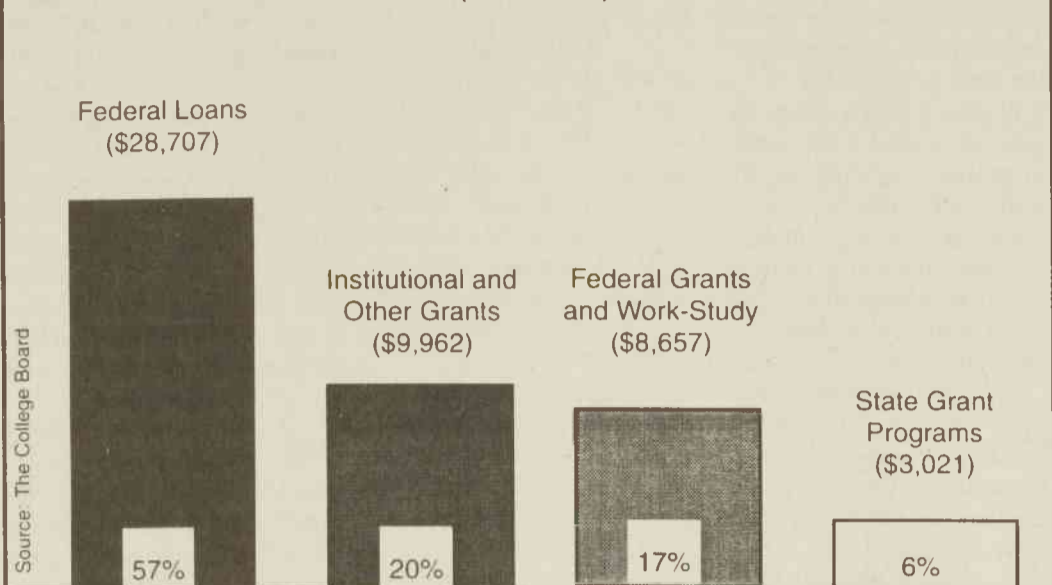


Student Aid To Colleges & Universities, 1995-96  
(in millions)



Average college costs increase by five percent, outpacing inflation

**The College Press Service**  
NEW YORK--The cost of college tuition will continue to outpace inflation this year, and students are borrowing more than ever to get degrees, according to a new study.

"I had scholarships and parental support for college, [but] have been relying on loans--about \$50,000--for graduate school," said Derek Larson, a doctoral student in history at Indiana University.

His wife is also a graduate student, and they wonder how they'll pay off the loans, he said.

"I expect we'll be lucky to pay off our debt in 10 years after finding work, assuming we can both find jobs in our respective fields at all," he said. "I feel quite insecure about the financial future my

investment may bring." According to a College Board survey released Sept. 25, students at four-year public colleges and universities can expect to pay about six percent more this year for tuition. That's about \$155 more than last year.

Four-year private schools boosted undergraduate tuition this year by five percent, which means students will have to pay about \$607 more.

Room and board also jumped an average of six percent, or \$220, at public colleges and universities, and about four percent, of \$195, at private schools, the study found.

Donald M. Stewart, president of the College Board, said that despite costs that "are daunting to many, for most Americans, the fact remains that college is still accessible--especially in light of financial aid currently available."

Stewart urged students and families to keep college costs in perspective, noting that a majority of students pay less than \$4,000 per year. Only about five percent of college students attend the highest-priced universities that charge more than \$20,000 per year, he said.

The study by the College Board, an association of about 3,000 colleges, also found that federal aid is available to students at a record level--more than \$50 billion.

But most student-aid growth has come in the form of federal loans, said Lawrence Gladioux, executive director for policy analysis at the College Board's Washington office. In 1995-96, federal loan programs provided \$29 billion in aid to students--57 percent of all available aid.

See COSTS, page 5

Study finds teacher prep needs overhaul to achieve school reform

**The College Press Service**  
WASHINGTON--Not just students, but teachers must achieve higher standards if school reform is going to succeed, according to a report released Sept. 12.

The report, issued by the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, said colleges must do a better job of training prospective teachers to handle such tasks as computer instruction and working with children with learning disabilities.

The report, "What Matters Most: Teaching for America's Future," is the result of a two-year study of school, college, and state government practices that hinder children's learning. It urges

colleges to make teacher education a five-year program, which would require four years of study in a particular discipline followed by a year of internship in schools.

It also asks that legislators and educators require all colleges of education to meet the standards of the National Council of Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) by 2006 or be closed.

According to the report:

- More than 40 states allow districts to hire teachers who have not met basic requirements.
- More than 12 percent of new teachers begin without any training, while another 14 percent have not met state standards.
- Thirty percent of beginning teachers leave the profession within five years of entering.

"Fewer than 75 percent of all teachers have studied child development and have degrees in their teaching subject areas.

"No more hiring unqualified teachers on the sly," the report says. "No more nods and winks at teacher education programs that fail to prepare teachers properly. No more tolerance for incompetence in the classroom."

According to the report, because of changing demographics, the nation must replace half its teacher workforce within 10 years. The Department of Education predicts the public school teaching force will grow from 2.8 million teachers in 1991 to 3.3 million by 2002.

MC students, faculty feel prepared to meet challenges facing educators in today's schools

**By Mike McDermott**  
Editor

A recent study has found a disturbing number of teachers leaving the field of education. It seems that many do not feel ready to deal with the problems that they are facing in schools today. With the growth of the population, as well as the crime rate, teachers are having to deal with issues and situations that have not been prominent in the past. There are those who

Election year budget battle boon to students

Congress, president agree to largest Pell Grant increase in 20 years

**By Charles Dervarics**  
College Press Service

WASHINGTON--Just weeks before the election, President Clinton and the Republican-controlled Congress have approved far-reaching gains in student financial aid that exceeded even the most optimistic forecasts of education advocates.

