

Loan program secure Appropriations Committee votes down cuts

by Chad Clouse
Collegian Staff

In the last election, many Republican candidates ran on the principles in the "Contract with America." Most candidates signed the contract, which calls for drastic cuts in spending, along with a balanced budget amendment. But what gets cut?

Recently, in the House of Representatives, a vote was taken in the Appropriations Committee on cutting need-based loans. These include the Perkins loan, work study, and Stafford loans. The committee voted down the cuts, but the fate of education in America is not safe.

Every five years, the Higher Education Act comes up for review. If the GOP is committed to cutting educational funding then this will be their easiest chance.

We might ask why Congress is cutting educational funding, and we will find the answer again in the the "Contract with America." The GOP has promised an increase in national defense in this time of peace. The cuts in education are earmarked for the defense budget.

The most perilous action to be taken against secondary education in the last month was a call from Newt Gingrich, R-GA. He has called for the elimination of the Department of Education.

After this call for elimination by Gingrich, Representative Steve Gunderson, R-WI, suggested a merge with the Labor Department and the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission. This move is projected to save 12 million dollars over the next five years, but the plan has not outlined any personnel changes or a new structure for the departments.

When contacted, Senator Arlen Specter, R-PA, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, stated, "The student loan program is secure."

He also said that the Appropriations Committee was only "trying to eliminate high bank charges."

How can we believe this when education is on the GOP chopping block? There will be no bank charges if there are no loans.

Rifle Club promotes safety

by Brad Park
Collegian Staff

Behrend's Rifle Club is a little known organization on campus, but its members are proud of the facts that they are competitive and that they promote gun safety.

President Darryl Morrison explained the club's competitiveness, "We used to just shoot among ourselves and we had a couple of competitions with Edinboro and a school up in Buffalo, Canisius College. We just went to Canisius a couple of weeks ago, and we did pretty well up there. They invited us to join the Mid-Atlantic League. We are going to have dinner with them on March 18 to set our schedule for next year. We'll be shooting against schools such as Duquesne University, IUP, Edinboro, Canisius, and several schools in the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York area."

Vice President Ernie Belle commented on the activities the club engages in at normal meetings, "During the meetings we meet over at Lawrence Park Rifle Range and basically target practice."

Morrison added, "Mostly our meetings are like a practice, to familiarize our members with the equipment. Our advisor, Jim Serafin, is also a coach. He helps coach our members on thin breathing techniques and proper ways of holding a gun."

When asked how much of an emphasis the club placed on safety, Belle revealed that it is a top priority, "We want to make



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COMPETITIVE SHOOTING: Members of the Behrend Rifle Club promote not only gun safety but also shoot competitively.

sure everyone knows range safety rules. At the first meeting, if any new members come in, they are informed about safety concerning the equipment, the rifle, and range commands such as 'cease fire.' They are taught how to know when the range is clear, when it's not, and when to fire. Safety is one of the big things. You always have to remain safe."

Morrison added his views on the issue of safety, "We make sure that everybody, even people we know have shot before, go through at least one to two hours of our own safety. We know that they know the way we want safety enforced. I don't care if they're the most safe person out there, we want to go over safety with them and refresh the current members' knowledge of safety."

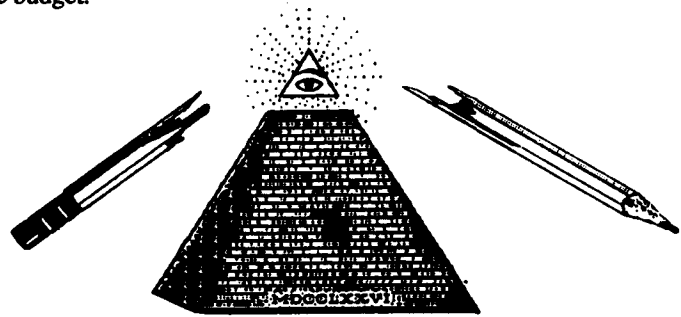
Morrison commented on the club's safety record, "We've been spotless. We haven't had any accidents so far, and we don't plan on having any."

Morrison revealed the shooting experience of the members, "The majority of people that like to come with us and shoot are people who have either shot in competitions, like in high school or at a sports club, or people who hunt a lot. There's a lot of people who have never shot before, they just thought they would like to try. Once they try it, they like it."

Morrison encourages new people to come and join the Rifle Club. "If it (target shooting) is something that you think you'd like to try, or to learn a little about a gun and the safety that goes with it, you ought to come out with us."

Other officers in the club include Tracy Huselton, Treasurer and Beth Stawecki, Secretary.

Any student interested in the Rifle Club is encouraged to drop a note with their name, box number, and phone number in the Rifle Club mail box in the SGA office.



Pasta bar offers different options

ERIE--Students have been lining up in a new location in Dobbins Dining Hall this past week. Just a few feet from where the main entree is served for lunch or dinner is a new specialty item, a made-to-order pasta bar.

"The new pasta bar was developed to invite students to add some of their personal tastes to the food they eat on a daily basis. How this works is that a pasta recipe is chosen at random

from a large selection of well-liked recipe books and a sample plate is available for students to see what we offer. Then the student asks us to say, hold the meat or add more spices," explains a student supervisor at Dobbins.

Recipes, to date, have included tri-color spirals with mushrooms and garlic; fettuccine Alfredo with bacon and mushrooms; red sauce with carrots, green peppers,

zucchini, onions and garlic; and sun dried tomatoes with black pepper and spaghetti. Each day the student pasta bar cook is thoroughly trained in how to prepare the entree and informed about ideas to suggests to students for alternatives to the recipe.

"With the pasta bar, we are offering students a different option to satisfy their palate and teaching students about food

preparation all with one new feature," explains Al Vogan, assistant manager of Housing and Food Services.

"It's a lot of fun. I get to cook in front of my friends and they just love the pasta I stir up for

them," explained a student cook busy preparing fettuccine Alfredo for her friend, "Fettuccine Alfredo without mushrooms," she adds.

Dobbins will be serving their made to order pasta Monday through Friday for both lunch and dinner. Menu selections at the pasta bar will change on a daily basis. The possibility of expanding the pasta bar to Sunday dinner is being looked into.

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