

# NEWS & NOTES

NEWSBYTES FROM CAMPUSES ACROSS THE NATION



TED B. WARRREN, DAILY TEXAN, U. OF TEXAS

## ► Uncle Bill wants you and your service

Planning to repay college loans through President Clinton's community service program? Keep saving.

While officials in the new administration are working to ensure the program will begin this fall, Clinton has scaled back his campaign promise to let students pay off their college loans through two-year community service jobs such as teaching and working with the elderly.

In a speech last month at Rutgers U., Clinton outlined a plan for a national service initiative. The president's proposal, which must be approved by Congress, includes a 1,000-student summer pilot project that would begin this summer.

The president has requested \$7.4 billion over the next four years for the tuition-for-service program. He said he hopes 25,000 students will be able to participate in the first year. Funding for the first year is \$400 million. By 1997, the White House expects more than 100,000 students will pay for their education through the program. Funding for the program is expected to rise each year to \$3.4 billion in 1997.

"This will be a substantially larger program than the Peace Corps and will have the same blend of idealism and practicality," says Eli J. Segal, assistant to the president and director of the Office of National Service.

"I believe legislation will be introduced in the springtime," he says. "If Congress moves expeditiously, we could see students participating in the fall."

In the meantime, the program is garnering a lot of attention on Capitol Hill and in the media.

"I think, in general, students around the country are very, very excited about the program and have been since Mr. Clinton proposed it," says Deepak Pateriya, executive director of the U.S. Student Association. "I think there's going to be some disappointment from students that it has been scaled back, but the students support it, and the sense we get from people in the White House is that Clinton is still very committed to this program."

Despite the two-year commitment to a position with a stipend that would cover only basic living costs, students like Lisa Lay, a senior at the U. of Mississippi, are enthusiastic about the program. "I have loans myself, and I think it would be a nice option to have if I couldn't pay back my loans," Lay says. "Giving to the community would be a great way to feel like I was doing my part to pay something back."

And Joe Dorman, a senior at Oklahoma State U., says the program fills a gap in the work force. "It'll take a lot of the burden off both students and their parents to pay back loans, and it'll also provide educated people to fill a lot of the important jobs in the work force that we need filled," Dorman says. ■ Janet Marshall, *Mary Washington Bulletin*, Mary Washington College

## ► The high cost of caring for the planet

When it's just a penny — the difference between regular notebook paper and recycled notebook paper — the cost of being an environmental consumer fits into a college student's budget.

When that penny, though, becomes \$3 — the difference between organic, all-natural peanut butter and the regular kind — students concerned about the environment have to think about their finances.

And that creates a bit of a dilemma for many students.

Spencer Crouch, a member of the Environmental Affairs Board at the U. of California, Santa Barbara, spends much of his spare time working to improve the environment. His commitment to the environment doesn't stop him from buying only environmentally friendly products, but his wallet does.

"I don't have the money," says Crouch, a senior. "I kind of feel like a hypocrite sometimes, but in reality I just don't have the money."

Heidi Parrish, a junior at Montana State U., says college students who are low on cash have a hard time buying environmental products. "If it's only like 10 cents more, then I'll go for what's environmentally safe," she says, "but not if it's more than a dollar difference."

Jon Miller, an economics professor at the U. of Idaho, says producers can get away with charging those extra pennies and dollars for eco-friendly products because of the market. "There are people willing to pay more for so-called green products, so producers think they can charge more," he says. "In other cases such as in organic agriculture, products just cost more to make."

Greg Hill, manager of Strawberry Fields, a natural food



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TED B. WARRREN, DAILY TEXAN, U. OF TEXAS

Eco-shopping: It's hard to put your money where your mouth is on a student's budget.

store near the U. of Illinois campus, says despite the cost, people who believe in protecting the environment should put their money where their mouth is. "People have to be willing to pay for their politics," Hill says.

But at the same time, Hill says only about two-thirds of the produce at Strawberry Fields is organic because of the cost to the producers and sellers. "It's cost-prohibitive. But once the market interest picks up, organic farming will start taking off," Hill says.

If the manufacturers of eco-friendly products can get college students hooked on their products while they are forming their buying habits, then college students become viable consumers in the future.

Laura Boyce, a spokeswoman for Scott Paper, which makes several recycled household paper products, says the eco-friendly products Scott offers are not marketed specifically toward college students or any other group. "I think students in college, and even in high school, are more conscious about the effects on the environment," Boyce says. "If there is a bigger benefit to target that market, maybe we will in the future." ■ Jenni Spinner, *Daily Illini*, U. of Illinois



## ► Coaches want to pay over the table

If some coaches had their way, football players at Division I-A schools would be given jerseys, helmets and paychecks.

An *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* poll of NCAA Division I-A football coaches reports 71 percent think some sort of monthly payment should be provided for their play-

ers. The survey, conducted in January at the American Football Coaches Association meeting, polled 51 coaches and assistant coaches and represents nearly half of the 107 I-A schools.

"The problem is they have no walk-around money," says George Welsh, head football coach at the U. of Virginia. "It's hard to be in the social part of college. You should be able to go see a movie a couple times a semester or go for pizza once a week."

NCAA regulations prohibit student athletes on full scholarship from receiving any additional money or holding jobs.

Jim Epps, interim athletic director for Kansas State U., says needy athletes do have ways of getting money. "Athletes that meet federal criteria are eligible for Pell grants. Also, athletes have three months during the summer when they can be gainfully employed."

Besides, says Charles Thornton, athletic director of Arkansas State U., it would be hard to draw the line for paying players. "If we pay football players, what about other sports? What about women's basketball, volleyball and the others? I feel for the athlete. As an administrator, I don't think the time has come for that yet." ■ Vince Rhodes, *The Breeze*, James Madison U.