
LAURIE STORY: CONSEQUENCES WITH CHEATING

The name of Paige Laurie, granddaughter of Walmart co-founder Bud Walton, was removed from the Paige Sports Arena at the University of Missouri in Jefferson City, Missouri, in the fall of 2004. This followed the public revelation of allegations of Ms. Laurie's academic cheating during her enrollment at the University of Southern California. Ms. Laurie's college roommate made public accusations on national TV that she had received \$20,000 over three and a half years to complete academic work for Paige Laurie.

The allegations were made public shortly after the University of Missouri Arena was named after her. Paige Laurie's parents were given naming rights for the arena after they made a \$25 million donation for the construction of the facility.

Laurie's parents refused to comment about the issue, noting that it was a private matter. No official word from the family or the university was provided to clarify whether the Laurie family had relinquished their naming rights or were seeking the return of their donation. Paige Laurie also refused multiple requests for her own statement about the allegations.

The naming issue was controversial from the outset as Laurie had never attended the University of Missouri. Alumni favored renaming the facility the Mizzou Arena, as Mizzou is a nickname for the school. In regard to the name change, one alumnus was quoted in a *USA Today* article as saying, "If your daughter wrecks the car, you take the car away from her."

For a full report, see J. Isaacson (November 24, 2004), "College Removes Name of Wal-Mart Heiress on Arena." *Columbia Daily Tribune* via AP in *USA Today*. Retrieved July 16, 2010, from www.usatoday.com/money/industries/retail/2004-11-24-walmart-heiress-arena_x.htm.