

Student social security slashed

(AP) — Nineteen-year-old Joseph Carey decided last spring to take a year off from Williams College to work as a surveyor in Colorado. The absence cost Carey, whose father died two years ago, nearly \$500 a month in Social Security student benefits.

After his father's funeral, James Burns withdrew from high school in Peabody, Mass., where he was senior class vice president, and enrolled in a community college — only to discover it would do him no good. He will still lose student aid this summer because his father died since September, a month after Congress changed the law. The cases of Joe Carey and Jim Burns are unusual, but they are not alone.

Thousands of high school seniors have scrambled into college in recent weeks to beat the May 1 cutoff of new awards of Social Security student aid. For many, the experience has been wrenching.

A survey by The Associated Press indicates that many students, parents and educators are bitter about the Social Security Administration's failure to notify all students about the impending phaseout of the \$2.3 billion program for students 18 through 21.

"It's hard to comprehend how the government can get away with something this underhanded . . ." complains Janet Evans, a Baltimore high school senior who enrolled in college only three days after learning of the changes last month.

Last month Theresa White, 16, whose father died in 1980, was a junior at John Dewey High School in Brooklyn, N.Y. Now she is a freshman at Wagner College on Staten Island.

Bill Reed, 17, of Plymouth, Mich., son of a Marine killed in Vietnam in 1967, already has started classes at Oakland. He



Graphic by Max DeRungs

was a senior at Plymouth-Canton High School in Canton, Mich., a Detroit suburb.

Reed's mother, Therese Gall, says bitterly, "The government is doing a marvelous job of renegeing on its promises."

She still has a 1968 Defense Department pamphlet that said the government would pay a monthly income to unmarried children up to age 22 if they were full-time students. "It's very hard to justify cuts like these, especially when all of this was put into effect to

lure men into going off to fight the war," she says.

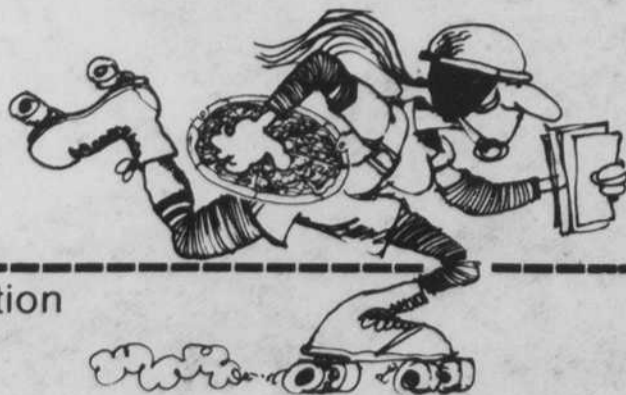
Even those who beat the cutoff by attending college full-time before May 1 will get less than one-third of what they would have received under the old law. Congress voted to deny all students benefits for May, June, July and August and to reduce their checks by 25 percent each September for the next three years. They will get no cost-of-living increases and the checks will cease after April 1985.

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