

Opinion

Daily Evergreen

The controversy over financial aid

The Senate Finance Committee last week approved legislation that would give a tax break to parents of college students that would be extended in 1980 to include elementary and secondary school pupils.

The bill represents a compromise between two bills, those of Sen. William V. Roth (R-Del.) and Sens. Bob Packwood (R-Ore.) and Daniel P. Moynihan (D-N.Y.).

If passed by Congress and signed into law by President Carter, the bill would offer a tax credit of up to \$250 per student for tuition costs to parents of college undergraduate and vocational-school students, beginning Aug. 1.

In 1980 the credit would be raised to a maximum of \$500 per student and would be expanded to cover elementary and secondary school students, including those in parochial schools, graduate students and part-time students.

The bill and its coverage have caused controversy in Washington, D.C. President Carter said he considers the tax credit too costly and wasteful.

The proposal could cost the Treasury \$4.5 billion in reduced revenues. Instead, Carter advocates a program to expand present aid programs by nearly \$1.5 billion.

The proposal now before the Senate has the blessing of the Catholic school lobby, which is seeking relief from rising tuition burdens.

While Carter has opposed aid to parochial schools, he has also promised to find a constitutional way to give parents of children in

private schools assistance in meeting costs.

The president has warned he will "not accept" both his plan of increased scholarship aid and the Senate's tax credit plan and has implied he will veto one or the other.

Perhaps the largest controversy arises over the constitutionality of the tax credits proposal, due to the First Amendment clause requiring separation of church and state. Although the Finance Committee includ-

ed a provision that would allow for an early court test of the constitutionality of the proposal for tuition paid to parochial schools, it seems a better plan could be formulated without the necessity of a court test. The intention is to decide the question before that portion of the aid goes into effect in 1980.

The president's proposal seems a much better road to take than that of a bill of questionable constitutionality and outlandish cost. —D.A.E.

'No need' scholarships show increase

While the federal government is attempting to give more money to deserving scholars, a study by the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) shows there has been a surprising jump in the number of "no-need" scholarships given out by colleges in the last few years.

These no-need scholarships are given on the basis of academic merit to students who often do not require financial aid.

Although the scholarships could help middle-income students who do not qualify for federal and state aid, the CEEB is questioning the need for such scholarships. It contends the money might be better spent on faculty salaries, campus maintenance or helping more of the needy students.

Perhaps the whole system of financial aid, both public and private, should be examined to determine

what the criteria for gaining such aid should be. Certainly it is a waste of money to give scholarships to those who are not in financial need of them, as the CEEB study implies.

On the other hand, scholarships should provide rewards to those who do achieve good grades.

Scholarships should be looked upon as an investment in the future and both financial need and scholarship should be stressed. —D.A.E.

Your views

Libyan facts

In a number of articles and letters to the editor of the Evergreen which appeared within the last two weeks, Libya has been accused and linked unfairly with terrorism. As Libyan students at WSU, we have some facts that the students of this honorable university should know. Libya is an Arab state and a member of the United Nations since 1952. As a member of the Security Council Libya has denounced those who commit acts of terrorism and hijacking; and has implemented legislation to that effect. It is true that in a few cases Libya has granted requests from other governments that hijacked planes be allowed to land. So out of respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life and in an attempt to save hostages, these requests were granted.

We as a people believe that the Palestinians are struggling to go back to their homeland and in this land they have the right to live freely. The help that Libyans give to the people of South Africa and other legitimate liberation movements in Africa and the world is to fight the racist and colonialist regimes. We do not call these people who are struggling for their human rights terrorists, but liberators. The students' protest against the university investments in South Africa on Feb. 22 was because they were for human rights and against apartheid and the rule over a majority by a few. We uphold and respect the rights of all people to self-determination

and freedom as laid down in the UN charter, and support all people to achieve these basic human rights. We hope with these few points about Libya our fellow WSU students would understand our position and can decide whether what has been written against Libya is valid.

Yousif Elmadhun,
Musbah Kushad,
Farag Abdulrahman
Libyan students

Allegations

On Monday, Feb. 13, 1978, an issue of Today's Student, containing an interview with Anita Bryant, was circulated on campus. The members of Gay Awareness/Gay People's Alliance (GA/GPA) are dismayed that such propaganda was distributed to the university community. We recognize Ms. Bryant's right to express her opinion, but we are obligated to give our counter-opinion, before the climate of fear which she encourages makes it impossible for us to speak out.

We cannot answer all of her allegations in one letter; yet we would like to make the following points. (1) Bryant, quoting an L.A. Times article, gives the figure of 30,000 children sexually abused by homosexuals in Los Angeles. What Bryant did not quote from that article was rather illuminating. Of these 30,000, 25,000 are between the ages of 14 and 17, according to police department "estimates."

The article goes on to state that most of the 25,000 are male prostitutes who make an average of \$1,000 per night, catering to 15,000 adult male homosexuals. One can judge the reliability of these estimates for oneself, but if they are to be believed, then the average gay male in L.A. is shelling out almost \$2,000 a night, which is plainly ridiculous. Yet Bryant used this article as a source.

(2) How many young people are sexually abused by heterosexuals every day? How many women are raped and how many gay people are beaten by heterosexuals every day? GA/GPA, along with the overwhelming majority of gay people, condemn sexual abuse in all its forms.

(3) We do not see our life styles as "hideous". In fact, Bryant's whole argument falls apart at this point. After portraying us as suicidal, as alcoholics, in short,

as miserable, she goes on to stress that gays choose their sexual preferences. It's absurd to choose to be miserable. Gay people don't "choose" to be gay anymore than heterosexuals "choose" to be straight. Homosexuals are oppressed by society; and personal problems, if present (for example, alcoholism), are often a reaction to prejudice and discrimination.

(4) Ms. Bryant claims to love all people, including gays. Medieval churchmen expressed their love of heretics and homosexuals by having them burned at the stake. This kind of "love" we can do without—frankly, we would call it oppression.

(5) Most of all, we are angry with the damage this article may do to those of us who are just beginning to recognize gayness. We hope they can see Bryant's anti-intellectual proselytizing for what it is. Gay pride is stronger

than ever, and we reaffirm our support for all our gay sisters and brothers.

Gay Awareness/
Gay people's Alliance

The traveler

Shouldn't that redoubtable world traveler, Mark Ufkes, extend his invitation to yet another world leader, President Spyros Kyprianou of Cyprus? Then, for good measure, he might include Idi Amin in his program of bringing enlightenment to the Palouse.

Think of the immeasurable benefits to those of us engaged in recruiting outstanding faculty and superior graduate students. What uniqueness—in addition to the wheat fields—to offer them.

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Department of English

DOONESBURY



by Garry Trudeau

Daily Evergreen Staff

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