

## Opinions and Editorials

# Students need more effort, less griping

"Why does he give me all of this work? Does he think this is the only class I have? It sure does seem that he would realize that this is too much work to do in one week?" These, along with other excuses, are very commonly overheard at college and universities throughout the nation when students voice their displeasure at the demands of college professors.

A student should attend a college to expand his knowledge on various topics, not just to go to parties or to develop a social life. Many begin college with the idea that it will be just like high school. Much to their disappointment, college is usually a good bit tougher. While there are fraternities, sororities, and other social groups to get involved with, there are also those seemingly dreadful things called classes that should be the student's first, and foremost, responsibility.

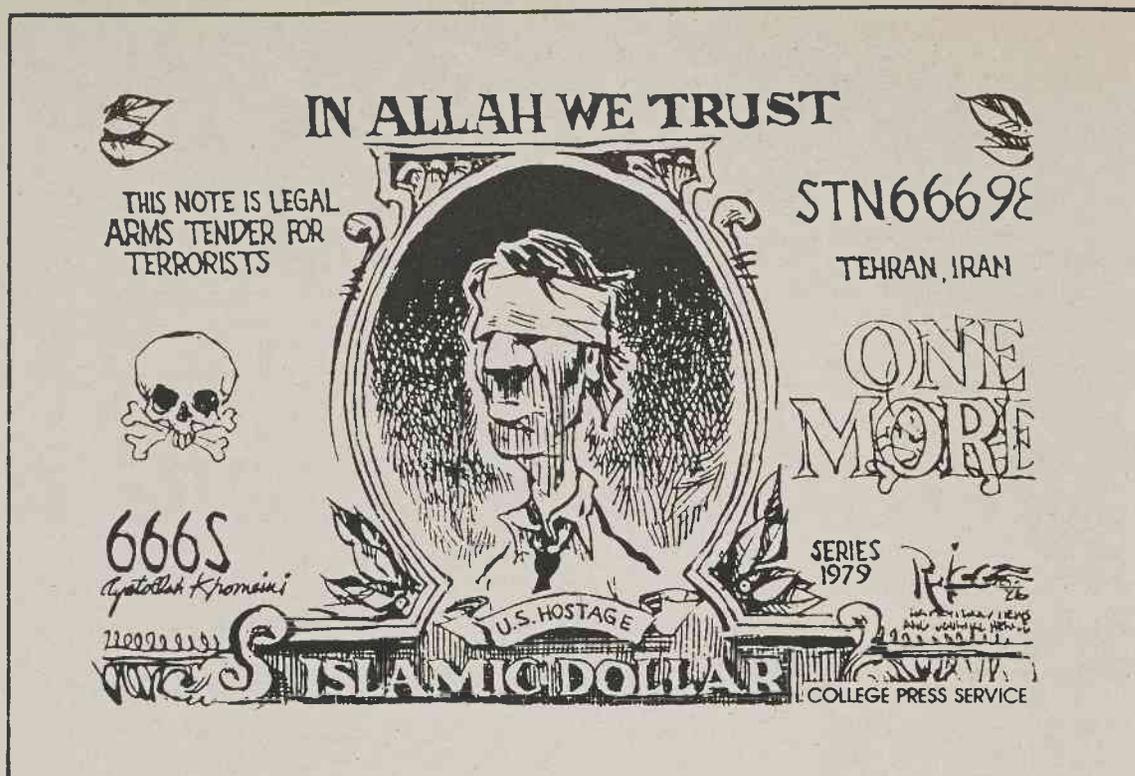
To some, classes become the most dreaded part of the day. Are these students in college to learn or just to have a good time. Someone is putting out a large sum of money just for these students to go to parties at night and miss classes during the day to catch up on the sleep they missed the night before. It probably is reasonable to assume that those shouldering the financial burden would rather save their money than allow it to be "partied away."

Students seem to be so set on having a good time that they sometimes forget why they are at college.

College is a student's "job," and realizing that should help the student handle the responsibility that goes along with the freedom of college life. It is the responsibility of students to go to class, do the required work, and learn what should be learned. When students graduate, will they not go to work one morning because they will not be prepared to do what might be asked of them. If they don't, they certainly will not have that particular job long. This should be taken into consideration by students when they skip class. If a person begins these habits in college, the chances are good that they will carry over into the work force when the student is graduated.

