

Inside... Rula Lenska, Women In Sports, More

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Government defends aid cuts

Newspaper, radio, and television reports of substantial cuts in Federal financial aid to college students have triggered a barrage of phone calls to the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. Callers, both students and parents, are often confused by misleading or incomplete information. Many have expressed fear that the government has let them down; that college is no longer affordable.

It is true that student financial assistance programs have undergone considerable change in the past two years. There have been some reductions. Most of the changes, however, reflect an effort to return the aid programs to their original purpose, which was to help students cover the cost of a college education - not to carry the whole burden. A

successful return to the original intent will help ensure the survival of these aid programs for future student use.

The Pell Grant Program, formerly called BEOG, is one of the best known student aid programs. The U.S. Department of Education uses a standard formula to determine who qualifies for Pell Grants. Students should contact the college financial aid administrator to apply on the free "Application for Federal Student Aid." This is the form used for all Federal student aid programs. The Department guarantees that each participating school will receive the money it needs to pay Pell Grants to eligible students.

The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant provides another mechanism for making awards to students. SEOG is

different from the Pell Grant in that it is managed by the financial administrator of each participating college. Each school receives a set amount of money from the Department and when that money is gone, there are no more SEOG funds for the year.

Grant aid is not meant to cover all college costs but is expected to be combined with a reasonable contribution from the student's family and individual self-help, generally in the form of loans, private scholarships and work.

Another type of student financial assistance is the College Work-Study Program. Designed to provide on-or-off-campus jobs for undergraduate and graduate students who need financial assistance, Work-Study is usually managed by the college financial aid

administrator. Some 950,000 students will receive \$528 million under this program in 1982-83.

A great deal of publicity has been generated lately on Federal student loans, particularly the National Direct Student Loan. Although all colleges do not participate in this program, 3,340 of them do. This program makes available low interest (5 percent) loans that students must begin repaying six months after completing school (either by graduating, leaving, or dropping below half-time status). Up to 10 years is allowed to repay the loan. Application is made to a school's financial aid administrator who manages the loan fund. The fund is a revolving account, designed to allow a school to continually make new loans as existing loans are repaid.

About 800,000 students will receive NDSL's in 1982-83; 10,000 more than in 81-82.

The Guaranteed Student Loan Program, much in the news lately, makes available low interest loans to students, with the Federal Government paying the interest while the student is in school. These loans are made by a lender (such as bank, credit union, or savings and loan association), and are insured by either the Federal Government or a State Guarantee Agency. This, the largest student aid program, will make available over \$9.5 billion in loans during the 1982-83 school year.

A new loan program started in 1981, called the

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Sabol competes in local pageant

By, Terry McCarthy

Every year, thousands of young girls in the U.S. have watched some of the most beautiful women in the world compete for the title of Miss America. And when that jeweled crown is placed on top of the winner's head, many of those young girls fantasize they are walking down the aisle, waving at the crowd with a smile and tears of joy in their eyes.

Hazleton Campus' Nancy Sabol is attempting to make that dream a reality. On the night of September 18th, Nancy was involved in the "Miss Pocono Pageant". This pageant is the first step on the road to Miss America, qualifying the contestant for future competition in the state level is she should win.

Nancy first appeared in the show's opening dance number entitled "All American Girls." Nancy's skill as a jazz dancer was quite evident by her quick recovery when one of the girls accidentally stepped on her foot in the middle of the number. The opening number

was followed by introductions of the judges and the hostesses for the evening, Ms. Gina Major, Miss Pennsylvania, Lauri Hicksembaum, and Miss Pocono, Kelly Yale. Many of you will remember Kelly who was a student here at Highacres for two years.

The first phase of the competition was one of

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Nancy's strongest, the swimsuit competition. With a nervous smile and a posture as strained as a guitar string, Nancy modeled for the judges in order to show her beauty and poise. The second phase of the competition was talent. This phase had the highest amount of points awarded, so it was very important that

each contestant was at her best. Nancy performed a jazz dance number to the song "Birdland." The crowd was quite pleased with the performance, but Nancy was not satisfied. "I practiced too much with my talent and I was bored with it by the time of my pageant," said Nancy. "I was also confused about my talent because they judge you on potential talent. This means they judge you on how much they think they can improve you by the time of the Miss Pennsylvania competition which is a month later."

The third phase of the competition was the evening gown section where the contestants not only modeled a gown of their choice, but also had to answer a question for the judges and tell a little bit about themselves.

Nancy became interested in the Miss Pocono Pageant through her dance instructor who said that Nancy had the right ingredients to win a beauty pageant. With her combination of years of study in dance, honors student status while working for a

degree in Health Planning, and a natural beauty that won her first place in the bathing suit competition, he was certainly right.

Many people try to stereotype a beauty pageant contestant as some giggly blond bombshell whose whole life is wrapped up in attending one beauty pageant after the next. For Nancy this is not the case. "I have a good perspective of the pageant," said Nancy. "I can see it as something I enjoy, but not as the most important thing in my life. I'm very glad I didn't change for the pageant. My personality is still the same way as before the pageant."

Although Nancy did not win this pageant, the first Nancy ever entered, the judges told her the odds are much better for her future competitions. "They told me that when I get older I have a good chance of winning because I gave the qualities of my intelligence, maturity, poise, and I can deal with the public." Nancy has also planned some changes to improve her

chances of winning next

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years competition. "I am going to change my talent from dance to music. I think I will try to pick up the violin again since I played in the high school orchestra. I was never a soloist but I think the judges will like it better than my dancing because it is something that can be performed for audiences easier."

With Nancy's skill and determination, there is no telling how far she can go. Who knows? Someday that little girl's dream of walking down that aisle, and waving at the crowd with tears in her eyes may come true.