

## Student loan bill would expand, save billions

Put in a nutshell, Congressman Tom Petri says his student loan proposal is "simple, universal, makes sense, and saves money. It will radically improve America's student loan system while saving the taxpayers billions of dollars."

The Income-Dependent Education Assistance Act (IDEA) would make up to \$143,000 for medical students. Under the income-dependent approach, former students would repay the loans based on their incomes after leaving school. "there would be no fixed repayment schedule. Rather, repayment would automatically be stretched out as long as people need it to be," said the Wisconsin Republican, a member of the Education and Labor Committee.

Those with high incomes after leaving school would be expected to repay relatively quickly at slightly higher effective interest rates which would help to subsidize those with low incomes after school.

IDEA loans payments would be calculated and collected as part of former student's income taxes.

"Under IDEA, every student would be able to take out loans for his or her education with complete confidence that repayment would be affordable, no matter what income the student ends up earning after leaving school," Petri said.

Petri noted that any loan amounts left unpaid after 25 years would be wiped off the books. The degree of subsidy provided in this way would depend on a borrower's total income over the 25 years. "The only way to avoid significant loan repayments is to have a very low income for much of your

working life," Petri said. "You would have to be very unfortunate to qualify for substantial amounts of loan forgiveness. But if you are unfortunate, there's a way out for you."

The IDEA program is designed to be self-financing while being a better deal for students than the current student loan programs which IDEA would supplement. Petri identified four sources of savings in the program that correspond to four sources of waste in current student loan programs.

First: The IDEA program would have "virtually no student loan defaults," Petri said. "Because the loans are automatically rescheduled based on income, there would be no reason to default. Further, IDEA repayments are defined as income taxes. Evading repayment would be tax evasion. So there would be no opportunity to default."

Second: The cost of loan capital under IDEA would be lower because the IDEA program would use direct government capital rather than bank capital which, under current programs, comes with a politically-negotiated high interest rate.

Third: Loan subsidies under the IDEA program would be targeted precisely to those who need them, and to the extent of their need.

Fourth: The middle class is largely locked out of current student loan programs, and at the same time the Education Department expects \$3.6 billion of student loan defaults this year," Petri said. "We need fresh thinking to produce a simple, affordable and universal student loan program. That's what is all about."

## Italian student enjoying college life at Chowan

By Daniel Brown  
Feature Editor

Could you imagine spending a year in Europe going to school? This year we have quite a few students from foreign countries attending Chowan College. One of these students is Sabina Columbo, an exchange student from Italy. The United States is quite a change, but she has adjusted well.

In Italy, Sabina says that the schools are much smaller than the schools here in the United States. It's hard to believe that anyone could consider Chowan a big school.

"The teachers are very friendly and closer to the students . . . in Europe, it is not like this," she said, referring to the difference in the educational institutions.

Although Chowan is much larger than those in Italy, Sabina enjoys life here and thinks that classes are easier. Her biggest problem, though, is her compre-

hension of the English language. She does quite well and speaks better than many Americans, but she believes that this problem may make her classes a little bit harder.

Why did Sabina Columbo choose Chowan? This is a complicated question and her answer is equally confusing. Sabina went to a French school and found that she had an extra year since French school finishes one year ahead of Italian schools. In order to get a better command of the English language, she decided to spend her "free" year in the United States. She chose Chowan through a Swedish exchange program. Chowan was her choice because she liked the name and it is not in a big city.

Sabina hopes to travel throughout the United States and see some of the more historical and significant parts of our country. She will be traveling to New York with the Art Department in October. Sabina has not traveled much while she has been here and she plans to visit the different cities in our area by spending weekends with some of her friends.

Everyone hopes that Sabina will have a successful year and enjoy her stay in the United States. If you ever see her around campus, it would be nice to say hello and talk to her. You might find her playing a sport, which is one of her hobbies or you might see her laughing with her friends. Whatever the case, if you stop and talk to her, I'm sure you will find her very interesting and you will find that though she is from Italy, she is just like you and me.



