

University

INFORMATION

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tion, the bill would force colleges to release the required data or lose their federal funding.

Under the current wording, federally funded institutions would have to report to the U.S. Department of Education their overall graduation rates, student-athlete graduation rates, revenues from intercollegiate athletics, campus security policies, campus crime statistics and information about results of campus disciplinary hearings.

The legislation is a result of a growing consumer movement among collegians and parents who, frustrated by ever-increasing tuition and what they see as a downward spiral in the value of higher education, are demanding more services from schools.

Some schools have trouble delivering basic services — decent housing, security, even a seat in some classes — students buy from them.

Students at Tennessee State, Morgan State and Clarkston universities, in addition to the universities of Rhode Island, South Carolina-Columbia, Marygrove College in Detroit and Paine College in Georgia all staged protests of slum-like housing conditions and other "quality of campus life" issues during the 1989-90 school year.

"Quality," ACE's Steinbach said, "is a major issue right now. Everyone is grappling for a way to measure quality."

Critics of the disclosure bill, however, worry others will use the information to try to measure the "quality" of the entire school.

"It will be used as an indicator, like test scores are used as indicators, of a college's success or a student's success," Beecraft said.

"If the information is abused it could end up being unfortunate for all of us," said Patricia Peters, admissions director at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif.

Beecraft was especially concerned about what will happen when the authors of the various

"guidebooks" and media lists that rank campuses by all sorts of criteria get the data.

Educators generally dread such guides and rankings.

Groups ranging from the *Yale Daily News* to *Peterson's Guides* to *Playboy* magazine use statistics, anecdotal evidence and pure whimsy to rank everything from academic quality to social life on campuses.

Last December, officials of the National Center for Postsecondary Governance and Finance, a higher education group centered at the University of Maryland, blasted *U.S. News and World Report* for its rankings, saying its criteria painted inaccurate pictures of the schools.

Magazine editor Mel Elfin disagreed, saying people need such rankings.

"When people are going to spend four years of their lives and upward of \$75,000, they need as much information as possible," he said. "You can get more info (about) CD players than you can on colleges. Colleges, whether they like it or not, should be accustomed to releasing information."

Many haven't been too anxious, especially in reporting crime. Last year, only 352 of the nation's approximately 3,200 two- and four-year campuses assembled crime reports for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which tries to track crime at schools.

In February, the *Statesman*, the student paper at Southwest Missouri State University, sued the school in an effort to pry crime statistics from unwilling administrators.

Yet making such numbers public may even improve the images of schools with good statistics.

"For those of us who have normal or above-average graduation rates, it should help," Peters said.

Added Central Washington's Pappas: "This is a competitive world. If an institution has positive information, it will help promote and enhance their image. If they're not doing so well, they may not want to use it."

Hatfield predicts taxes on liquor, tobacco

COOS BAY (AP) — U.S. Sen. Mark O. Hatfield says new federal income taxes are low on the list of options for reducing the federal budget deficit.

The ranking minority member on the Senate Appropriations committee, Hatfield said he expects to see new taxes on liquor, tobacco and, possibly, imported oil rather than a change in personal income taxes.

President Bush last week conceded his "no new taxes" campaign pledge might be broken in the face of the mounting federal deficit. But Hatfield said the Bush administration and congressional leaders would consider a \$50 billion budget reduction before they

raised taxes by that amount.

"We're going to do it by reducing spending or by moderating the spending reductions with selected new revenues," said the Oregon Republican, who this year is seeking his fifth Senate term.

A tax on imported oil would accomplish two things, Hatfield said. The United States now imports more than 50 percent of its oil, he said, up from 37 percent during the early 1970s.

"And at the same time we are seeing a loss of our own domestic oil production," he explained. "Not only are oil wells shut down in Texas and other oil-producing states, they're selling the rigs."

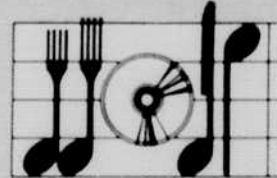
Hatfield also predicted a cut

of about \$11.5 billion in the U.S. defense budget and suggested that bringing home troops stationed overseas was a prime area for cutting Pentagon spending.

"The largest single component of the military budget is personnel," he said. "The most costly expenditure are troops overseas."

Hatfield said that U.S. military bases in Europe are more of an economic benefit to the host countries than a peace-keeping force.

More savings may come from reducing the number of civilian jobs in the Pentagon, he added. Hatfield said the number of uniformed military personnel could drop from 2.2 million to 1.8 million.



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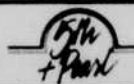
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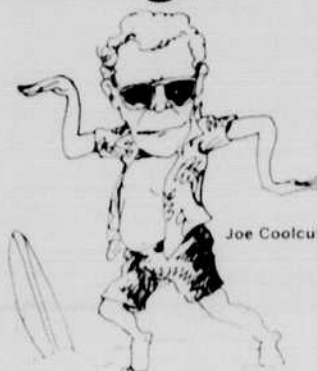
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By GARY LARSON



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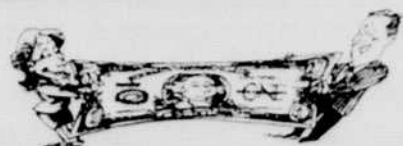
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