

University Issues

Financial aid application backlog will keep students waiting

(CPS) — Hundreds of thousands of students around the country will have to wait to hear how much federal aid they will get for next school year because the College Board's new processing system can't handle aid applications fast enough.

Students, however, will not be penalized if their aid applications are late because financial aid officers look at the date the student filled out the forms rather than the date they arrive in the school's office, campus officials say.

"We certainly won't penalize a

student if we get their applications late," said Elaine Solingar, assistant financial aid director at Connecticut College in New London.

The College Scholarship Service (CSS), a part of the College Board, is the starting point for processing about 5 million financial aid applications each year.

In mid-March, the CSS sent letters to financial aid offices letting them know that there will be a delay in applications.

"We were sent a general letter saying there was a backlog, but we didn't know why," said Solingar,

where about 48 percent of the 1,969 students rely on some type of financial aid. "It seems like there was a major glitch but nobody wanted to admit it."

New equipment caused the glitch.

"In putting in the new system we ran into some problems. The key entry process was not fast enough and the scanner was somewhat befuddled about what to read," said Haskell Rhet, vice president of the College Board. "That caused a backlog."

Under the system, student's aid

applications go first to the CSS, which analyzes the information to make sure they fit federal aid rules.

The CSS also determines how much aid students should receive, and then sends its advice to the campuses the students request. Campus aid officers then break the news to the students.

The computer delays, however, are doubling the time it normally takes to do the job, Rhet said.

For example, on one day, the CSS received 155,000 financial aid forms, but was only able to process about 50,000.

"There are no excuses. We should've been ready to handle the volume," Rhet said, adding that the problems have been corrected.

The delay will be more of a hassle for financial aid offices than for students.

"Normally, we have the applications by now and can ask students for supplemental information so that we can send out financial aid awards along with admissions letters. This year we won't be able to, so we'll probably get a lot of phone calls," Solingar said.

CSUN election rules must be followed by Joe Bunin

There has been quite a bit of controversy concerning the upcoming CSUN elections, particularly the issue of disqualification of candidate Chris Robertson.

Many rumors have been flying and students are being misinformed about about the controversy. I am writing to you now to set the record straight.

Chris Robertson was disqualified because a supporter of his candidacy took out an advertisement in the personal column of the Yellin' Rebel, wishing him luck in the presidential election and said he deserved to win.

The ad was signed, "From your brothers," meaning his fraternity brothers. The problem is that this paid advertisement endorsing Chris, which is a form of campaigning,

was requested for and appeared in the paper before the campaigning date set down in the election rules.

In other words, it was campaigning early. And the only penalty allowed by the election rules is disqualification.

Does the penalty seem too harsh? Perhaps, but both my supporters and I had to follow these same rules. And we did. More importantly, I'd like to tell you some facts that most students don't know.

You see, Chris is running around claiming to be the champion of democracy and is angry that the election rules are harsh and that the students are left without a choice of candidates.

What he doesn't tell you is that one month ago, is that only one

month ago, he filed with the elections board to have not only me, but the entire CSUN Executive Board (Vice President B.J. Willard, Senate President Gina Polovina and myself) disqualified from running for campaigning early.

What did he claim was our crime? That the Yellin' Rebel did a news story on the fact that for the first time in UNLV history, the entire board was running for reelection. This was not a paid advertisement, it was a news article.

The elections board felt that I could not control the article, as opposed to a paid advertisement that I could control, I was not campaigning.

If they had agreed, I would have been disqualified, and he would have been the only candi-

date left, and the students, again, wouldn't have a choice.

That's right! One month ago, Chris tried to disqualify me, he didn't seem to think that the elections were too harsh. In fact, they were perfectly fine with him if he thought they worked to his advantage. Only now, after he has violated them, are they wrong. Apparently, choice was not as important to Chris when he thought that he would be the only one chosen.

I did nothing wrong. And I used all the possible legal channels to both defend myself and get my point across. Remember, those seemingly harsh election rules applied equally to me. As I said, I followed them.

There is one other major point

that I'd like to clear up. I'm referring to the "Bunin Machine." The fact is the "Bunin Machine" doesn't exist. And truthfully, we're tired of hearing about it. We're a group of dedicated students who represent the entire student population on a day-to-day basis. This is what they called the "machine." Any talk of that is purely election time hype.

To be highly organized and successful at operating student government on a professional level to meet both long and short-term goals is certainly no cause for alarm. Don't lose sight of the fact that student government is here to serve you, the students.

Bunin is president of CSUN.

Hiding before your eyes by Sean Higgins

In the 3-27 issue Michael Clayton inquires as to the existence of an anti-Christ. There is an anti-Christ, he/she is hiding before our eyes, a beast is seizing minds and marks are being put on people's foreheads.

The beast is a spirit that tempts us to defy the will of God.

The anti-Christ (beast) is in those who accept this temptation, defy the will of the father, and add to or subtract from the bible. The anti-Christ is everyone wearing religious clothing or artifacts, or preaching their version of the word of God. We see them everyday, dressed as priests, nuns, evangelists; religious hypocrites who say they can think the thoughts of God and tell us what the bible means and how to worship God.

Look at them, they're everywhere saying things like come to my church, Jesus is here; come to my church and visit with God; come

and worship with us. Jesus used parables when speaking of the father's business and asked us to do as he did. He founded his church on a rock named Peter, when Peter died so did his church.

God is not in those senseless church buildings or daily read prayer books; the father is our mind, the son is our heart, the spirit is our body. Each of us is a reflection of a spirit no living person on earth knows.

The intelligence that authored the bible knows everything that's happened since time began; those who take God's name in vain can't even remember how many times they went to the bathroom last week.

We can think anything we want to about the bible, but we are forbidden to add to it by telling others our imperfect thoughts about it. The thoughts seem so sweet in the mind and become words of hatred and defiance when they emerge from

the mouth. The beast that covers the earth with darkness is a spirit, a spirit that tells humans they can think the thoughts of God and inspires them to defy the will of God and add to his book.

The numerical symbol for imperfection is 6. The mark of the beast, 666, is baptism into a false religion by placing three signs on the forehead using a hand. The darkness that covers the earth is religion.

The only one who is supposed to deliver the words of God to mankind is the last prophet, the son of man. I haven't heard any religious preacher saying they are that person.

No one will be able to say they are the son of man except the one who actually is that person.

Clayton isn't blind. He knows what he's looking for, he just doesn't know where to look.



-JESSE PAN-

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