

# Jackson urges students to defy Prop 209

By Derek Walter  
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Daily Collegian

The Rev. Jesse Jackson's crusade against Prop. 209 made its way to the Fresno State campus Tuesday as

**"English is a great language, but it's not the only way to get to heaven. Jesus didn't speak English."**

-Rev. Jesse Jackson

the civil-rights leader challenged students to defy the measure and join his march on Sacramento Oct. 27.

"It's your generation, what are you going to do about it?" he said.

The stop was part of Jackson's

whirlwind tour of California, which culminates with a "Save the Dream" rally on the capital steps in Sacramento.

Prop. 209 was passed by California voters last year. It was recently upheld by the California Supreme Court.

Along with Prop. 209, Jackson used his time to denounce Prop. 187 and a measure that would eliminate bilingual education in California schools. He said those measures went against the "American dream," as well as the principles of Martin Luther King, Jr.

"There's always been the dream busters who act as if they're on the dream," he said. "But the dream keeps on going."

Jackson compared Gov. Pete Wilson to Alabama Gov. George Wallace and the other Southern senators who opposed integration in

the 1960's.

He said Propositions 187, 209 and the proposed bilingual education ban all violate the federal government's protections and freedoms.

Jackson cited the proposal to ban bilingual education as another threat to "the American dream." He said Americans need to realize that English isn't the only language around.

"We must build bridges," he said. "English is a great language, but it's not the only way to get to heaven. Jesus didn't speak English."

Along with language, Jackson spent a considerable amount of time talking about race.

He said people should not strive to be "color blind," but instead be more tolerant and compassionate to other races.

"No one wants to be blind," he said. "Blind people don't want to be blind.

We need to be color sensitive."

He said that compassion should be used to help people less fortunate. He said that's why he continues to march for such causes as minimum wage, health care, workers' rights and Affirmative Action.

One area of concern for Jackson was schools. He said since the youth would determine the future of the country, America's schools need to be in top shape.

"It's not right to have first-class jails and second class schools," he said.

Heath Kishpugh, a junior majoring in speech communication, agreed. He echoed Jackson's sentiments about trying to better the situation of the poor.

"I like what he said about the schools," he said. "We need to give more money to people who in society instead of those who can't be in it."

Shalandra Davis, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, said she hoped Jackson's speech would bring some racial harmony to the campus.

"It's pretty brave for him to come on campus with all things that have happened in the last few weeks," she said. "It's a good time for him to come on campus and speak at a time like this. I hope it did some good."

Theater arts professor Thomas Ellis believes that Jackson's crusade is needed to destroy what he sees as a damaging way of thinking.

"We need to fight against 209," he said. "But it's not the initiative that's the issue, it's the thought process that created it."

Ellis said affirmative action is needed, and doesn't hurt anybody. "I'm an affirmative action hire, and I haven't taken any jobs away from whites," he said.

Tim Bragg contributed to this story.

## Survey finds education profs doubt their students

By Philip Walzer  
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Services

**NORFOLK, Va.--Roughly three-quarters of education professors harbor serious doubts about the capabilities of some of their students, the future teachers of America, according to a report.**

In the Public Agenda survey of 900 professors, 75 percent said too many prospective teachers have trouble writing essays free of mistakes in grammar and spelling.

In addition, 72 percent said they often or sometimes have a student they doubt will become a good teacher.

And 86 percent think college education programs need to do a better job of weeding out students.

The report, released Tuesday, raises questions about the quality of teachers at a time when the public and politicians are increasingly worried about the quality of education youngsters are receiving.

The professors' viewpoints are "a signal that they don't have the confidence that their goals will be realized in the real world, given the corps of recruits that they

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Pres. The Norfolk Federation of Teachers

work with," said Steve Farkas, co-author of the report and vice president of Public Agenda. The organization is a nonprofit, nonpartisan group aimed at helping citizens understand policy issues and helping leaders understand the public's point of view.

