

Jerri-Lynn Scofield

The time is now

President Reagan's proposed fiscal year 1983 Federal budget calls for reducing student higher education aid by 636 million dollars — a cut that can affect your future.

Funding for Pell Grants, awards based on financial need, would be reduced significantly, and students whose parents earn more than 14,000 dollars will probably be ineligible for such assistance. Perhaps more important to current MIT undergraduates, especially those with an eye on graduate or professional school, are the suggested changes to the Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL) program.

The GSL program has been a favorite target of the Reagan people. The Administration portrays this program as a source of abuse by college students, who borrow money for no better use than to fatten their investment portfolios. This assumption persists, even though every student who takes out such a GSL must sign a statement that declares the loan will be used only for educational purposes, or the student may face substantial Federal penalties.

Last summer, I listened to Glenn R. Schleede, Executive Associate Director of the Office of Management and Budget, draw on personal experience to justify scuttling the loan program. Schleede, a proud Republican papa, explained to a 600 person audience how his daughter benefitted from the GSL program. The young lady, who was enrolled at a state university, was fortunate to have a Daddy who paid all of her bills, and who piously asserted that he had saved enough money to send his children to school. The enterprising daughter, however, had not allowed her father's generosity to interfere with her right to borrow money from the GSL program — she borrowed 2500 dollars a year for two years and then *with money she already had*, invested this sum in long-term certificates of deposit. Schleede boasted of his daughter's ingenuity, oblivious to the legal and ethical ramifications of his tale. He argued that since his daughter was misusing GSL funds, everyone must be.

Well, everyone is not. According to President Paul E. Gray '54, about 2500 MIT undergraduates have an average need of 7000 dollars to meet their expenses for each year's education. Not everyone meets his need through the GSL program, but it is an important source of student support. Under current guidelines, most financially dependent undergraduates may borrow up to 2500 dollars a year to finance their educations. Graduate and professional school students, who also experience financial difficulties, may borrow up to 5000 dollars per annum. Students who assume such loans do not have to begin payment of either principle or interest until six months after graduation. They pay 9 percent interest on their debts. GSL's provide a means to make higher education — both undergraduate and graduate, public and private — accessible to students from middle and working class backgrounds.

Reagan's new budget proposal excludes all graduate students from borrowing from the GSL program, and directs that eligibility restrictions for undergraduates also be tightened. Graduate students are encouraged to borrow from the Parent Loans to Undergraduate Students (PLUS) program, even though its name is slightly misleading. Though the maximum amount a student may borrow under PLUS looks attractive — 8000 dollars — the terms do not — fourteen percent interest, with repayment of both principle and interest to begin sixty days after signing for the initial loan. Aside from the fact that very few banks will make such loans, PLUS has another problem: most students could not complete any long-term graduate programs before they would have to borrow money exclusively to pay back old loans.

Obviously, Federal support is not the only source of financing education for students with need. But MIT will probably not be able to take up all of the slack if these programs are gutted. There is a limit to the amount the Institute can borrow from general funds for scholarship support; there is a ceiling on the deficit MIT might wish to incur for such a purpose. With tuition once again rising this year to another record level, most families can not afford to send their children to places such as MIT and other elite institutions without some outside assistance. The Reagan proposals threaten to make such schools accessible only to the rich.

Students need not acquiesce to these proposed changes. President Gray has declared, "The time has come to say enough" to further cuts in Federal student aid.

"It is timely for your Congressman to be informed of the real impact these programs will have" before Congress makes a vote on the current budget proposals, commented Director of Student Financial Aid Leonard V. Gallagher '54. Could you pay for your education if Federal student aid were to be curtailed? I know I could not. And neither could my three sisters and brother.

Especially in 1982, an election year, Congressmen are particularly sensitive to their constituents' opinions. Write your Congressman. Let him know the effect the Reagan proposals will have on continuing your education. Do it this weekend, before the term crunch begins. Tell your parents to write as well. After all, it is your future.



