

Effects of financial aid cuts minimal

■ IMPACT: The cuts included \$65,000 intended to pay for administrative costs for the direct-lending program

By Jean M. Bond
Higher Education Reporter

University students will feel little, if any, impact from the financial aid cuts in the fiscal 1996 budget passed by Congress last month, said Ed Vignoul, director of student financial aid.

Around \$18.5 billion was originally proposed to be cut from financial aid programs, but most programs remained intact, said Ed Dennis, executive director of the Oregon Student Lobby.

The State Student Incentive Grant, which helps fund Oregon's Need Grant, was cut almost in half, Dennis said. No new money will be added to the Perkins loan program and federal money allotted to help colleges pay administrative costs for the direct-lending program was cut, he said.

Vignoul said the cuts should have almost no effect on University students.

"We haven't received any new Perkins money in years," he said. "So that will have zero impact on us."

The State Student Incentive Grant cuts make up only a small part of the total budget, and should also have little impact on University students, he said.

The direct-lending cut means the University will not receive the \$65,000 in federal funds it has received for the last two years to help pay administrative costs, but it won't mean a decrease in services or funds for students, Vignoul said.

"That [money] is going away, and we'll just live with that," he said. "The University is committed to providing the highest level of service to students."

Although this budget battle is over, another one is just ahead, Dennis said. Many of the same financial aid cuts defeated in this budget will probably be proposed in the 1997 budget.

One of the changes Dennis said he expects in next year's budget proposal is an attempted repeal of the six-month grace period students have after graduation before they have to start paying back their student loans.

Congress will probably also propose cutting several graduate grant and loan programs, adding a tax to direct student loans and cutting or capping direct student loan funding, he said.

"We're going to be forced to deal with this all over again," Dennis said.

He said negotiations for the 1997 budget will start this summer when proposals first go to committee.

"We're trying to work with candidates now and impress upon them early the need to think long-term about education," Dennis said.

Speech: Segregated society entrapped Jews

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pearances, he said. Businesses that had formerly competed with Jewish-owned businesses had less competition. Competition in medical professions, which Europeans considered to be dominated by Jews, also eased.

A severe apartment shortage occurred in Europe during World War II, but more than one million apartments were vacated as Jews were deported, Hilberg said.

Neighbors were also passive because the war was so difficult for everyone. "There's no question that there's a common denominator," he said. "They all considered themselves to be victims."

Danes worried that they would lose their bikes, Ukrainians worried about starving and Germans worried about the bombs falling on them, he said.

"In the midst of a catastrophe, what do victims and bystanders both seek? Continuity." Every moment that can be normal is sought out, he said.

"When the Jews were destroyed, there would be inactivity, there would be passivity — the Germans knew this."

— Raul Hilberg
Holocaust historian

Some people did help Jews during the Holocaust, Hilberg said. Those who did hide or help Jews had very similar characteristics to those Jews who were saved. They tended to be quick thinkers, able to act quickly, make decisions quickly, adjust their lives quickly and cope with uncertainty.

Many of those saved were also Christian converts, children or married to gentiles. Children were saved more often because they had fewer speaking inflections to mark them as Jewish, and their presence in a non-Jewish home was easier to explain than that of an additional adult.

Even with some who were willing to help, a very small percentage of the Jewish population was saved. In most cities less than 1 percent was saved; in German cities, the number was infinitesimally small, he said.

The complicity of bystanders was a significant factor in the Holocaust, Hilberg said. The Germans didn't have much manpower. At one concentration camp, there were 164,000 inmates and a total of only 200 German policemen to guard the camp.

"But where could they go?" Hilberg said. "It wasn't just the wall or fence that was the enclosure. It was the people. The Jews were entrapped."

"It wasn't that the people would have hunted them down, it was that there was nowhere to go for a piece of bread," he said. "When the Jews were destroyed, there would be inactivity, there would be passivity — the Germans knew this."

"They knew it and they acted on it, and now the Jews are gone."

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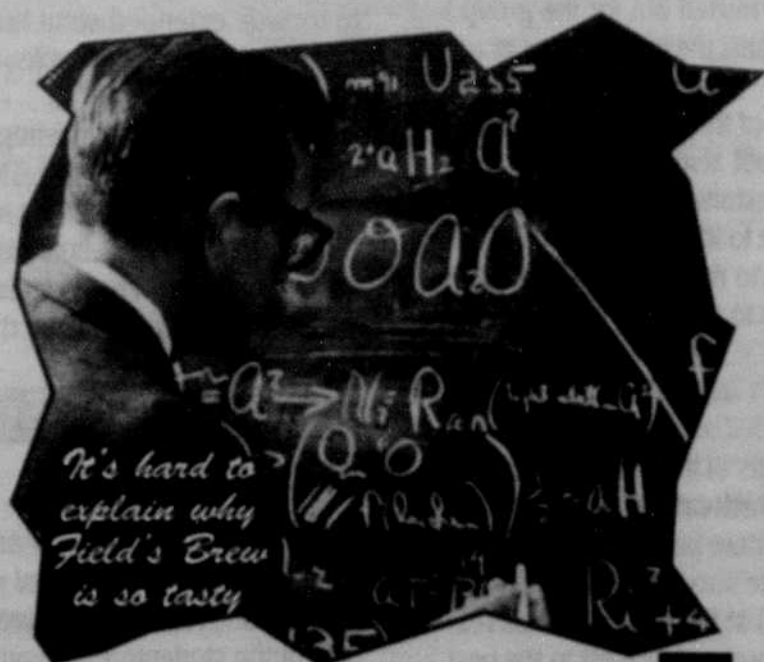


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