Marian Flickinger, president of the Norfolk Federation of Teachers, said Wednesday that she believes most teachers are "outstanding," but "I still think there's a portion that need to improve their skills."

She thinks both universities and school systems should work harder to ensure that youngsters get top-notch teachers.

"They shouldn't be graduating from an institution of higher education if they have those problems-unless there are no standards," she said.

At Norfolk State University, education professors say that they sometimes encounter students with problems but that there are enough safeguards to ensure that only well-qualified students graduate.

"Some of the teachers that we have often make mistakes in spelling and sometimes grammar, but it doesn't mean they will not become good teachers," said Shirley S. Winstead, director of student teaching at Norfolk State University. Those students, she said, are referred to the university's language laboratory and often tutored by their peers.

At Virginia Wesleyan College, students must pass such an exam generally in their junior year or they cannot continue in the program, said Lin Logan, an associate professor of education.

Alan Arroyo, Regent University's dean of the School of Education, said good grades aren't the only foundation of a good teacher. "Does this person have a heart for teaching?" Arroyo asked. "If you can't build a relationship with a student, they can have a 4.0 from Harvard and not be good teachers."

## Student debt affecting major life decisions

By Colleen De Baise  
CPS

**BOSTON--The average student's debt is \$10,000 more than it was six years ago, and the heavy burden of payback affects major life decisions, such as when to marry or have kids, a survey says.**

After graduation, the average student is faced with a pile of debt totaling \$18,800, according to Nellie Mae, the largest non-profit provider of student loans in the country, which conducted the study. That figure has more than doubled since 1991, when the average debt was \$8,200.

The fact that college tuition has risen at twice the rate of inflation is one reason for the explosive growth in borrowing, the study found. Another factor is that more loans and less grants are available to students. Also, there's a growing number of older students who don't get as much financial help from their parents, the survey found.

Most of the 1,098 students interviewed as part of Nellie Mae's National Student Loan Survey described their debt as a necessary evil. Even though monthly payments take a huge bite from their paychecks, grads said a college diploma would have been nearly impossible without loans.

About three-quarters said the investment they made in their education was worth it for personal growth, and 64 percent said it was worth it for career opportunities.

"For today's job seeker, a college education is just as important as a high school diploma was a generation ago," said Lawrence O'Toole, Nellie Mae president. "While a majority of borrowers earn enough to offset their debt without too much of an impact,

there are pockets of burden among some, such as those who have high debt and low salaries."

In fact, 36 percent of grads said payback was much harder than anticipated, the survey found.

Many borrowers report that their debt load is causing them to put off major life decisions, such as when to start a family, purchase a new home or attend graduate school.

Amanda Finrock, a first-year law school student at the University of Toledo, said the fear of loan payback influenced her choice of law schools.

"[That's] one reason I came to Toledo and didn't go to private school for law school," she said. "I am worried about paying back the money."

A growing number of students said they have delayed getting married (15 percent) and buying a car (31 percent) because of their student loans.

The average debt for borrowers who attended private four-year colleges was \$17,500; for public colleges it was \$13,000. Graduate school students had an average debt of \$24,500, and professional school students (law, medical) had an average debt of \$50,000.

As much as student loan debt is increasing, so are credit card balances. According to Nellie Mae, college students who have applied for loans have an average credit card balance of \$2,226. Graduate students have on average seven cards and an average balance of \$5,800.

"Clearly, students need to be cautious about credit card borrowing in college," O'Toole said. "It's very easy to over-extend, especially for 'virgin' credit consumers."

The survey showed that 26 percent of all students surveyed used credit cards to help finance their education.

## Colleges to seek more diversity

UPI

**AUSTIN, Texas -- Greater student diversity is the goal of a new statewide commission formed by a coalition of Texas' colleges and universities.**

The Texas Higher Education Coalition today announced the formation of the 24-member Texas Commission on a Representative Student Body. The panel will focus on how institutions can raise minority enrollment without affirmative action programs, which have been outlawed in Texas by the U.S. Supreme Court.

