

Hacked

THE MUCH-CELEBRATED libertarian culture of the world wide web suffered a blow earlier this year when a bunch of internet adventurers discovered that computer cleverness can have dire consequences even if it isn't illegal. Scores of impatient business-school applicants with busy fingers hacked into the admissions sites of some of the fancier institutions of higher learning, apparently seeking either to acquire advance information or modify admissions decisions. The visitors were caught and, without regard to the lawfulness of their trespasses, denied admission to Harvard, MIT, and Stanford. New wild west, same old sheriff.

Stanford rejects hacker applicants, AP (May 30, 2005).

The Senator's New Vehicle

"IN TYPICALLY UNDERSTATED fashion, Senate Appropriations Chairman Thad Cochran, R-Miss., has coined a new term in the lexicon of spending. After winning his colleagues' support for a plan to restructure his committee, Cochran said the days of the appropriations omnibus – a measure combining several spending bills – are finished. 'We're not going to have any,' Cochran declared softly. But, questioned about the possibility of a 'minibus,' a diminutive that has come to describe an omnibus bearing just a few bills, Cochran quickly countered with a new construction, presumably meaning a vehicle with a very small number of bills. He called it 'deminibus.'"

Jonathan Allen, Cochran Coins New Term for Multiple-Bill Spending Packages, CQ Today, Mar. 5, 2005.