"The budget we agreed to...contains the biggest increase in Pell Grant scholarships in 20 years," President Clinton said Sept. 30 after the White House and congressional leaders reached the end of marathon negotiating sessions.

The agreement provides a maximum Pell Grant of \$2,700, an increase of \$230 above the current level. The White House first proposed the \$2,700 level six months ago in a budget most lawmakers called "dead on arrival" at its introduction.

The figure is also significantly higher than recent Republican student-aid proposals. The House proposed a \$2,500 grant and the Senate Republicans countered with a \$2,600 maximum only 10 days prior to the budget agreement.

Lobbyists attributed the change to fear that the White House might provoke another government shutdown to embar-

rass Congressional Republicans just before the election. But GOP leaders were intent on not allowing the president to take credit for increases in Pell and other programs.

"We've increased education spending off the board," said Rep. Randy Cunningham (R-Calif.), one of a number of lawmakers who criticized Democrats for taking unfair shots at the GOP on education.

Overall, the final agreement contains an additional \$3.5 billion for education above the budget for fiscal 1996, which expired Sept. 30.

"It's the best budget that we've had in a long time," said David Merkwitz, director of public affairs for the American Council on Education. "We certainly would hope that this would not be a one-year wonder."

Merkowitz, who characterized the education cuts proposed last year as "truly Draconian," credited grassroots student campaigns for educating members of Congress on student aid and making it an election-year "litmus test issue." "The overall picture on student aid is overwhelmingly positive. We've come a long way since January 1995," he said.

Among other student-

aid programs, work-study emerged as a clear winner with an increase of \$213 million, or 34 percent. The bill provided \$830 million for these programs, which goes a long way toward meeting a White House goal of \$1 billion in funding by the end of the century.

The agreement also dropped a House plan to terminate new capital contributions for Perkins Loans, a campus-based program. The final plan allotted \$158 million, the same as the president's request. This amount is also \$90 million more than the level floated in a Senate-proposed compromise last month.

Here is how the agreement affected other higher education programs:

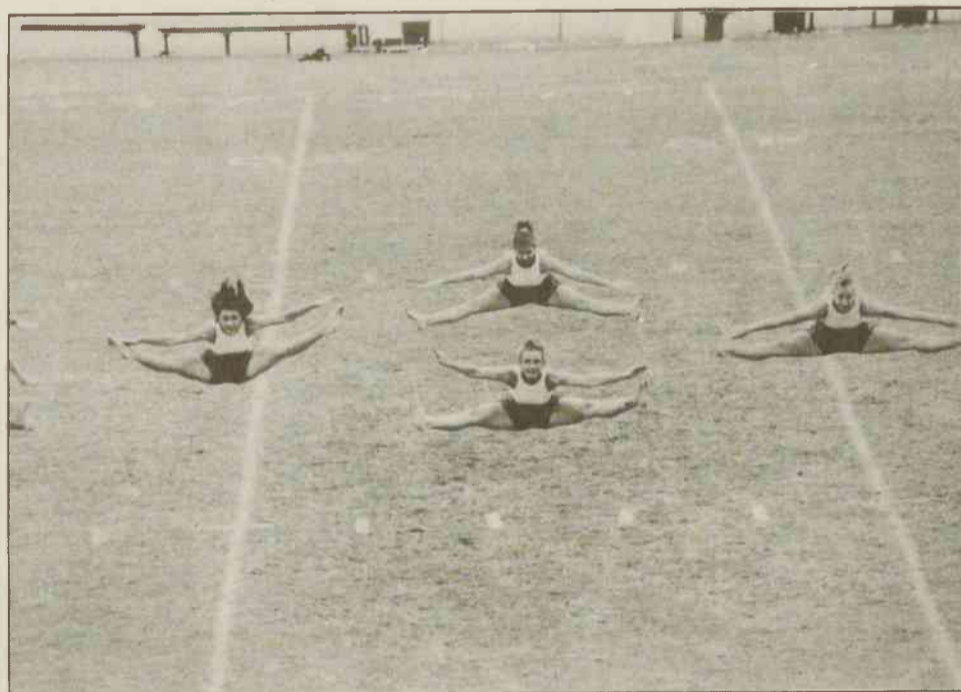
•State Student Incentive Grants: The pact earmarked \$50 million, up significantly from current funding and earlier GOP plans. The House originally wanted to terminate the program, while the Senate countered with \$13 million.

•Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants: The agreement provided \$583 million, the same as 1996 funding.

•TRIO: Congress agreed to \$500 million, up \$37 million from 1996 for a program that help recruit disadvantaged students for college.

See STUDENT AID, page 5

Flying high



The Monarch Dancers demonstrate their skill and flexibility during a halftime performance at the football game against Salisbury State Sept. 21. From left to right are Meredith Wolter, Leslie Miller (front), Margaret Parrish, and Stephanie Legg. (Photo by Jamee Lynch)

INSIDE

Health and wellness housing a growing trend across the country.....page 2

The show goes on for *The Tempest* despite a fire which destroyed the set.....page 5

MC twins may be identical, but they're still competitive.....page 5

Athletes must behave like role models.....page 6

ing competency by passing PRAXIS I." It is agreed among Methodist College education students and professors that the educational foundation is well intact.

There are contingencies, however, which can lead to confusion for new teachers, but as mathematics professor Mrs. Patricia Jones states, "One cannot be one hundred percent prepared in every situation."

See MC TEACHERS, page 5