

# The education budget giveth...and taketh away

WASHINGTON (CPS)— President Bush has unveiled a budget proposing a major restructuring of federal student aid that would increase the maximum Pell Grant but finance it in part by removing 4,000 students from the program.

The president's fiscal 1993 Education Department budget would boost Pell Grant funding by \$1.2 billion and increase the maximum from \$2,400 to \$3,700 a year for the neediest students. But the president would pay for the increase by reducing the number of Pell Grants and slashing other financial aid programs.

Bush's budget would provide no new funds for either Perkins Loans or State Student Incentive Grants and would cut college work-study funds by \$160 million, forcing colleges and universities to increase their contributions to the program. The government provides 70 percent of work-study salaries; the proposed budget would cut that amount to 50 percent.

"President Bush's fiscal year 1993 budget confirms for the fourth consecutive year that he is no 'education president,'" said Tajel Shah, head of the United States Student Association (USSA), a lobbying group in Washington.

Shah criticized the White House for restricting access to Pell Grants during a recession.

"With 30 states in budget crisis and record-high tuition increases, these proposals would slash financial aid and force many students out of post-secondary education," she said.

In presenting the budget Jan. 29, Education Secretary Lamar Alexander said the plan reflected unprecedented federal support for education. Even

said this policy would promote lifelong learning for adults who want or need additional education or job skills.

Elsewhere in the budget, the president proposed several new measures to combat loan defaults. One plan would force states to bear some of the financial costs of delinquent loans at schools with high default rates. Another proposal would delay loan disbursements for first-year students.

Bush and Alexander also called for a change in the definition of an "independent student" for purposes of receiving aid. Under the plan, students

**The good news is that Bush wants to increase the amount of Pell Grants. The bad news is that he wants to cut students' eligibility and other financial aid programs to do it.**

with the restructuring, he said, the budget proposes a 17 percent increase in student aid. "The president's budget priority is education," Alexander said.

Of the \$2 billion in new money for student aid, about \$1.1 billion would come through higher subsidies for Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL) programs. The Education Department said it expects a 50 percent increase in loan volume this year, and the department also would raise the loan limits on several GSL programs.

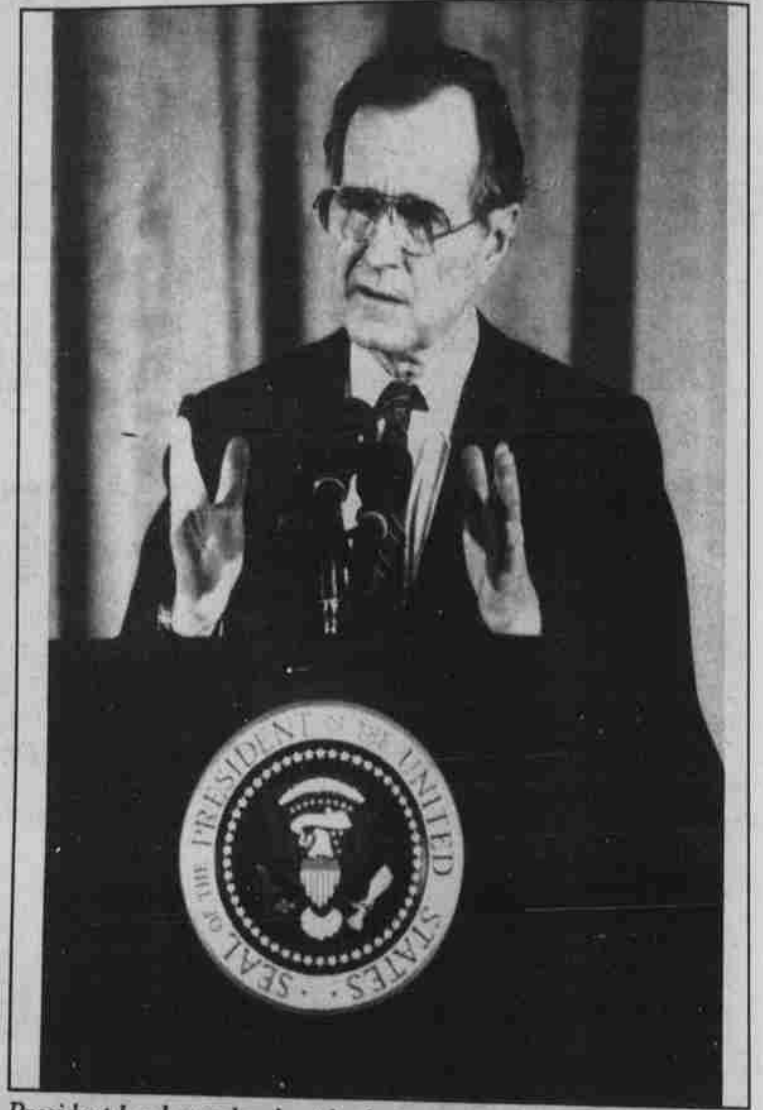
The administration also proposes to broaden eligibility for Pell Grants and GSLs to include any student who takes at least one class in post-secondary education. Alexander

could call themselves "independent" only if they are at least 26 years of age or can show income large enough "to demonstrate self-sufficiency."

USSA officials opposed the default and independent student provisions.

The budget plan does include one initiative likely to please all students — the right to deduct student loan interest on income tax returns. Alexander said the provision could affect up to 8 million people who have borrowed \$45 billion for tuition, fees and living expenses.

In addition, students and parents could withdraw savings from Individual Retirement



President Bush speaks about budget cuts.

Accounts (IRAs) to help finance post-secondary education expenses, without penalty.

The president's budget also proposed \$417 million for TRIO programs that offer pre-college help to disadvantaged students, a 6 percent increase from current funding. Similar to last year's budget, the administra-

tion proposed a consolidation of four TRIO programs under a new state formula grant for "Pre-college Outreach."

The Bush budget now goes to the House and Senate, where lawmakers will begin work on education spending bills for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

## BUSH

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the chain links of the fence.

The Secret Service walked a bomb-sniffing dog around the track as a police helicopter hovered overhead just before the motorcade of cars and trucks—led by a contingent of motorcycles—turned right off Flamingo Road and toward the track.

The elaborate precautions were never tested, however. The only problem police had was a drunken man whom they twice escorted away from the field.

"I suppose he didn't realize the impact of what he was doing," said Detective Sgt. Lonnie Barrett, one of the campus police on guard around the perimeter.

Students and residents weren't too happy about being kicked off the track but admitted to a little excitement at the

**"He seemed like a nice guy. (Just) before I met him I thought, 'Oh my gosh, I'm going to shake the president's hand,' then he walked by like a regular guy and I shook his hand."**

— Michelle Moreno, senior member of the Lady Rebels softball team

novelty of seeing a president.

"I've never seen a president in my life. It's a once in a lifetime thing," said Howie McGowan, Rebel football player.

"I'm not excited about (seeing) him but it is something to see," said Nash McHaffi, a Las Vegas resident. "I race walk and he power walks. I want to see what this power walk is."

Michele Moreno, a senior

and a member of the Lady Rebels softball team, was one of the athletes who ran with the president.

"He seemed like a nice guy," she said. "[Just] before I met him I thought, 'Oh my gosh, I'm going to shake the president's hand,' then he walked by like a regular guy and I shook his hand."



**THE  
REBEL  
YELL  
SUPPORTS  
RECYCLING.**

## Election '92



photo by J. P. Morgan

Bob Gore wants you to support his Republican cause.