, alcohol consumption and tattoos.

In 1971, then-university President Dallin Oaks defended the beard ban as “contemporary and pragmatic,” but he said he would be surprised if it was not eventually changed.

At the time, Oaks said beards and long hair on men were elements of “slovenly appearance” linked to “protest, revolution and rebellion against authority. They are also symbols of hippie and drug culture.”

Pittson enjoyed growing his own beard this summer, but he shaved before the protest.

“I figured it would make more of an impact to say, ‘I respect the university and here I am abiding by the rules but asking for change,’” he told The Tribune.

This article can be found at http://college.usatoday.com/2014/09/28/byu-students-protest-universitys-beard-ban/

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Wake Forest napping room helps students recharge
By: Priscilla Alvarez | December 10, 2014 5:10 pm

Wake Forest University students scrambling to study for final exams and meet for group projects this semester can now take those much-needed naps right on campus. Z. Smith Reynolds Library created the “ZieSta Room,” a space dedicated to napping, in late August. It’s equipped with five reclining chairs and eight lockers with electrical outlets. These lockers let students charge their electronic devices while they take a study break.

The room has become increasingly popular as final exams approach and students look for a place to relax, according to Elizabeth Carlson, a Wake Forest University student and the initiative’s leader.

“Sometimes you need a break and you don’t want to waste time going back and forth to your room,” Carlson says. “I think students have really embraced that.”

A student-run organization, CHARGE, led the initiative earlier this year following its annual spring retreat. The organization, which focuses on leadership development, is required to develop a proposal for the university every year.

“We thought we should make a nap room almost as a joke,” says Carlson. “But people started thinking about it and thought this could be something.”

The CHARGE team pitched the concept to administrators. And the idea came to fruition at the start of the fall semester after conducting a variety of surveys and discussing options among faculty, staff and students.

The organization along with administrators reviewed potential locations and settled on one with unlimited student access. Z. Smith Reynolds Library is divided into two sections, one of which is open 24 hours per day on weekdays. The other is open 24 per day, every day.

Along with recliners and lockers that distinguish the space from other parts of the library, the ZieSta Room also has no lightbulbs.

“We took all the light bulbs out to make it more calming and that seems to be working so far,” says Susan Smith, associate dean of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library.

Adding to that sense of calm, CHARGE discourages studying and using technology in the ZieSta Room. The primary goal is for students to relax and nap.

For full article: http://college.usatoday.com/2014/12/10/wake-forest-napping-room-helps-students-recharge/

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Kean students create petition to fire president over $219K table
By: Kristin Musulin December 1, 2014 1:07 pm

Students at Kean University in Union, N.J. have created a Change.org petition to fire University President Dahwood Farahi after the university spent $219,000 on a custom-built conference table.

The petition — which was created on Wednesday — calls for the Kean University Board of Trustees to evaluate Farahi’s “failure to work for a better education,” noting previous controversies surrounding the president. The petition has received 580 signatures as of Monday.

“The 22-foot table, made of oak with a cherry veneer, has been installed on the top floor of the new $40 million building on campus that will house the architecture school that Kean said was designed to fulfill “a university need for a world-class corporate meeting space,”” according to The Record.

Many students have turned to Twitter to voice opinions about the table. A parody Twitter account “Kean Table” has been created in reaction to the controversy as a way to poke fun at the university’s decision.

According to NJ.com, school officials call the conference center and its furnishings “a strategic investment to further develop Kean as an epicenter for world-class education as well as a host institution for meetings and discussions on matters of local, state, national, and international impact.”

Kean University officials have also defended the table — which was made in China — by stating that the school saved money by having a Chinese company create it. The school recently established a campus in Wenzhou, China, where 880 Chinese students are attending classes. Kean hopes to grow its relationship with the Chinese government.

When questioned about the purchase of the table, Farahi responded “Why not?” multiple times, according to The Record. Some tweets from the parody account even use the hashtag “#whynot” to reflect Farahi’s response.

For Full Article: http://college.usatoday.com/2014/12/01/kean-students-create-petition-to-fire-president-over-219k-table/

Practice

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*Try recording yourself on your phone!
A nail polish that detects date rape drugs? That’s what four undergrad students studying materials science & engineering (MSE) at North Carolina State University have set out to make.

Their company, Undercover Colors, hopes to be “the first fashion company working to prevent sexual assault,” according to their Facebook page.

One of the co-founders of Undercover Colors, Ankesh Madan, told Higher Education Works in an interview, “We wanted to focus on preventive solutions, especially those that could be integrated into products that women already use. And so the idea of creating a nail polish that detects date rape drugs was born.”

The project is to create a clear-coated nail polish that changes color when in contact with the chemicals embedded in date-rape drugs such as Rohypnol, Xanax and GHB.

The company is engaging with the public and answering questions through their social media accounts. An Instagram follower had an intriguing question about how the product would work and this is how they responded:

The company also released a statement on their Facebook page behind the reasoning for their project: “In the U.S., 18% of women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. That’s almost one out of every five women in our country. We may not know who they are, but these women are not faceless. They are our daughters, they are our girlfriends and they are our friends. While date rape drugs are often used to facilitate sexual assault, very little science exists for their detection. Our goal is to invent technologies that empower women to protect themselves from this heinous and quietly pervasive crime.”

The four students are attending summits and competitions like the K50 Competition put on by Kairos Society, which encourages young entrepreneurs “to focus on the meaningful businesses and innovations that will radically change the world for the better. Not only for our generation, but for the generations to come,” according to their website.

For the rest of this article, visit [http://college.usatoday.com/2014/09/25/uw-students-create-bracelet-that-monitors-intoxication-levels/](http://college.usatoday.com/2014/09/25/uw-students-create-bracelet-that-monitors-intoxication-levels/)

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Human trafficking survivors offered full scholarship at Christian university

By: Ben Sheffler | October 30, 2014 3:35 pm

Point Loma Nazarene University is offering a bundle of hope to human trafficking survivors who desire to earn a college degree by offering them a full-ride scholarship.

PLNU, a private Christian university located in San Diego, officially launched an Indiegogo crowd-funding campaign today with a goal to raise $40,000 in 40 days to fund the Beauty for Ashes Scholarship Fund, named in reference to the Bible verse Isaiah 61:3.

San Diego is the 13th highest child prostitution area in the country, according to the FBI and PLNU’s Center for Justice & Reconciliation (CJR) resource website, Abolish Human Trafficking. The site also says 1.2 million children are trafficked every year, and it’s the second largest source of illegal income in the world.

“One of the things we are hearing over and over again…is that [the survivors] so badly want a college education, but that just seems so completely out of the realm of possibility for them,” says Kim Jones, external relations volunteer at CJR. “Many of them, when they’re rescued, don’t even have their high school diploma.”

While being accepted into the university and receiving the scholarship is one thing, being successful throughout the four years or so it takes to earn a degree is another. So PLNU is developing a plan to ensure the survivors, who will remain anonymous among the student population, get the support they’ll need to succeed.

“We’re in the process of developing that plan, and it starts with the fact that anybody that applies for the scholarship will need to be referred in by a direct service agency, so that they already have some connection to some agency in town that has been working with them and knows their story and knows what level of support they need,” Jones says.

The $40,000 would cover one year’s cost of attendance for one person, but the university hopes to be able to help more.

For Full Article: http://college.usatoday.com/2014/10/30/human-trafficking-survivors-offered-full-scholarship-at-christian-university/

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