University leaders said in a joint statement that the future economic

and social vitality of Texas depends on accessible and affordable higher education that extends opportunity to all members of society.

The statement said, "The fastest growing segments of our population are also those segments that, historically, have been the least well served by educational institutions at all levels. Based on current demographic and educational trends, Texas will, within one generation, have a work force that is less well educated than today's population."

Since the Hopwood decision against the University of Texas law

school last year, Texas universities have been barred from using affirmative action programs to attract minority students.

The commission will assess current university programs, make short- and long-term recommendations for additional programs and strategies in four areas: recruitment, admissions, retention and financial aid.

University of Texas Chancellor William Cunningham said, "We must do more to ensure that the student populations of colleges and universities reflect the full richness of our state's diversity."

## Admission standards rising at Florida universities

By Joni James  
The Orlando Sentinel  
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Services

High school students looking to apply to a state university take heed: Despite that universities are accepting more freshmen, admissions standards are climbing, even at the state's younger institutions.

Test scores and high school grade-point averages from this fall's freshman class show that the University of Florida, as usual, was the hardest state university to get into.

But what's more surprising is how some of the state's youngest

they score well on the SAT.

"It's just not quite as easy as it was before," said Tom Johnston, guidance director at Boone High School. "I think a lot of our students are surprised."

Sitting outside last week at UCF, freshman honor students Kristin Gillenwater of Boynton Beach and Adam Bojanowski of Lake Mary said they're not surprised it's getting harder to get in. Each had friends who ended up at a community college when they couldn't get into UCF.

"I think people are starting to see what UCF has to offer," Gillenwater said. "For me, UF was just so massive. I really liked the size of UCF."

Making it tougher to get into universities wasn't what the state Board of Regents had in mind four years ago when it decided the state's universities should enroll a bigger percentage of Florida's high school graduates as freshmen.

Then at 15 percent, the board voted to eventually increase freshman capacity so that up to 20 percent of recent high school graduates could enroll. The consensus was that the increased capacity would allow the universities to be less selective.

In fact, the opposite has happened. Test scores and high school GPAs of freshmen continue to climb even though now 18 percent of last year's high school graduates enrolled in a state university.

Administrators discount the idea that grade inflation is responsible because scores on standardized tests SAT and ACT also have increased.

Instead, they think more of Florida's top high school graduates such as Gillenwater and Bojanowski are choosing a state university instead of a private college or out-of-state school. Why? Florida's younger institutions are starting to cater more to freshmen by, among other things, building dormitories and adding

## Two men shot at West Virginia University

Reuter

**MORGANTOWN, W.Va.--A man shot a West Virginia University student three times and then turned the gun on himself, leaving them both critically wounded, school officials said Friday.**

Andrew Willis, 20, of Wellsburg, West Virginia, allegedly entered the dorm room of Nicholas Thompson, a 20-year-old sophomore from Matewan, West Virginia, late Thursday night and shot him three times with a revolver, striking his chest, abdomen and leg, said Becky Lofstead, a university spokeswoman.

"He then turned the revolver on himself and shot himself in the

head," she said. "We're all shocked...we live in a safe community, a safe campus. Things like this don't happen here."

Lofstead said Willis, who was not a student at the university, was apparently upset because his relationship with a female freshman student had ended. The woman was visiting Thompson in his dorm room at the time of the shooting and witnessed the attack, Lofstead said. The two men were listed in critical condition at Ruby Memorial Hospital.

West Virginia University in Morgantown has about 22,000 students.

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-Tom Johnston  
Guidance Counselor

institutions including the University of Central Florida and Florida International University in Miami are becoming as selective as longtime second-place Florida State University.

That's good news for students and faculty members at those institutions, who hope increased admissions standards will improve academic stature.

But for high school students throughout Florida, there is a different message: Don't expect automatic admission into the university of your choice as a freshman if all you post is a 3.0 high school grade-point average, the state's minimum standard.

Students with lower GPAs also may qualify for enrollment, but only if