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## Apology Sought From Chinese Journal

By PAUL MOONEY

A Harvard Business School professor is demanding a public apology from a Chinese academic journal that he says extensively plagiarized his work from more than a decade ago.

The episode began in 2003, when an unnamed Chinese professor discovered that an article by two Chinese economists that had appeared in the *China Economic Quarterly* had plagiarized materials and a graph that were originally in an article by Michael C. Jensen, a professor in the Graduate School of Business Administration at Harvard University, and William H. Meckling, dean of the University of Rochester's business school, who has since died.

The Chinese professor informed the journal of his finding, and after failing to receive a response from the editor, he published it on the New Threads Web site in December 2004. The Chinese-language Web site is devoted to uncovering cases of academic corruption in China.

Mr. Jensen said in a telephone interview that he learned of the incident in February, when a Chinese professor in the United States sent him a copy of the plagiarized Chinese article.

The original paper was titled "Specific and General Knowledge and Organizational Structure" and was first published in *Contract Economics*, in Sweden, in 1990, and subsequently published elsewhere.

Mr. Jensen said that after learning of the plagiarized article, he promptly wrote a letter to Yao Yang, editor of *CEQ*, demanding a formal acknowledgment of the plagiarism by the editor and a "closed door" statement of apology from the authors.

Mr. Yao refused to comment on the case, but according to a letter he sent to the New Threads Web site, the authors had "borrowed the method used in Jensen's article to discuss a problem that was different from Jensen's problem," but did not plagiarize. The only mistake was that the authors did not cite Mr. Jensen's paper, which he said was a "nonstandard act" in academe.

Mr. Jensen said, in the interview, that the authors had written to him to apologize for the plagiarism, but that their letter was "totally unsatisfactory." He said that he was consulting a lawyer in China and that he would not drop the matter unless he received a public apology and unless a statement was published acknowledging the plagiarism on the quarterly's Web site.

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