Colleges and universities usually have a quite diverse offering of classes, with many "horizon-broadening" activities that students fail to see the value of and take advantage of them. There are lectures by staff, faculty, and even influential people from the community or even the state. These lectures, most of the time, are free to students. Too often the student fails to see the educational benefit of these activities and therefore does not attend, thinking that he or she will not benefit in any way from the lecture. If we do not attend, how will we ever know how interesting the lecture or speaker may have been?

Maybe today's college students need to stop complaining and get to work. All students need to remember that what we do in college will determine what will happen to us for the remainder of our lives.



### GSL most affected

## Financial aid rules change

By RICK SIMON

President Reagan signed the reauthorization bill of the Higher Education Act of 1965 on Oct. 17, 1986. This bill extends and amends the 1965 legislation which is the source of federal assistance to millions of college students. With the new application year now underway, it seems appropriate to review these changes in the law and highlight the impact on some within our student body.

The most dramatic change will be in the Guaranteed Student Loan Program (GSL). The GSL program is designed to promote the availability of loans from College Foundation, banks and other lenders to students and parents.

The federal government insures the loan against borrower default and pays the interest while the student is in school. In the past, students with family incomes below 30,000 automatically qualified and in some cases could use GSL funds to replace family contribution. Under the new legislation, all students regardless of income must demonstrate need and cannot use GSL funds to replace any part of their family contributions.

The changes in GSL are not all bad. Maximum loan amounts have been increased to \$2,625 for freshman and sophomores. Juniors and seniors will be allowed to borrow up to \$4,000 if they qualify.

Increased yearly amounts for individual students were approved for Pell Grant, Supplemental Grant and the Perkin's Loan (formerly known as the National Direct Student Loan).

However, students are cautioned not to expect increased amounts in these areas because federal funding was not increased in these programs.

Several general provisions in financial aid were addressed. The two worth noting were the requirement that students make satisfactory progress and the requirement for de-

claring independence from parental support.

Each student receiving federal assistance will be required to make satisfactory progress toward a degree by the end of their second semester. In more specific terms, students must meet the academic requirements consistent with requirement for graduation as determined by the institution.

The determination of independent status has changed to make it more difficult for students under 23 years of age to declare independence from parental support. Any student under

23 who qualified as an independent last year is requested to stop by the financial aid office to review application requirements for the upcoming year.

I am sure more changes will be evident once all the information has filtered down to the colleges from the Department of Education. Financial Aid is in anything but a steady state this year. Students with questions are encouraged to stop in and discuss their situations for the upcoming year. Together, we will struggle through the procedural hurdles the new legislation has placed before us.

## Council needs review

Dear Editor:

Maybe you could clarify a couple of points.

Why is it that the Community Council, supposedly here to represent student interests, is preparing to vote on an amendment that will allow the Council to pass a vote without a quorum?

Granted, the student attendance is pitiful, but it makes no sense to elect officers if the general consensus is not represented properly. If the Community Council is in such peril for members, why not appoint responsible members who will definitely attend and maybe some real work could be done.

Another point about the Community Council that is baffling is the fact that the Council is supposed to be a stepping stone for students to get their concerns and interests proposed before the Administration, such as the President of the College, to then be taken before the Trustees.

It seems that many of the proposals get proposed at the Community Council meetings only to be neglected and for-

gotten. This is due to the fact that the next stepping stone, which should be the Administration, such as the various Deans of the College, are already on the Council. And yet, although it might quicken the process, having the Deans on the Council to hear the proposals as soon as they are given, the Council has an amendment stating that they feel the Dean of Academics should not be on the Council, while the Dean of Student Life remains to divert proposals. Should not the Deans be on the same level, deciding together whether or not proposals can be taken to the Trustees?

Don't get me wrong. I'm not putting down any of the members of the Council. But for the past three years the Council has not been able to organize well enough to function properly. Something needs to be done, whether that means scrapping the Council and trying something else or at least giving up the idea of trying to continue as it is.

But then again, maybe not.

Kori K. Townsend

### The Decree

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