

# Financial aid cuts cripple higher education

On March 1 students from an estimated 3,300 schools around the country will descend on Washington, D.C. to protest the Reagan administration's cuts to student financial aid. Those cuts have already affected the universities and colleges with declining enrollments from students who can no longer afford the increasing costs of higher education.

Pres. Ronald Reagan has cut federal aid to education 31 percent in the last two years — from \$6.2 billion in fiscal 1981 to \$4.3 billion in fiscal 1982. The cuts, according to the American Council on Education, are to be regarded as more than a mild threat to the future of higher education.

Reagan has proposed four changes in the Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL) program: All students would have to pass a financial need test — Loan repayment would be indexed to market interest rates instead of the current 7 or 8 percent — Origination fees would be doubled from 5 to 10 percent of the total loan — Graduate and professional students would become ineligible.

Reagan wants the changes to GSL's to become effective on April 1 — in time for the 1982 school year.

Making graduate and professional students ineligible for GSL's has incensed higher education officials. Almost half of all graduate and professional students use loans to help finance their education. The Reagan cuts to financial aid could literally destroy some graduate schools. A less than satisfactory alternative for graduates is the Reagan proposed Auxiliary Loans to Assist Students (ALAS) which has a higher interest rate and shorter repayment period.

Reagan also plans to nearly halve the Pell Grant Program (formally BEOG) from \$2.3 billion to \$1.4 billion. This would automatically eliminate 36 percent of the students presently relying on grants. Other programs being shot down are Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and State Student Incentive Grants. Those two would be eliminated altogether by the 1983-84 school year. Reagan would end federal contributions to the National Direct Student Loan Program and slash 28 percent from the College Work-Study Program.

Such extensive financial aid cuts would devastate college enrollments nationally by at

least one-third. At the University the 4,500 students using financial aid at present would drop to 2,250 by 1983-84. In some cases, like the NDSL program, the 2,100 students now eligible would drop to only 890.

It seems incongruous for Reagan to be eliminating financial aid programs while advancing a domestic policy whose theme is making the nation more technologically competitive in the world marketplace. How can the United States achieve an economic recovery equivalent to that of post-war Japan and Germany without a highly competent pool of technologically educated individuals?

T.H. Bell, Reagan's secretary of education, defended the financial aid cuts in the budget saying the federal government could no longer afford "posh student aid." Categorizing student

aid as "posh" is another instance of the callousness of Reagan and his minions.

The concept of financial aid for students arose after World War II, with returning GIs receiving a college education on the GI Bill. During the 1960s and '70s the educational financial aid programs instituted by the government expanded to aid minorities and the middle-class. The Reagan administration, judging by the wholesale cuts to financial aid, is determined to reverse the egalitarian goals of government-sponsored educational financial aid.

These financial aid cuts may have a untoward effect on the fabric of American society. A concerted effort must be directed toward the Reagan administration to change their thinking on financial aid. If you can't march on Washington March 1, then send a letter of protest.



## letters

### Pleasurable

I would like to address this to all those guys who have had the pleasurable experience of walking past a girl, and having her wink at you or "give you the eye." Have you ever let yourself understand why she may be looking at you, or does sex instantly bombard your mind as the only reason why she would be interested in you?

Have you ever searched deeper past your first reaction and into the many other motives which prompt one person to send out inviting messages to another? Your reaching past the thought of sex, and offering her your friendship may be exactly what she wants.

Next time a girl passes you and communicates to you, look deeper into what exactly you are passing up. If you choose to think sex is her only motive then enjoy the flattery. We all need to be told we are attractive, to have others show an interest in us. React the wrong way, and you may have just missed a chance to score, make a new friend, or gain a girlfriend who can love you the way you need to be loved.

I would like to present to you a fact which most guys refuse to believe exists. But before I do, I'd like to deal with a myth which girls have about guys. They have this sense that guys do not have feelings, that you do not need as she needs, that you do not hurt as she hurts, that you

are not searching desperately for a stable long-term relationship.

Now, back to the fact I was talking about: A guy is no different. Remember to think past the myths and your first reaction. One of anger and hate, and find those reactions of flattery and enjoyment when a guy passes you, and winks at you or "gives you the eye." Be flattered. Realize that he may be interested in you as a person.

So guys, next time that guy reaches out, look beyond and reach back.

Dave Gutierrez

### Cerebration

It was a decision I had to

make. Some are fun to make, and some aren't. This one wasn't." This statement reflects very well on Jim Haney's cerebration which is either this or that, left or right. It is this thinking that led our basketball team to where they are in the Pac-10 now. Just look at Haney's substitutions at any game, Bain or Gatewood, Cofield or Walker. Rarely have I seen Bain and Gatewood, or Cofield and Walker when the pairs are both playing well.

On Saturday's game against OSU it was not Cofield or Walker, but Cofield or Perry even when Cofield was shooting poorly, one of six, and making bad passes which showed in the number of turnovers made. Yet Haney played Cofield and not

Walker. This is made to illustrate the poor decisions Haney makes all too frequently and not the single out any one player. Who with any feelings would sit down and shut up. Barry Walker was only letting out his feelings and one should not be penalized for doing so. One could see more statements made by his teammates on the subject in the papers, but Haney chose to single out Walker saying that his statement was detrimental to the team. Walker's statement was to anyone. It was obviously a case of taking the heat off himself — for what he has or has not done — by creating a controversy now over a player's feelings.

Victor L. Kim  
senior, Architecture

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