

Bush's proposed 1992 budget could eliminate students

by Tricia Ciaravino

President Bush's 1992 budget proposal may eliminate more than 600,000 students from receiving financial aid in an effort to offer more assistance to the poorest students.

"The president is giving the appearance that he is assisting students as a whole," said Judy Belanger of Student Financial Services at UNLV. "He's just shifting the problem. We support the idea of more assistance, but not by removing aid from the middle income families."

"He's robbing one set of students to let others get more money," complained Edward Elmendorf of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in a College Press Service article.

"Under Bush's 1992 budget plan, the Department of Education would receive \$29.6 billion, a \$2.5 billion increase from this year," said Ted Sanders, acting secretary of education, in an article from *Higher Education and National Affairs*.

"However, \$1.7 billion is the result of a bookkeeping change and does not add \$1 for educa-

tion," said William H. Natcher, chair of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee and others, in the same article. "In reality, the education budget would increase 3.7 percent, which is considerably less than the rate of inflation. According to the Office of Management and Budget director, Richard G. Darman, only \$77 million

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- Judy Belanger

in new money would be available under the budget proposal."

Belanger said she speculates Bush has two reasons for this proposed budget.

"The Office of Management and Budget is now involved with the educational policy," Belanger said. "The policy may be designed not to justify spending any additional money on student aid. They may be pushing the Department of Education into accepting major

cuts in the work study program and the supplemental educational opportunity grant program to pay for increases in the Pell Grant."

Also, Belanger said that some studies have shown loan default—especially of first- and second-year students—as a motive.

Belanger advises students to write to their congressional representatives and share their feelings of financial aid and the budget proposal.

"Congress people and those who make legislative decisions listen to students and personal experiences," Belanger said.

Write to:
Tom Harkin
Chair, Subcommittee
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

William Natcher
Chair, Subcommittee
2333 Rayburn House Office Bld.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Edward Kennedy
Chair, Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities
315 Russell Senate Office Bld.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Claiborne Pell
Chair, Subcommittee
815 Russell Senate Office Bld.
Washington, D.C. 20510

William Ford
Chair, Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education
2371 Rayburn House Office Bld.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Breakdown of the 1992 budget

Pell Grant—Will increase from \$2,400 to \$3,700. This could eliminate middle-income families by shifting assistance to lower-income families.

College work study programs—Reduced from \$595 million to \$397 million.

Supplemental educational opportunity grant—Reduced from \$520 million to \$347 million.

Perkins Loan—Slight reduction. This is a revolving program, meaning that when students repay the loan other students may borrow. The federal government provides a small amount of extra funding.

Stafford Loan—Loan limits will be increased from \$2,625 to \$3,500 per year, for freshman and sophomores. Loan limits will increase from \$4,000 to

\$5,000 per year for juniors and seniors. There is a proposal to eliminate lenders and have colleges provide for the loans directly.

Developing presidential achievement scholarship—Outstanding Pell recipients are eligible to receive this additional \$500 grant. High school students must be in the top 10 percent of their class or score well on the National Achievement Tests. College students must be in the top 20 percent of their class.

State Student Incentive Grant Program—This program would be discontinued.

Students must remain in the top 90 percent of their class to remain eligible for financial assistance.

Campus safety survey calls for better lighting

by Rebecca Bostick

Three weeks ago a new student group on campus, Alliance for Student Awareness (ASA), published an informal survey to find out what students thought should be done to improve campus safety.

Of the 123 responses, 63 percent felt better lighting was the No. 1 priority. More call boxes placed second, holding 31 percent of the vote. A pedestrian escort system and a shuttle bus for students were also on the ballot, but received little support from students.

ASA plans to put the results of the survey to use and is creating a petition, directed to Student Services, to stress the need for more funds to be appropriated for in-

creased lighting on campus. Although Sgt. Rochelle Sax of UNLV's Public Safety Department claimed that, for Las Vegas, the crime rate on this campus is "very low," President of ASA Melanie McEvoy disagrees.

"I think there are a lot of unreported crimes on this campus (including harassment and assault)," McEvoy said. She said she believes more lighting would be a natural deterrent to crime. With a brighter campus, the opportunity for crimes to occur is drastically reduced, according to the members of ASA.

The survey also called for further comments on the safety situation at UNLV and student re-

sponses were varied. A scheduled route for the escort system with posted times and stops was called for, but according to the Department of Public Safety, the escorts are easily available by phoning 739-3668 from anywhere on campus.

Suggestions were made to have fraternities and sororities participate in the escort system, as a form of community service. More security, including foot patrols on campus as well as increased lighting in the parking lots and on Brussels Road, was strongly requested.

Responses also suggested better advertising of campus safety programs, free self-defense classes

for students, and the sale of self-protection, such as mace-like substances and flashlights.

ASA had originally planned to work with the Campus Safety Committee, until ASA member Angela Slayton attended one meeting and discovered the committee's plans included possibly suspending a portion of funding from the Department of Public Safety, because members did not approve of how funds were being used.

ASA has decided to remain independent in their drive for increased lighting on campus, and will have their petition available for students to sign next week.

For more information, look for their tables in MSU and the petition, or call Melanie McEvoy at 456-7190.

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UNLV receives large donation

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas has received a pledge of \$2 million from resort developer Kirk Kerkorian's Tracinda Corp., UNLV President Robert C. Maxson announced Tuesday, April 9.

The donation, among the largest the university has received, is coming to the university through the UNLV Foundation.

The gift is to be used, at the president's discretion, for various forms of academic enhancement at the university, Maxson explained.

Noting that Mr. Kerkorian has had a long relationship with Nevada, Maxson said, "He and his corporation have always been good private and corporate citizens of our state."

"Just as he has contributed to Nevada as a leader in the hotel/casino industry, Mr.

Kerkorian is helping UNLV become an exceptional academic institution. By supporting academic excellence at UNLV, he is contributing directly to the futures of young men and women in Nevada."

Mr. Kerkorian, who is well-known throughout the nation for his ambitious resort projects, is providing the university with the kind of financial support that makes it possible to "water the green spots" by funding new programs and providing extra enhancement for selected existing programs, Maxson said.

"We are most grateful to Mr. Kerkorian and Tracinda Corp.," Maxson said. "We will reward their confidence in UNLV by continuing to develop one of the nation's leading urban universities."

Athletic competition for disadvantaged youth

U.S. Senator Harry Reid met with Dr. Porter L. Troutman, director of UNLV's National Youth Sports Program (NYSP), which provides economically disadvantaged youth with athletic competition. Senator Reid expressed his appreciation for the work that Troutman and others in the community have done for the NYSP.

In addition to athletics, Ne-

vada children participating in the NYSP at UNLV receive complete free medical exams, a daily meal furnished by the USDA, drug and health education, counseling and career opportunities. Sen. Reid said he will continue to support legislation for such worthy programs.



Dr. Troutman presenting Senator Reid with NYSP T-shirts.

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