Chowan is very proud to present an up and coming band, Moment of Silence. Lead singer Tom Taylor sent a demo tape into Star Search "just for grins," he said. Two weeks later, they brought the group to Philli for an audition; two weeks after that, it was on to Los Angeles to be on the show. Imagine who won the semi-finals: Moment of Silence. On to the finals. You know who took home the \$100,000 grand prize? Moment of

silence. I'm telling you—they are hot, right now. I have a feeling if you wait a couple of years, you'll be paying \$20 at the Scope. According to our sources, Moment of Silence "is going places." Moment of Silence performs a mix of originals and covers of bands such as INXS and the Fixx. Moment of Silence will be performing at Chowan on October 31.

## The night the lights went out at Chowan

By Marty Grebing  
Editor

The night of September 25 appeared to be like any other night at Chowan until the lights went out.

Sometime after midnight, the power went out in several dorms. The lights were only off a few seconds before returning to power. Everybody went back to what they were doing and didn't think anything of it. Then, not too much later, the lights went off again, this time for a slightly longer period of time. After returning to power one more time, the lights went out for several hours.

At least 150 rowdy students poured into the area between the three male dorms. They engaged in a swirling, howling frenzy that even got President Jackson out of bed.

At first nobody could do anything about the riotous crowd because all of the security guards were either in bed or guarding the

girls' dorms. The Chowan police finally came over to see what the ruckus was all about, but it was too late.

Within a few hours, a fight broke out which demanded the attention of the ambulance service; and upper stairwell window got smashed in Simons, someone's car windshield got smashed, fireworks were shot off, and a fire alarm was pulled.

The fight could have been avoided completely, according to one eyewitness. A bunch of "cocky friends" were doing some "heavy duty" wrestling in the muddy grass when someone jumped in and started throwing punches and/or kicks. When this happened, one of the people who were wrestling pursued the "rogue" and knocked him out with a single punch to the cheekbone.

"If the guy had been minding his own business, none of this would have happened," said one student.

All in all, it was a night of chaos on campus. But several on-lookers agreed, what else can you expect when all the lights go out and a bunch of energy-filled teens are left in the dark?

## Phi Beta Lambda seeks new members

Join Phi Beta Lambda to help you grow professionally, develop leadership skills, and meet new friends. Phi Beta Lambda is the college equivalent of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). Its local chapter is the Mu Zeta Chapter, founded on campus in 1966.

Meetings are held monthly on the first and third Wednesdays. The former is a business session, and the latter is a program meeting. Guest speakers from the business community are frequently featured at the program meetings.

Campus projects and fund raisers round out the year's activities. Membership is open to any business major who pays the annual dues. Dorothy Wallace is the sponsor.

## Economics professor, Dr. John Virkler, serves in Desert Storm

On March 4, 1991, John Virkler, Professor Economics at Chowan College, was called to active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm. He served at Fort Bragg, North Carolina until July 8, 1991 as a chaplain at Faith Community Chapel working with service members of Corps Artillery and the 35th Signal Brigade.

Virkler said, "even though I arrived at Fort Bragg after hostilities ceased, there was a great deal to do. Most of the chaplains at Fort Bragg had been sent to the Gulf, and we covered their chapels by providing service and counseling for soldiers and family members who were still at Fort Bragg."

## MUSIC SURVEY

Being in a major metropolitan area such as Murfreesboro, students barely have enough time to do all of the things they want. Regardless of school work, relationships, and parties, music is a subject that everyone finds time for. Each individual has their own opinion about what is good, bad, and awful. With a little help from you, I'll be able to find out what kind of music is appreciated and loathed on the Chowan campus. Simply fill out the survey below and send it to me at Box 453. The results will be posted in an upcoming issue of Smoke Signals.

Marty Grebing  
Co-Editor of Smoke Signals

- Circle the style of music that you listen to most often  
a. Pop Music b. Alternative c. Heavy Metal d. Rap e. Classic Rock
- Which one of the above styles do you hate the most?
- What group or singer is your favorite?
- What group or singer is your least favorite?
- What would you do to that group or singer if they barged into your room and started playing?
- In your opinion, what group is the most talented?
- In your opinion, what group is the least talented?
- What was your favorite tour of all time?
- If a famous musician asked you to go on the road with him as a groupie, would you do it?
- Roughly, how many hours a day do you listen to music?
- Do you go to sleep listening to music?
- Do you believe that many heavy metal songs have subliminal messages?
- What do you think they say?
- If you could be in any band, which would it be?

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