

OPINION

Reader Opinion

Budget Cuts Hinder Educational Resources

College students across the country depend on financial assistance (financial aid and Guaranteed Student Loans) to attend college. President Reagan is proposing cuts in these educational support systems.

The ramifications of these cuts are numerous. First of all, the president would limit financial support for students in an attempt

to reduce the national deficit and better our economy.

Second, the probability of some students returning to college or beginning college could decrease.

Third, the president considers the opportunity to attend college a privilege that an individual must earn for himself and that the government should have no part. Finally, the president is turning

his back on the youth of this country.

What we need to do is get our priorities straight. If the U.S. is to continue on a reasonable trend of excellence, we have to optimize our resources. Granted, the national deficit needs to be reduced, but at what price?

It seems sensible to do everything possible to educate

those who desire education. We would only be hindering ourselves if only a few people were able to obtain knowledge that is needed for a productive society. What seems even more ironic is that the ability to obtain an education will not be based on intelligence or endurance, but on wealth!

Education should be looked at as an individualistic goal, but at

the same time, should also be looked at as an individual's potential contribution to society. If we are to progress as a society, then we need to support individualistic goals, such as education.

Arden Jizmajian
Eighth semester,
Psychology

"Dinner For Strangers" Receives Praise

On behalf of the Student Government Association I would like to thank all of the students and faculty who participated in the "Dinner for 12 Strangers." Over 50 students participated along with five faculty members.

We designed the program to allow students and faculty to have informal interaction outside of the classroom. Students were randomly assigned to the home of a faculty member where they ate dinner and engaged in conversation.

The dinners ranged from ham to Chinese to ribs and the conversation shot the gamut.

At Behrend we have a unique opportunity to capitalize on this type of exchange and I think that this program allows the Behrend community to become closer.

The funding for the dinners came from the mini-grant program which provides university money for new and innovative programs. The meals were free to students and the faculty were reimbursed for a portion of their expense. SGA plans to continue funding the program for the next year.

I would also like to extend a thank you to Jamie Grimm, assistant dean of student affairs and Committee Chairperson Kim Ford. Without their help the "Dinner for 12 Strangers" would not have been possible.

Douglas Gerow
SGA President
Sixth semester,
Business Economics

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