

Government Proposes Changes in Financial Aid

By now each of you has probably heard on the evening news and read in your local or university newspaper about President Reagan's proposed changes to the Federal student financial assistance programs sponsored by the Department of Education. I would like to take this opportunity to explain the budget we have requested.

The key principle behind this proposal is that a simplified and consolidated student aid program will benefit both the student and the American taxpayer financing the student aid programs. Simplification will also dramatically reduce the administrative burden which your institutions now face in administering the six Federal aid programs. Reducing this burden will improve your institution's ability to deliver student aid.

We have asked Congress not to provide new funding for the State Student Incentive Grant Program (SSIG), the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program (SEOG), and the National Direct Student Loan Program (NDSL). We've asked Congress to increase funding for College Work-Study (CWS) and Pell Grants. Under the new budget we expect a higher loan volume and a higher loan average

for the Guaranteed Student Loan Program (GSL).

SSIG was established in 1972 in order to provide states an incentive to establish their own grant and scholarship programs. Currently all states have met this challenge and offer very attractive scholarship and grant programs. Known under a variety of different names, these state programs awarded over 1 billion dollars last year. Thus, after 11 years, the incentive provided by the SSIG program has successfully generated more dollars than the Federal government could possibly have hoped.

SEOG was designed to supplement the Pell Grant. Administered by the financial aid office on the campus, the program was to provide students with the financial means necessary to have some choice in which institution to attend. The problem with SEOG is that it is not targeted to help those students who really need federal assistance. If our proposed budget is accepted by the Congress, the new Self-help Grant program will provide needy students with the choice previously reserved for the privileged.

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LANSING PIPELINE

Forest Service Considering Sale of Lands

Last year the federal government instituted a program to study the possible disposal of federal lands no longer needed by the government.

As the first phase of this "Asset Management Program" which was developed by the Departments of Interior and Agriculture (the two largest federal landholders), divided all federal property into three categories. These categories consisted of land definitely to be retained, i.e. all Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national recreation areas and national monuments; land initially identified as excess which the agencies already have authority to sell; and the third and largest group made up of the remainder of

lands, which were to be reviewed for possible further study.

A mild uproar resulted from erroneous media reports grouping the further study lands with the excess lands and alleging that most of our national forests were going to be placed for sale.

The further study of the 140 million acres of National Forest System lands placed in the third category began in November and recently was completed. Only six million acres fit the necessary criteria for more intense study. The remaining 134 million acres have been placed in the retention category along with the 51 million acres initially assigned to this group. The

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Talk Back to Representatives

by Jenni Ritzler

Are you a silent citizen? How often have you been mad about what is or isn't happening in your community, state and even country and have never expressed your personal views to the people who can do something about it; your elected representatives?

As a taxpayer, you are paying state and federal legislators to represent you. So let them know what you think, whether it is the President of the United States to your Mayor or City Council members. By telling them your needs and thoughts concerning current issues and legislative proposals, they can work for you.

One of the best ways to get results is through correspondence. By taking a few minutes to write a letter, you can either get answers to your questions or put your elected official on notice that you have something at stake in a certain issue.

Elected officials welcome personal letters from their constituents and very often respond to those that are polite, that make sense and that bear upon an issue.

Letters that are kept simple, clear, direct and brief will often have a tremendous impact. Here are a few points to keep in mind when writing letters: Write the letter yourself, using your views and not someone else's. Keep the letter as simple and brief as possible, but not so terse the letter is not clear. Write when a letter is still timely, not after an issue has already been voted on. Give your reasons, at least the most important ones, and if you have some special knowledge on an issue share it. Make sure you identify a legislative bill by number, if one is involved in an issue. Be constructive, and if you think the legislator has done a good job, why not let him or her know.

Above all: Don't make threats or promises. Don't pretend you have vast political influence. Also don't scold the official, or rant at him or her.

Here's how to address letters to your lawmakers:

Senator Donald W. Riegle Jr.
Senator Carl Levin
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Robert W. Davis
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Connie Binsfeld
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, Mich. 48902

Rep. John D. Pridnia
House of Representatives
Lansing, Mich. 48909

Rep. Tom Alley
House of Representatives
Lansing, Mich. 48909
(Iosco)

Getting it all off your chest is important. Now, just be sure the letter gets mailed.

Clute Makes Presentation

by Lynn Lightner

Mr. Richard Clute recently gave an oral presentation at Eastern Michigan University to the anthropology department of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters.

The presentation consisted of a paper Clute had written, entitled "Archaeology Survey in Winter: A Possible Method." The paper was born from the technique Clute used to do some winter archaeology survey testing for the U.S. Forest Service of the Huron National Forest.

