

# Money Magazine ranks colleges as 'best buys'

By COLLEEN DEBAISE

Enrolling at the California Institute of Technology could carve a chunk out of anyone's wallet, considering the tuition is \$18,816 a year.

But when Caltech's got, say, 24 Nobel-prize winning professors and alumni to their credit, who's counting dollars?

Money Magazine is. And despite the hefty price tag, Caltech still offers the best bang for the buck, the magazine says in its annual report on top college values.

Some of the reasons: the uni-

versity spends \$47,677 on each student — the most of any U.S. college and nine times more than the national average of \$5,110, according to magazine. There's one professor for every three students, and almost every faculty member has a doctorate, compared with a national average of 54 percent.

"We think we're a great value," said Dr. Steven Koonin, Caltech's vice president and provost. "For a bright high school student with a keen interest in science and technology, a Caltech education is an exciting experi-

ence that can launch a fulfilling career."

To pick its top college buys, Money evaluated 16 measures at 1,115 four-year colleges — including entrance exam scores, faculty resources, graduation rates, and library resources — and compared the results to each school's costs.

"While no college is right for all students, and no two of our top 10 schools are exactly alike, an examination of their excellence can assist ... in conducting a successful college search," Money says.

After Caltech, Rice University grabbed the No. 2 spot, replacing the New College of the University of South Florida, which slid to sixth. The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill took third place.

Rounding out the top 10 were: 4. State University of New York-Binghamton; 5. Spelman College; 6. New College of the University of South Florida; 7. College of New Jersey; 8. Truman State University; 9. State University of New York-Geneseo; and 10. University of Florida.

Despite their lofty reputations the Ivy League schools were driven from the top of the Money's list by their steep prices. Yale University, which was No. 3 in this year's U.S. News & World Report's annual list of the best U.S. universities, fared the best, ranking 21st. Harvard, No. 1 in the U.S. News poll, was 43rd; Dartmouth, 90th; and Princeton, 98th. Cornell and Columbia didn't make the top 100, but fell into the 101-150 range, where colleges are listed alphabetically.

## Student survey selects West Virginia University as top U.S. 'party school'

Debauchery reigns at West Virginia University.

Well, that's according to an annual student survey by the Princeton Review, which recently gave WVU the nod as the No. 1 party school in the nation.

The distinction — which often endears students but dismays faculty — is based on the popularity of alcohol, drugs, the Greek system, and, last but not least, studying on campus.

"School isn't taken very seriously here," an anonymous WVU junior told the Princeton Review. The test-preparation company based their rankings on a survey of 56,000 college students.

"Drinking is a way of life," another reported.

WVU, nestled in the Appalachian hills, knocked out last year's party school, Florida State University, from the top spot. Behind WVU were University of Wisconsin at Madison, State University of New York-Albany, University of Colorado at Boulder and Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

Rounding out the top 10 list were Florida State, Emory University, the University of Kansas, the University of Vermont, and Louisiana State University.

As part of its annual survey the Princeton Review ranked colleges in 61 other categories as well.

The vote for No. 1 "Stone Cold Sober School" went to California Institute of Technology, where campus life is described as "Sleep, study, socialize: Pick two," ac-

cording to the Princeton Review.

Other categories included:

- Best food: Deep Springs College in California.
- Future Rotarians: U.S. Naval Academy.
- Dorms like palaces: Randolph-Macon Woman's College.
- Worst dorms: Tuskegee University.
- Happy students: Washington and Lee University.
- Students never stop studying: Princeton University.
- Students almost never study: University of Missouri at Columbia.
- Jock school: Wabash College.
- Best quality of life: University of Richmond.

## Visiting Writer Series to hear Michael Parker

Novelist Michael Parker will be the featured speaker at North Carolina Wesleyan College's Visiting Writers Series this Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Powers Recital Hall.

The public is invited to attend this free program.

Parker is from Clinton, in Sampson County, and comes to Wesleyan by way of the M.F.A. program at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the UNC-G creative writing program where he is an assistant professor.

Recently, Granta, the much-respected English arts organization, named Parker as one of the 40 best young writers in America. Dr. Linda Flowers, English professor at North Carolina Wesleyan, says of Parker, "His work is finely crafted and deeply felt. He writes with insight and humor about growing up in the American South."

Parker's works include *Hello, Down There* (Penguin, 1994) his first novel; and *The Geographical Cure* (Penguin, 1995), his first collection of stories.



MOVING IN — Freshmen students were surrounded by belongings as they moved into the dorms at the beginning of the semester.

## Spanish language program begins

By DONALD ACREE

Recently the North Carolina Wesleyan College community has been given a Spanish language program instructed by Teresa Chapa.

Chapa comes to Wesleyan from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz. Chapa, a professor in Hispanic and Spanish studies, says she believes it is "a good idea for people to learn a second language."

When asked how she likes North Carolina Wesleyan College so far Chapa replied, "It has been hectic, but the staff and students have made me feel welcome. I hope to meet more students when the Hispanic Learning Center opens."

"At this time taking a foreign language is not a requirement for students, but it will be up to the faculty to determine whether or not it will be required," says President John White. He feels that in

today's society learning a second language will not only help students for their careers in the future, but it will also help North Carolina Wesleyan College appeal to international students and make them feel at home.

White wants to see the students of North Carolina Wesleyan College support this cultural program. He says, "There is a possibility for other language programs depending on the demand for other languages. This is sure to be a valuable learning experience that all students at North Carolina Wesleyan College should try and will enjoy!"

### Like to write?

Want to join the Decree? Staff meetings are every Monday at 8 p.m. in the Braswell Administration Building, Room 238. Stop by!