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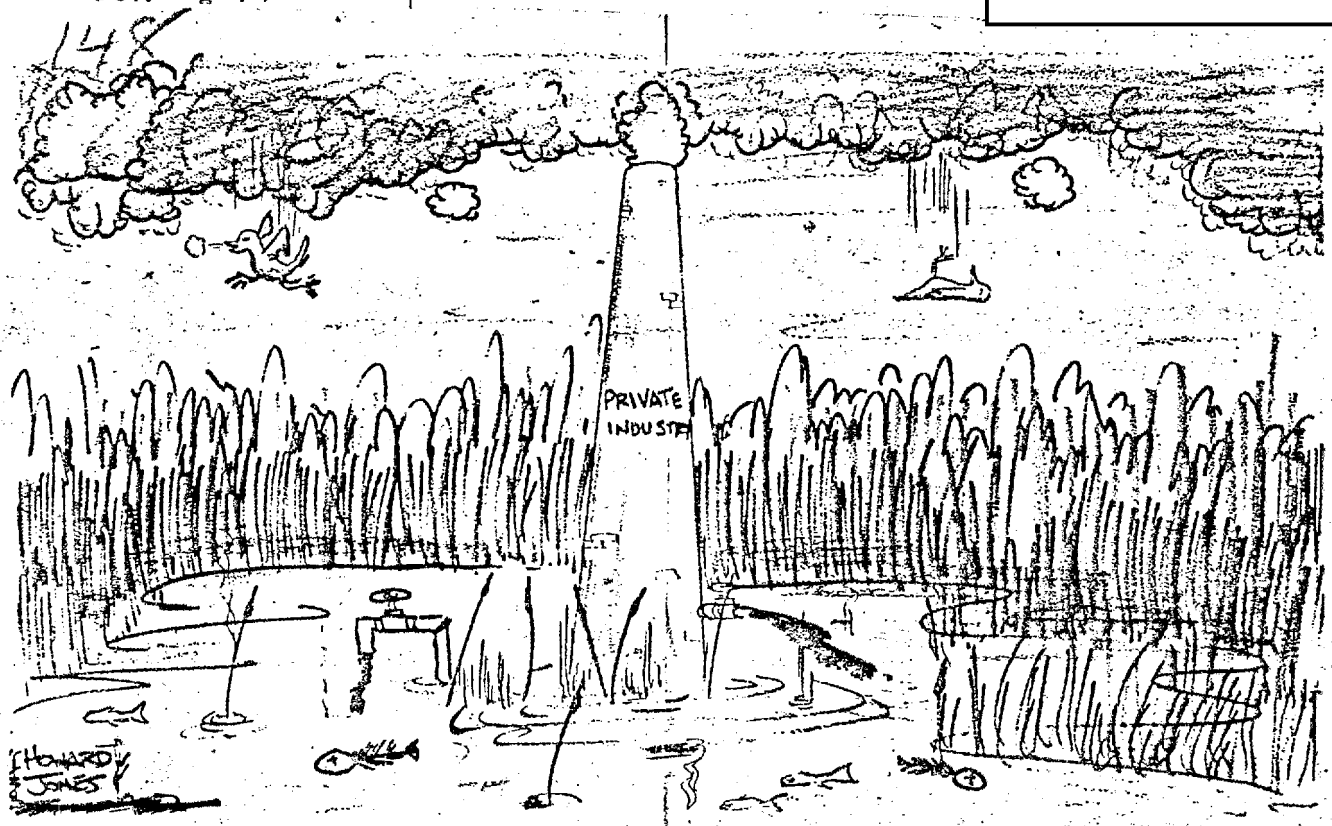

Open contracts a step forward

Harvard's recent step to make all contracts with the U.S. intelligence community open is a nice start, but does not go all the way.

Ideally, institutions of higher education should never enter into pacts with the CIA or any other intelligence operation. Harvard's move would insure, however, that any contracts, no matter how innocuous on the surface, will be guaranteed public scrutiny and possible public objection.

Harvard adopted guidelines last week to make its contracts with the intelligence community open. This move resulted from information released in an April 1976 U.S. Senate report, which disclosed that 100 universities had, at one time or another, secret contracts with the CIA or other spy agencies. The universities were not specifically named, but most of the major institutions of higher learning were known to be included.

be refuted. The University meddled in internal politics in Vietnam during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The project received wide criticism when exposed in Ramparts magazine.

To deny all future contracts with the intelligence community would effectively remove the dirty maneuvers of government spying from the field of academics.

Harvard has done the next best thing by making all contracts open. It is significant to note that the burden of denying contracts is on the public and not the university; simply making something "open" does not mean the fact is free of bureaucratic cover-up.

MSU must, for the sake of academic purity, dissolve all contracts with the intelligence community and vow to take on no more. The next best thing, opening up the books, would allow the students to critically evaluate how their resources

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