

# Proposal May Make Student Loans Easier to Obtain

On Feb. 6 The House Education and Labor Committee met to listen to a proposal for a new and radically different student loan program, the Income-Dependent Education Assistance (IDEA). The author of this proposal Congressman Tom Petri (R-Wisc.) is hopeful that this program will be approved in the near future.

Petri says his proposal is "simple, universal, makes sense, and saves money. IDEA would make up to \$70,000 of loans available for most college and graduate-level students. The plan would also offer 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 payment schedule."

One benefit for most college students is that parents' income

would not have an effect on their eligibility for a loan. The student's income would also not factor into the determining decision.

This program would keep many students in college as well as put college students through graduate programs. The new loan program is not only beneficial to students but also to the community. It will give many students a chance that they did not have before.

The middle class is currently left out of loan programs, and middle class families find it hard to send their children to college. With the new program, there will be more opportunities for these families to send their children to college.

The IDEA program is designed to be self-financing while being a better deal for students. Petri identified four sources of

savings.

First: The IDEA program would have virtually no student loan defaults, Petri said, because the loans are adjusted to the income the student is presently making, and repayments are defined as income taxes. Evading repayment would be tax evasion so there would be no opportunity to default.

Second: IDEA 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 IDEA program would be targeted precisely to those who need them, and adjusted to the extent of their need. These subsidies would be balanced by premium payments from high-income graduates.

# FCA Kicks Off Spring Semester

by Sarah Shew

On Thursday Jan. 31, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes held their first meeting of 1992. To kick off the new semester, the coordinators invited Jeff Mead, a Christian-folk musician to sing and share testimony with the group.

Since then the group has held a Skit Night and sponsored a trip to a Fayetteville Flyers basketball game. For the rest of the semester the group has many outings planned including bowling, miniature golf, and an all-night lock-in in the gym on Feb. 28.

Coordinator Amanda Cook invites everyone interested to attend FCA meetings held in the Eubanks Conference Room on Thursday nights at 8 p.m.

# French Department Expands

by Joy R. Godwin

The French department at Methodist College is pleased to announce that there are presently eleven students who have decided on French as their major and one student plans to receive a minor in French. This is the largest number of French majors that the department has had.

The French Majors are: Grethchen Averitte, Raymond Caron, Brenda Faircloth, Jean-Paul Haire, Jennifer Kimball, Tracy Laudermilt, Hitoshi Mori, Melody Parvell, Whitney Segars, Bessie Steadham, and Jennifer Weyandt. Joy Godwin plans to minor in French. Hitoshi Mori is spending his senior year studying at Paul Valery University in Montpellier, France.

The French department sponsors "Le Cercle Francais" which is a group for French-speaking people in the Fayetteville area. French students are encouraged to attend group meetings.

According to Elaine Porter, the French department is also exploring the possibility of organizing a trip to Canada for French students. A firm prospective date for the trip has yet to be set but the trip would probably be taken during the Interterm session next winter.

# Love - Life Survey Interviews Valentine Givers

by Brenda Heidrich

Valentine's Day has come and gone, and a survey on collegiate romance was recently conducted on campus at Methodist College. Its purpose was to learn about the various factors that influence love and relationships in the lives of young adults. The majority of those interviewed were daytime students between the ages of 17-25.

When asked whether they felt they were in love, 17% said yes, they were in love. 25% answered that both they and their partner were in love. None said that neither of them were in love. 5% said that only their partner was in love.

When asked about how they met, 17 out of 50 people interviewed said that they had met their partners at their job, at school or at a party. 16 out of 50 people said that they were introduced by friends or family. The remainder were either not in a present relationship or had met in other ways.

When asked, "What do you like most about your partner?" Women commonly expressed the opinion that they liked men with a sense of humor. 75% said that humorous men were more fun to be with because they were more exciting and unpredictable. One

person interviewed said, "Humor also helps to take the tension out of a relationship."

The other 25% of the women said they valued a man's social status. Many of these women were dating athletes at school because they thought it gave them a certain kind of recognition.

Half of the men interviewed said they were interested in women who were understanding and caring, and that they were looking for someone to whom they could relate as a friend and to whom they could talk about anything.

50% of the men interviewed were attracted to women with personality traits with which they felt comfortable. They looked for a sense of humor, friendliness, warmth, and a nonjudgmental attitude. Additionally, half of this sample indicated that they respected women who showed independence and drive.

The other 50% of the men, according to their responses, seemed to place a higher priority on the physical aspects of a relationship.

When asked about how important it was that the person who they dated was of the same race, the majority said that it is somewhat important to them, but felt that it was *very important* to their parents that they should have a partner of the same race.

When they were asked to describe the ethnic background of these people, most responded that their parents and their "special someone" were of the same ethnic and religious background. There may be some evidence to suggest that even very intelligent young adults are influenced by social prejudices.

Almost all the women interviewed felt that it was important to be married by the time they were 30. The majority of the students questioned had never been married or were just recently married.

Personality traits, social standing, prejudices, and physical attractiveness obviously all play a role in how and why people are attracted to one another.

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