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# College Cries Foul Over a Copycat

By KEVIN HELLIKER

Plagiarism by students is a concern at colleges across the country. But at Reed College in Oregon the problem has reached another level: the copying of an entire school.

The website of a fictitious school called the University of Redwood features a faculty directory and photographs of a campus—most of which in fact belong to Reed. Now, officials are struggling to stop the fraud.

"Our lawyers are seeking to shut the faux Redwood site down," said Kevin Myers, a spokesman for Reed College, which is in Portland.



Officials suspect the University of Redwood website is part of a scam.

Officials at Reed suspect the site is part of a scheme to collect application fees from prospective students in Hong Kong and Asia. After collecting a fee, "a shrewd scammer could wait several weeks, then issue a rejection letter, and the student would never know," said Martin Ringle, chief technology officer at Reed.

He said he had found serious mention of the University of Redwood on Asian higher-education blogs. The number of Chinese studying in the U.S. has exploded in recent years.

The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities said it was not aware of other such cases.

Reed College is an exclusive school with annual tuition and fees of just under \$50,000. Last October, its administrators discovered that a Google search of Reed academics showed them also on faculty at University of Redwood.

Even Reed's history was stolen. "Redwood is named after the Oregon pioneers Simeon and Amanda Redwood," says the Redwood site. Reed is named after Oregon pioneers Simeon and Amanda Reed.

After Reed officials complained, Go Daddy, a web-hosting company that houses the University of Redwood site, briefly shut it down. But a Go Daddy representative said the site was re-enabled once Go Daddy ascertained that the "allegedly infringing material was removed."

But Reed's Messrs. Ringle and Myers said the infringement continues unabated, as will Reed's legal effort to shut it down. "Whoever did this went to some trouble to clone a good deal of material from the first three layers of the Reed College site and change all mentions of Reed to Redwood," said Mr. Ringle.

The college says it believes the website's domain is owned by somebody in China.

The Redwood website gives an address in Torrance, Calif., that belongs to a mail-forwarding company, said Mr. Myers. The site lists only a fax number.

Also potentially affected is College of the Redwoods, a university in Eureka, Calif. Its administrators couldn't be reached for comment.

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