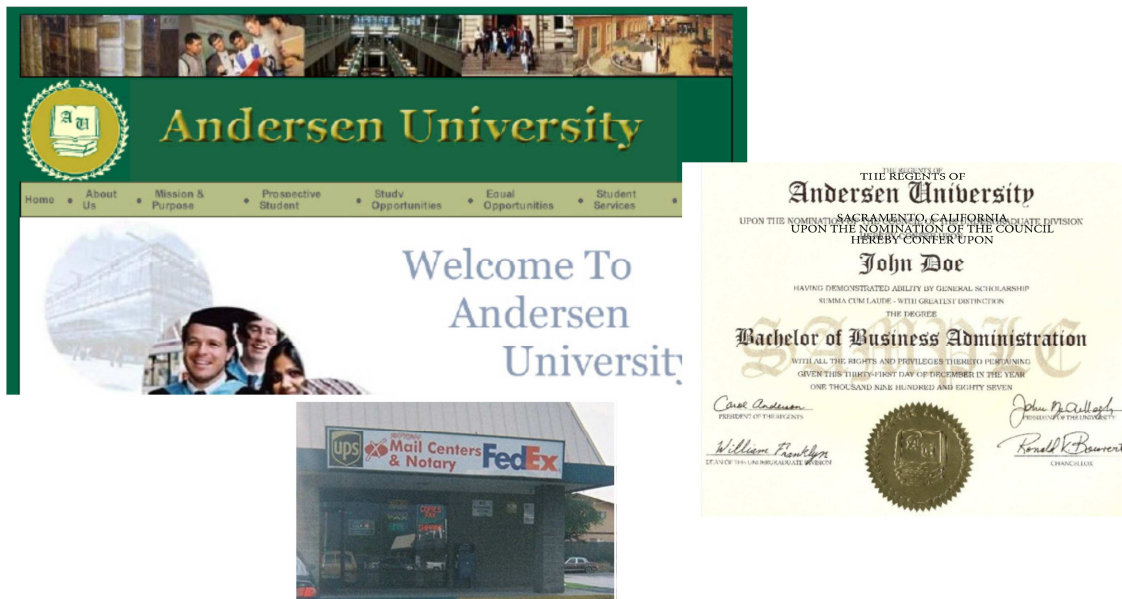


Memo from John Bear, Ph.D., co-author, *Degree Mills: the billion-dollar fraud that has sold more than a million fake diplomas* (published April 2012 by Prometheus Books).

In 1997, Andersen University opened for business in Sacramento, with its campus located at 5431 Auburn Blvd. While the comprehensive website depicted a large traditional campus...



The university was, in fact, located in this mailbox rental store in the Foothill Farms Mall.

During the eight or more years of their existence, their claim of serving “thousands of students” in California, nationally, and worldwide, is very likely true, since they are either a part of, or descended from, the University Degree Program, an organization that has sold more than 200,000 fake degrees to Americans—medical, law, Ph.D., MBA, and so on—and earned more than \$450 million—a million dollars a week for over nine years.

My co-author, Allen Ezell (31 years with the FBI and founder of their *DipScam* degree mill team) applied to Andersen University, and was offered an MBA by return mail for \$1,900, including a detailed transcript showing a GPA of 3.7, two letters of recommendation from faculty, and a ‘lifetime’ degree validation service, in case employers inquired.

Ezell tried very hard to interest authorities in this huge Sacramento fraud: city, county, state (Bureau of Private Postsecondary, Attorney General, etc.), federal (FBI, Postal Inspectors, FTC, etc.). No one showed any interest. And Andersen University went its merry way, raking in huge sums of money, planting ‘time bombs’ in people’s resumes worldwide, and ultimately undermining the reputation of higher education in California.

As I said in a 2005 speech, if you rob a 7-Eleven of \$100, you’ll be in prison before your Slurpee melts. But if you start a fake university in Sacramento and steal millions of dollars from people worldwide, no one does anything.

This is the tiny tip of an immense billion-dollar iceberg

On the following pages are a reprint of

- the introduction to our new *Degree Mills* book, which gives an overview of this huge problem, and
- the section in which we offer suggestions for states that may wish to improve the way they deal with bad and fake schools.

Thank you for your attention.

John Bear

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