Clute stated that to his knowledge this type of thing-winter archaeology surveying--has never been done before. The obvious reason for this being such a rarity is because of the high cost factors involved, especially in extra labor. Clute also added that the project and presentation stimulated discussion on possible ways of surveying to meet unusual needs.

EDITORIAL PAGE



When 'Gandhi' won the Academy Award for Best Picture of the Year the other night, few people were surprised in the selection. This story of one man's attempt to unite a nation through non-violence is moving and something we need to be reminded of during these days of nuclear threat. We have thus far backed ourselves into a corner with the idea of arms build-up as a way to scare the Soviet Union into peace. Defenders of this tactic contend that it's the only way that will work, and it has worked so far.

Each country seems to have the idea that if it has a larger strike force, it is a winner; at least on paper. Then the other will sound a call to arms and build up their arsenal. This 'leap frog philosophy' has no winner. There only comes a time when the generals and leaders can pat themselves on the back before the other nation surpasses them in weaponry.

Recently, Jerry Falwell appeared on national television to explain to the disillusioned 'nuke niks' that our country needs nuclear weapons in order to keep the peace and keep within God's plan. He went on to explain how various Bible texts were actually about the world today and not so much the days of Jesus, Abraham, and the Apostles. At the same time, the Moral Majority was running ads in several newspapers stating much the same and asking the reader to consider nuclear annihilation as a result of arms reduction. Needless to say, Mr. Falwell and his minions do have a way of shifting words around.

The Catholic Church has taken a softer stand on arms reduction. They ask now that the nuclear build-up be curbed rather than their earlier position of no arms increases.

By the end of the year, we may all be content with the idea of missile silos in each state and relaxed rates in arms build-up. Do you suppose it's something in our water?

FROM THE JAMES WATT SCRAPBOOK



"GEE THANKS, RON!"

Delayed Reactions

by Joel Reeves

"Hello Jim, please have a seat and make yourself comfortable," offered a man seated behind a desk in a white robe. It was the White House psychiatrist.

As James Watt stepped through the doorway into the therapist's office he smiled confidently, but appeared to be concealing something behind his back. "Think you can figure out what makes my old clock tick, heh doc?" taunted Watt.

The psychiatrist looked skeptically at his patient, "Now I never promised any miracles, I'm just doing this as a favor to Ron and Nancy. Besides, I'm getting paid for it. What's that you're hiding behind your back there Jim?"

Watt's smile turned to a sudden look of surprise and he replied, "O-kay doc, you found me out." With these words he brought from behind his back his "shot-in-the-foot" presidential trophy and layed it down on the doctor's desk.

"You know doc, ever since Ron gave me that thing last week it's become sort of a security blanket to me. I've become so attached to it I think it is doing something to my mind. Take it doc. Give it to your wife as a present or something. I feel better already. You've cured me doc, so I'll just be going now."

Watt turned to leave but the doctor had been expecting such a display from the Interior Secretary.

"Hold on a minute Jim. Don't feed me that reverse psychology stuff. The Reagans' have already warned me about your attempts to get rid of the trophy. You hate it, don't you?"

Watt's smile became a grimace as he faced the doctor again, "Yeh, and I would have been rid of the the thing too if it wasn't for that meddlesome security guard."

"Oh yes, I heard he caught you trying to drop it into the White House fountain. Really subtle Jim."

"I know, I know, but I was desperate. Besides they had already scolded me for trying to drop it from the top of . . . what's the name of that ugly skyscraper everyone wants to blow up?"

"Not the Washington Monument!"

"Is that what they call it?" asked Watt. "You know, when you get to the top and look out the window you can see for miles. No trees to

obscure one's view. It's a beautiful sight, but the stairs are murder."

The psychiatrist nodded. "This is all very interesting Jim, but now I think it's time to play our little game. You like playing games, don't you Jim?"

"My whole life is a kind of game. Aren't you going to ask me to lie down on the couch or anything," queried Watt.

The psychiatrist wasn't too sure he wanted to find out that much about the Interior Secretary, but he saw he had no choice. Watt was already lying upon the couch.

"So," said Watt as he stared up at the ceiling, "what kind of game you got in mind doc? Is it something to test my I.Q.?"

"No, it's not an intelligence test, we already know you can be quite clever. This is a word association game. I say a word or phrase and you say the first thing which enters your mind. Understand?"

"I get it. You're trying to test my spontaneity. This should be easy, I do all kinds of things without thinking first. Hit it doc."

The psychiatrist spoke the first word.

"California."

"San Andreas Fault," responded Watt. "How am I doing so far?"

