

# EDITORIAL PAGE



A recent meeting of Michigan's college and university presidents resulted in a unanimous decision to oppose the budget cuts aimed at Michigan's schools. This may seem selfish to supporters of the tax cuts, but it goes a little deeper than that.

Besides the federal cuts, the state has also proposed a temporary twenty-five percent cut of state aid during the summer months of June, July, and August. These monies may or may not be paid back later in the year, depending on the state's economic recovery. This, more than anything else, has raised the ire of the schools' faculties.

The "if" factor involved has to include the possibility of not receiving a return of the funds and the cutting of programs or staff. Last year projections were made on the premise that funds for schools would be drastically cut. This resulted in the prediction that a number of Michigan schools would collapse or at least be very near to doing so.

Needless to say, this is not the time for extreme optimism. Along with the aid to schools being cut, all of the student financial aid programs are also facing the ax. Any of these proposals, if accepted, not only adversely affect the schools, but the nation as a whole. Human education and expanse of potential are our greatest national resources.

While the defense budget grows, the military officials cannot escape the fact of poor training ability in the ranks due to the lack of outside education. Approximately twenty percent of our soldiers are functionally illiterate, not being able to read past a fifth grade level. That in itself is appalling.

Before any cuts are made in education, our governmental leaders should take more than a passing glance at the impact of such cuts. A school does not establish itself in a fiscal year and people do not live according to their economic status.

In the past year there has been much discussion on the Federal budget. As usual, the Defense Department has been the number one whipping boy. Other targeted agencies are, Social Security, Welfare and Education.

When was the last time anyone of our leaders suggested a cut in the congressional budget? In fact, it would be easier to recall an increase rather than a decrease in the congressional budget! It is awfully hard for tax payers to go along with Congress when they dress in \$300+ suits, and smoke dollar cigars while telling US to tighten our belts and pay more taxes while receiving less government services.

Another hard pill to swallow is congressmen suggesting increased taxes or surcharges on taxes to cover deficits while our government pumps \$350 billion into just ONE foreign country. The old saying "Charity begins at home" should be recited over and over to our industrious leaders.

We feel one reason that this situation exists is that congressmen remain in office too long, and dynastys are formed. A maximum term should be imposed on all elected officials. If this was done, dynastys would fall and more efficient government would prevail. Additionally, ALL federal employees should come under the maximum pay law. At present Congress, Federal Judges and a select group of government employees are exempt from this law. Why? Congress passes their pay raises that's why! We don't feel this is right. Any and all pay raises for this group of individuals should be placed on the general election ballot and voted on by the general public.

If the present trend continues EVERYONE will be on welfare. And then who will pay the freight?



## MANIFESTATIONS OF A FRESHMAN

by Joel Reeves

It seems rather apparent that the Selective Service Law requiring young males to register for the draft isn't being met with full support. Although failure to register is a felony punishable by up to five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine, some guys just can't take a hint. Now the Justice Department intends to prosecute as many protestors as it can get its hands on.

This whole ugly episode has come as quite a shock to me, especially after all those wonderful commercials by big name celebrities. I mean, how could anyone delay registering after hearing the urgent yet sympathetic voice of Wolfman Jack. You can rest assured when the Wolfman resorts to his urgent yet soothing voice he's giving it to you straight. And then there's Jerry Reed. Need I say more?

However, for some strange reason, many young men still aren't rushing into their local post office. Fortunately, the Selective Service has convinced a whole new group of stars to do a series of draft registration commercials for the benefit of young men who still don't realize the advantages of registering early.

"Hi there. I'm Gary Coleman. If you're old enough to register, do it. After all, because of my kidney condition I'll never ever be able to register. There's absolutely no possibility whatsoever. So you can see what a privilege it is to be able to register. Oh look, here's my good friend Stevie Wonder. Hi Stevie."

"Hey, Gary. You know, what Gary says about draft registration being a privilege is really true. Not all of us are lucky enough to get the opportunity to register. We just have to learn to live with reality. Gary will probably be forced to act for the rest of his life and I will be destined to a life of song and dance. Oh, sure, we're both millionaires, but do you think that matters when you know you'll never get a chance

to register for the draft like other guys?"

Richard Simmons will do his patriotic duty too, in olive drab tights.

"Why are you fat? Because you haven't run down to the post office to register, that's why. You know fellas, President Reagan has already said that he isn't planning any kind of military action. At least, not today. Remember, dieting isn't the answer. Just take a jog down to your local post office twice a day, everyday, for three weeks. You'll burn up calories and may even get the urge to register while you're down there."

Bill Murray and Alistair Cooke will also team up for a commercial.

"Hey guys, this is Bill Murray. Let me just say that my latest movie "Stripes" does not reflect in any way what the military is actually like. Oops, I guess I wasn't supposed to mention anything about the military since that would remind you of the draft. Oh, well, there's really nothing to be alarmed about. It would take an act of Congress before anybody could be drafted, which would take about 15 minutes. Oh, here's my good English buddy, Al Cooke. Take it, Al!"

"Hello, America, this is Alistair Cooke. I would like to see an American boy to register. It is my understanding that by registering you could only be drafted in the event of a national emergency. Now that doesn't seem too much to ask. In fact, that sounds bloody soft. What kind of wimps do they have over there in the United States, anyway, Bill? Why I would register myself if I were 60 years younger and an American citizen. How bloody rude!"

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