

Government plan to reduce financial aid is unfair

Jennifer Barbee
Clarion Editor

The American Government never ceases to amaze me.

I am sure everyone has heard about the proposed governmental plan to cut financial aid as well as the student interest exemption on federal student loans.

What will they think of next?

As long as I can remember, the importance of education has been drilled into my generation. "You will never get anywhere unless you get a college

degree" or "To make it in the world today, you have got to have a college education," are just some of the typical comments that exemplify the attitude in America towards the importance of higher learning.

The rapid advancements in technology and the decreasing number of jobs that do not require a college degree, are concrete examples of how much more than just a high school diploma means.

The projected number of students enrolled in all colleges, public and private, for the 1995 school-year is

14,591,000 students. A lot of those students would not be there if it were not for financial assistance from sources other than their parents; whether it be scholarships or federal aid.

The United States government, I feel, has a responsibility to all its citizens--including college students.

The money the government loans or gives to its college students is done so with the faith that the student will better himself or herself and become a successful, productive member of society. Because of the opportunities provided through a college experience,

a student leaves with an abundance of 'wealth' to give back to his or her local communities as well as to humanity as a whole.

By cutting financial aid and the interest exemption on student loans, many students may find it difficult or impossible to attend college.

Can we, as the greatest nation in

the world, afford that?

I don't think so.

No person should be denied the opportunity to learn. With the ever increasing problems America is facing, education is the key.

Disrespect comes from students and administrators

Jon Ostendorff
Clarion Asst. Editor

It was time for the drug raid on Green Hall. The drug use in Green Hall has been growing during the past three semesters. This is my fourth semester as a resident there and my second as an RHA.

I've watched the problem grow to a near out of control situation. I thank Campus Life for their strong action against this problem. However, the misrepresentation and puffery of the article "Local Law Enforcement Brings Petting Zoo To Visit Green Hall" in "Tornado Trackings" February 1995 is simply unprofessional. According to the article, during the raid "there were two distinctly separate reactions" from the students. "1. Cheers from the students who knew they had nothing to worry about, and 2. sweat from those students who knew they had something to worry about." I agree with the interpretation of the second reaction.

However, I disagree with the first reaction. It seems that laughing and excitement has been confused with cheers of encouragement. This kind of excitement typically occurs within large groups of people when they are presented with a new and strange situation, similar to the excitement the recent snow storm generated. But just as the snow melts, the students' excitement melted away after the first hour of waiting outside the dorm. After approximately three hours of waiting the only cheers heard were from students being let back into the Green Hall.

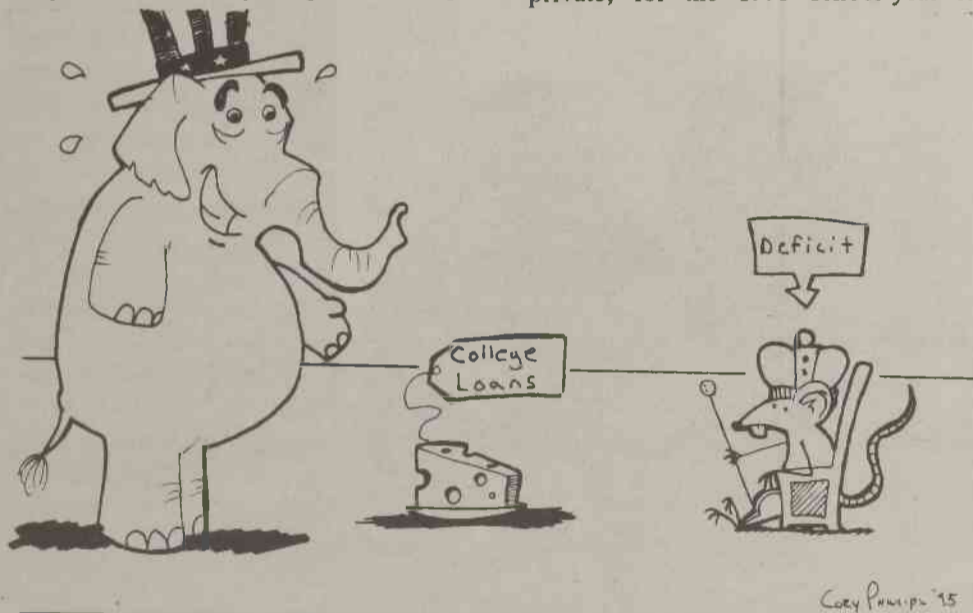
In the same article the student body was informed that "three students

were arrested for possession." Technically, this is true. However, this use of equivocal language (equivocation refers to an argument or proposition that confuses the varying meanings of a word or phrase) has made the situation seem worse than it really is. Generally, the word arrest implies a felony arrest which involves handcuffs, fingerprints, rights being read, and jail cells. These three students were only arrested on misdemeanor charges (similar to a traffic ticket).

Jason Fernandez was one of the students involved. According to Jason, the sheriff specifically told him, "you are not being arrested." The students were then instructed to go to the sheriff's department, where they were ticketed and told they could leave.

Since drug raids are not typical on the Brevard College campus, it seems that some of the residents of Green Hall have brought this upon themselves by giving Campus Life a probable cause to search their dorm.

If you are a student and have particular habits which may be illegal, please, do not try to impose your habits on others for a source of revenue or for any other reason. Steve Woodson's goal is a drug free campus. This is an honorable and noble endeavor. It is also one which will take much time and hard work. However, his job could be made much easier (and lessen the inconvenience to responsible students) if students would respect the rights and wishes of others. If we cannot have a drug-free community right now, then at least we can have a community that generates mutual respect among its members.



THE CLARION

Jennifer Barbee
Editor

Ben Voegele
Sports Editor

Sejan Yun
Photo Editor

Lara S. Sweet
Assistant Editor

Jon Ostendorff
Assistant Editor

Kelly Wright
Campus Editor

Chris Theokas
Production Assistant

Jennifer De Saegher
Staff Assistant

Rhuetta C. Miller
Advisor

The Clarion Staff welcomes letters to the Editor. Please submit signed letters to Jennifer Barbee Box 5208E or Ms Miller MG 110.