"Pretty well Jim," replied the therapist, "but try to keep your answers a bit more brief." The doctor said another word.

"Sand."

"Beach!" shouted Watt.

"Girls."

"Boys! Hey, wait a minute. You made me say Beach Boys purposefully," accused Watt, sitting up on the couch.

"Now Jim" said the psychiatrist calmly, "you musn't be so suspicious. Lie back down and we'll try again."

"Bad," said the doctor.

"Good!"

"Guitar."

"Strings!"

"And what do the strings produce Jim?" prompted the doctor.

"Vibrations! Heh, you did it again. You tricked me into saying 'Good Vibrations'."

Now Jim, I think you're reading a little too much into this little game of ours. Maybe you're just getting a bit tired of this mental exercise. I really think that Beach Boys' incident affected your mind. You haven't been your old self since."

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CAMPUS UPDATE

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Editor: Greg Hurd

Assistant Editor: Joel Reeves

Administrative Assistant: Amy Szczukowski

Photographer: Ray Spain

Advertising Manager: Cindy Robinette

Advisor: Dr. L. Aufderheide

Reporters: Jenni Ritzler, Greg Reeves, Kathy Gauden, Steven Wright, Richard Saunders, Lynn Lightner, Debbie Specht

National Student

Lobby Day?

WASHINGTON — The chairman of a key educational panel in the U.S. House of Representatives says the nation's college and university students can help hold the line against further cuts in student aid by joining next week's National Student Action and Lobby Day.

Rep. Paul Simon, an Illinois Democrat who heads the House Post-secondary Education Subcommittee, has written to student leaders across the nation with the message that "students are the most effective advocates for their financial aid programs."

The event has been organized by the National Coalition of Independent College and University Students (COPUS), the National Organization of Black University and College Students (NOBUCS), and the United States Student Association (USSA).

Following is the text of Simon's letter:

"In the last two years, funding for student financial aid programs has been significantly reduced. The Administration's budget proposals for the coming year include further reductions in the number of awards to students who receive Pell Grants and Guaranteed Student Loans, as well as the elimination of Federal funding for National Direct Student Loans, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and State Student Incentive Grants. These proposals could adversely affect college and university students all over the country.

"As chairman of the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, I am committed to working with students for congressional support of student aid programs. I and others in Congress firmly believe that these programs help to provide equal educational opportunity for students, to ensure the continuing vitality of our nation's colleges and universities, and to promote the future prosperity of our country. In order to save student aid programs from a further round of budget cuts

and program changes, we need students to actively participate in the struggle for the continuation of these important programs.

"Students attending this National Student Day will hear congressional staff and higher education lobbyists explain the details of the budget proposals and their impact on students. Students may then spend the afternoon visiting their Representatives and Senators. The Student Day will conclude with an assembly on the West Steps of the Capitol, during which students will hear brief presentations by several members of Congress and national student leaders.

"Students are the most effective advocates for their financial aid programs. As a former newspaper editor myself, I know how important it is to convey crucial information to the public about events which concern them. Please announce to your students, through editorials and/or articles the enclosed information about the National Student Action and Lobby Day. I hope you will help in our nationwide battle to maintain these vital programs."

Museum Highlights

by Debbie Specht

A traveling art exhibit entitled, "Chairs", organized by Central Michigan University, will be presented at the Jesse Besser Museum until May 15.

The exhibit offers an interesting cross section of artists working with the theme "Chair". Included with the exhibit are drawings, photographs, paintings, assemblages, installations and the actual chairs transformed through the artists' creative impulses. "Chairs" includes examples of very traditional to the most avant-grade forms. The works are selected from the United States and Europe.

Another exhibit, "Masterworks: Glass, Wood, Clay, Fiber", will be shown until May 29.

Eighteen nationally recognized artists will be featured in this exhibit. Among those artists will be blown glass by Dale Chihuly, turned vessels of maple burl by David Ellsworth, porcelain sculpture by Elena Karina, weavings by Gerhardt Knodel and east paper by Louise Nevelson. Over 30 pieces of art work will be on display at the Jesse Besser Museum.

Campus Column

by Jackie Timm

Elderhostel will debut at Alpena Community College on July 17.

Elderhostel is a network of over 600 colleges, universities, and other educational institutions in the U.S., Canada, Bermuda, Mexico, Great Britain, Scandinavia, Holland, France, Germany, and Italy which offer special low cost, short-term, residential academic programs for older adults. Elderhostel welcomes those 60 years of age and over or those whose participating spouse or companion qualifies.

