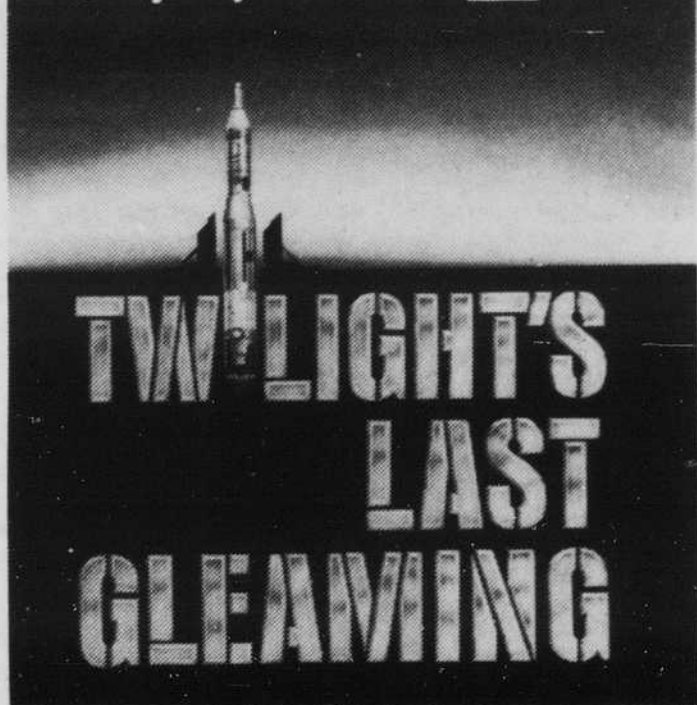


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Carter proposes financial aid slash

Students protest higher ed cuts

By KEVIN RASMUSEN  
 Of the Emerald

Pres. Jimmy Carter's proposed cutbacks in student financial aid have sparked the protest of several University graduate students who plan to notify the president of their displeasure personally.

According to Dave Mason, graduate fellow in political science, "a small handful" of graduate students in the political science department have drafted a letter and will send it directly to Carter, protesting his recommended cutbacks.

"We are basically trying to educate students and staff regarding Carter's proposals," Mason said. "Students are really starting to get screwed, and it's coming in piecemeal so nobody notices. We see the beginning of an overall dilution of the quality of higher education," he added, "and it should concern everyone."

Carter's proposed budget cuts entail eliminating the National Direct Student Loan program (NDSL), cutting College Work Study by 35 per cent and Student Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) by 45 per cent. The elimination of NDSL would involve a loss of \$332 million of financial aid for students. But, according to Vic Gilliam, spokesperson for Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., "The Basic Educational Opportunity Grant program (BEOG) will still be funded to its maximum."

Mason indicated Carter has not yet attempted to justify his moves. "He ran as a people's President, and he's turning right around and ambushing a program directed at middle-income families," said Mason.

"Carter had the support of the academic community, and now he's pulling the rug out from under us," said Mason. Gilliam added, "We hope that what we've heard is not true."

But Mason, along with seven other graduate students, is not waiting around to find out. They've drafted a letter of protest that they're sending to Carter, and they hope to stimulate student interest in letter-writing campaigns and possibly even demonstrations on campus.

Mason's letter accuses Carter of backing off the Federal government's commitment to educational equality, making higher education the "exclusive reserve of the wealthy again," as it was prior to the 1950s.

The letter further states that such an action by Carter would exacerbate "an already intolerably depressed labor-market situation" by "throwing into the job market" people unable to attend school for financial reasons.

Mason called Carter's proposal "pure folly, not a wise and prudent move by an administration trying to restore faith in government. Carter is just cutting to be cutting."

Mason also added that a lot of money is involved in terms of education, but that amount of money is small in terms of the national budget. Hence, the budget for education can become the "victim of horse-trading, and it might get lost in the shuffle," he warned.

Therefore, Mason advised concerned persons not to bank on Congress rejecting the proposal. What it comes down to, he said, is "jobs versus education." Supposedly, Mason indicated, the money deprived from education

will go to business in order to stimulate the economy. But he fears Carter is sacrificing long-range goals for short-term economics.

In addition, Mason said moves such as this "could easily lead to a dilution of education." He cites the recent course of events as illustrating this: the raising of out-of-state tuition and a possible general tuition hike; the cutbacks in the budget for the Wallace School of Community Service and Public Affairs made by University Pres. William Boyd; and now Carter's recommendations.

"Letter writing is very important," Mason urged, "but it's only a first step. I think it's necessary that we in the academic community convince those in Washington that in the long run, education is vitally important."

Mason is concerned about the absence of national coverage on the issue. He added, "We've, in a way, been deceived" by Carter. "We're saying, 'forgo a couple beers; send a telegram.' It's crucial." And if student response is good, Mason also said there are plans to organize campus demonstrations to provoke fiscal responsibility.

Guitarist to play at Eugene Hotel

Jim Greeninger, accomplished classical guitarist, will perform tonight in the Colonnade Room of the Eugene Hotel. His program will include several classical works not ordinarily performed on guitar and the American Suite, an original composition of Greeninger's.

The show is sponsored by the Associated Students of Lane Community College. Tickets for the performance are \$1.50 for the general public and can be purchased at the EMU, the Eugene Hotel or in the Student Activities office at LCC.

Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the show.

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