The courses offered by Elderhostel are designed to be fun, challenging, and locally oriented. Lack of formal education is no barrier for participants. There are no exams, no grades and no required homework.

And the cost of Elderhostel is what makes it especially appealing to senior citizens. There is a tradition in Elderhostel of a uniform maximum weekly tuition of \$180. This charge is an all-exclusive fee and covers room and board, all classes, as well as a variety of extra-curricular activities.

On the agenda for ACC are three classes. The first, "Exploring the Universe", will be taught by Gene Jenneman at the Jesse Besser Museum planetarium. "Man, Nature, and the Arts" will deal with archeology and geology, an art exhibit and gallery talk with the artist. Wes and Delores Law will lead the sessions on "Alpena's Heritage--Images of a Michigan Community".

A second session from July 24-30 will feature the same classes.

Since its beginning on the east coast, Elderhostel has been growing across the U.S. Alpena's program is part of 1,634 weeks of program ming being offered this year. Further information concerning Elderhostel can be obtained from John McCormack at the college.

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Watt gritted his teeth, "I've still got to invite those degenerates to the July 4th celebration. Wayne Newton's not going to like it. Those rock-and-rollers attract the wrong element."

"Wrong element?" inquired the psychiatrist.

"You know doc, kids."

"I see. Well anyway, like I say, you really haven't seemed like your old self the past week or so. Here, take a look at these and tell me what you see."

The psychiatrist handed Watt some ink blots. As Watt looked at the first one a bright gleam came into his eyes and a wide grin spread across his face.

"I see an empty reservation, I see a barren wasteland. And, and, I see, can it be? Yes, rows and rows of oil wells!" Watt almost fainted from the excitement.

The doctor clapped his hands and laughed triumphantly, "Gee that's great Jim. Most people just see a dog's head, or a nude on the stairs. You seem more like your old self already. Don't bother with those other blots, I have a feeling they'd all look the same to you anyhow."

"Does that mean I'm cured doc," inquired Watt hopefully.

"You're back to your old self again Jim," repeated the psychiatrist.

And with that the doctor handed Watt his "shot-in-the-foot" trophy and his bill of clean health.

Volunteer Fair to be Held

by Jackie Timm

Because of its overwhelming success last year, another volunteer fair will be held Saturday, April 16.

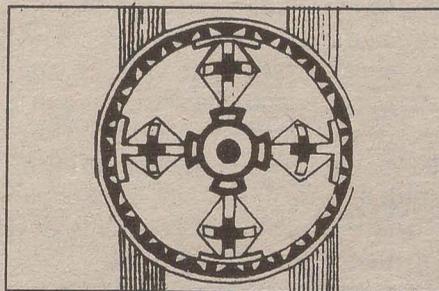
Sponsored by Love and coordinated by Sharon Genschaw, the fair will be held at the Merchants Building at the fairgrounds from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. Over 50 area agencies and organizations will present information about their groups and show the public how volunteers fit into their activities.

In addition, game booths, a country store, and snack bar will be available. Onstage entertainment will be provided by local groups at hourly intervals while door prizes will be given away at half hour intervals. Admission is free.

Love is an acronym for leaders of volunteer efforts, which is an organization of representatives from 25 community agencies. It was formed through the volunteer center which is located at east campus of ACC. The Volunteer Center was established in 1977 to meet a need of the community. Continually funded by grants from the Besser Foundation and Besser Fund, the college provides office space for the center. Staffing the center is Director Vernie Nethercut, in addition to part-time coordinators June Moulds, Alexis Werda, and Genschaw.



"Schade das Beton nicht brennt"



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Bud's Donuts

492 Ripley

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Begun in 1958, NDSL is the oldest of the Federal student assistance programs. Over the past 25 years the Federal government has given schools participating in the program over 12 billion dollars to establish revolving loan funds on the campus. The loan fund is for the use of current and future students. Though no money is requested for the NDSL program, the revolving funds mean that over \$550 million will continue to be available to students in 1984. The amount of money available in future years depends on students meeting their repayment obligations and thereby keeping the revolving funds healthy. If former students, now in default, repay their loans, over \$640 million could be added to the revolving funds.

The three remaining programs: College Work-Study, Pell (Grant) and the Guaranteed Student Loan Program (GSL) will ensure the type of student financial assistance hoped for, but never realized, under the six program arrangement.

The Guaranteed Student (GSL) and Auxiliary Loan (PLUS) programs make low interest loans available to eligible graduate and undergraduate students (GSL) as well as parents (PLUS) by paying lenders interest while the student is in school and by subsidizing interest while the borrower is paying off the loan. The combined program is the largest of the Federal financial aid programs.

The budget which we sent to Congress requests \$2.04 billion to cover the costs of the GSL program in 1984. It also includes a rescission of \$900 million for 1983 funding. The \$2.04 billion represents a decrease from the 1982 GSL appropriation of almost one billion dollars.

The proposed reduction does not represent a reduced commitment to the GSL program. On the contrary, because President Reagan's Economic Recovery Program has successfully reduced interest rates, the actual cost of the program is steadily decreasing. Although the program will cost one billion dollars less than in 1982, one billion dollars more will be available to student borrowers.

About 2.64 million students and parents received GSL and PLUS loans in 1982. The average loan was \$2,222. Under President Reagan's 1984 budget the average loan is expected to be \$2,454. The number of recipients will increase almost 300,000. Improved economic conditions will make let all of this happen with one billion dollars less of the taxpayer's money.

In 1984 we are proposing some changes to the current law governing the GSL program. We estimate that these changes alone will save \$126.9 million in 1984 and \$204.7 million in 1985. Currently students who wish to borrow under the GSL

program do not have to demonstrate financial need if their family income is under \$30,000. (The requirement that need be demonstrated for students whose family income is over \$30,000 was, in fact, implemented only last year.) Our 1984 budget proposes extending the "needs test" to all income levels. Factors such as cost of tuition, expected family contribution, number of children in school, etc. will continue to figure into the needs formula. This proposed change is consistent with our belief that Federal aid should be reserved for those students who need the assistance in order to attend college.

President Reagan's budget requests an additional \$310 million in funds for the College Work-Study Program (CWS). Increases in CWS support our view that a student and his or her family share the primary responsibility for financing a college education. If adopted by the Congress, President Reagan's increase will create jobs for an additional 345,000 students. The average student's earnings would be \$800.00.

The College Work-Study program is administered and managed on the college campus. The Federal government contribution to the work-study payroll is 80%. By increasing the CWS program by 60% we hope to reduce the burden many young graduates now face when they have relied too heavily on loans to finance their college costs.

The most sweeping changes President Reagan has proposed are those affecting the Pell Grant Program. Driving the changes are our interest in assuring equity and ensuring access and choice. The proposal also restores to the student some responsibility for securing college costs.

Under the proposed Self-help (Pell) Grant Program, students must meet a minimum expected student contribution before being eligible for a grant. The contribution would be a minimum of 40 percent of the cost of attendance - with an absolute dollar minimum of \$800. A student may meet his expected contribution from a variety of sources, including the Federal loan and work-study programs described above, state grant and scholarship funds and private sources.

It is important that you, as students, understand the self-help concept. Your student contribution can be met by an almost infinite combination of sources, including all of the Federal aid programs except the Self-help grant itself.

President Reagan's proposal suggests that cost of attendance should figure prominently in the calculation of a student's Self-help grant. A student attending a community college and living at home obviously has less cost than a student attending a \$7,500 institution in a different town or state. The "cost-

sensitivity" of the Self-help Grant Program should ensure that needy students have a greater choice in selection of an institution to attend. While the maximum Pell Grant is \$1,800, a student who attends a high cost institution and has a small expected family contribution could receive a \$3,000 Self-help Grant.

The equity issue is one that has long been wrestled with in the delivery of Federal grant programs. Many students are awarded more money than they actually need while many more do not receive enough to meet their college costs. This situation has resulted in large part because of the complexity of the Pell Grant Program eligibility criteria. To address this problem, the new Self-help Grant program proposes, for example, reducing from 22 to five the number of factors used to determine a family's ability to contribute. Changes such as this will go far toward reestablishing the original intent of the grant program - that of providing access to higher education for those who would not be able to attend college without assistance. The new Self-help Grant is designed to build on that original purpose by giving needy students choice in addition to access.

This Administration's strong commitment to education demands that we take steps to improve student aid delivery. By consolidating

the programs to simplify management and by requiring a student contribution to higher education costs before grant aid is provided, we believe that we can maintain the integrity of Federal student assistance programs. Simplifying the system and maintaining integrity are the only ways to ensure that the programs will be available to future generations of students.

Edward M. Elmendorf
Assistant Secretary for
Postsecondary Education

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six million acres generally fall into one of the following groups: lands likely to have public support for disposal; special-use permit areas for which no higher public use is foreseen, sale would not cause undue problems for nearby retained lands, there is only one permittee and the use is not a right-of-way, or where the permittee has made permanent improvements to the lands; and scattered tracts for which further study is needed.

Maps displaying the lands in each national forest and region that make up these six million acres are available for review at each Forest Supervisor's and Regional Forester's Office.

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