I WISH I COULD HELP, CINDERELLA... BUT SOME CLOWN HAS GIVEN ALL MY POWERS BACK TO THE STATE...

Guest Column/Greg Nowell

Reagan makes America mighty

The arcane nature of arms control talks, international balance of power issues, and military budget matters often leaves the uninitiated observer in a confused muddle. What gets said at "high level negotiations"? What weighty thoughts are exchanged between the piercing intellects of the world's great leaders? The answers are easily deduced. As is well known, the Reagan program consists of destroying social aid programs and transferring the money from there to the Defense Department, where it is used to intimidate the Russians. Accordingly, a face-to-face talk between Presidents Reagan and Brezhnev reads like this:

Brezhnev: "I'm sorry, but my country under no circumstances will withdraw from Afghanistan."

Reagan: "Oh yeah? I'll show you! I'm cutting off all loans to graduate students!"

Brezhnev: "Moreover, we shall not change the situation in Poland."

Reagan: "That does it! No more medical care for our elderly and crippled."

Brezhnev: "We cannot slow down deployment of the SS20."

Reagan: "Yeah? Then we're not going to supervise disposal of poisonous chemical wastes!"

Brezhnev: "We shall complete the gas pipeline to Germany and France."

Reagan: "There go our undergraduates!"

Brezhnev: "We shall continue to support Nicaragua."

Reagan: "There go the food stamps!"

Brezhnev: "We will not negotiate deployment of the Backfire Bomber."

Reagan: "Then we'll just have to decimate our forests! I'm calling Watt!"

Brezhnev: "We shall continue to support Vietnam."

Reagan: "In that case I'll raise our unemployment rate to 15%! I'm telling Weinberger to nuke Detroit!"

The conversation went this way all day and all night. When it was over, Reagan had completely demolished the nation whose constitution he had sworn to uphold at his inauguration. Proud of himself, he went before the cameras to speak of "the new federalism": "We have nothing to fear from Soviet aggression any longer," he announced, "for there is nothing left for them to attack."

Watching the announcement on television, Brezhnev had to agree. "Is this not marvelous?" he said to his underling, Comrade Ibansk. "We have destroyed them without firing a single shot."

Column/Mark Templer

El Salvador: moral bankruptcy

Recent developments in El Salvador have led to some misguided decisions by the Reagan Administration. The Administration announced on February 1, that it would send more than \$55 million in emergency military aid to Jose Duarte's government in El Salvador. President Reagan has also indicated he will ask Congress for an additional \$60 million in military assistance for El Salvador in 1983. This figure would be more than twice as large as last year's level of military aid to that country. These two actions typify the Reagan Administration's crude approach to the conduct of US foreign policy.

Tens of thousands of civilians have died in the violence in El

Salvador; most are victims of military and right-wing death squads that operate without fear of government reprisals. The Reagan Administration, intent on preventing a leftist takeover in El Salvador, has ignored these brutal human rights violations. It may be true that Salvadoran rebels are receiving aid from communist sources. We must recall, however, that the conflict in that country arises from genuine internal unrest and not external leftist subversion. Unfortunately, the Reagan Administration analyzes every foreign policy question in East-West terms and has dogmatically embraced the repressive Duarte regime with a flourish of anti-Soviet rhetoric.

Tragically, the US has also supported unpopular governments in South Africa, Guatemala, Chile, Argentina. The Administration's indiscriminate backing of callous right-wing governments has destroyed our credibility and tarnished our image. It is hypocritical to denounce human rights violations in the Soviet Union, Poland, Afghanistan, and elsewhere while condoning them in so-called friendly regimes.

The United States truly is a great bastion of human freedom. In our moral struggle with the totalitarian government of the USSR, we must take our rightful place as the protector of peace and human rights on earth. A
(Please turn to page 5)

The Tech

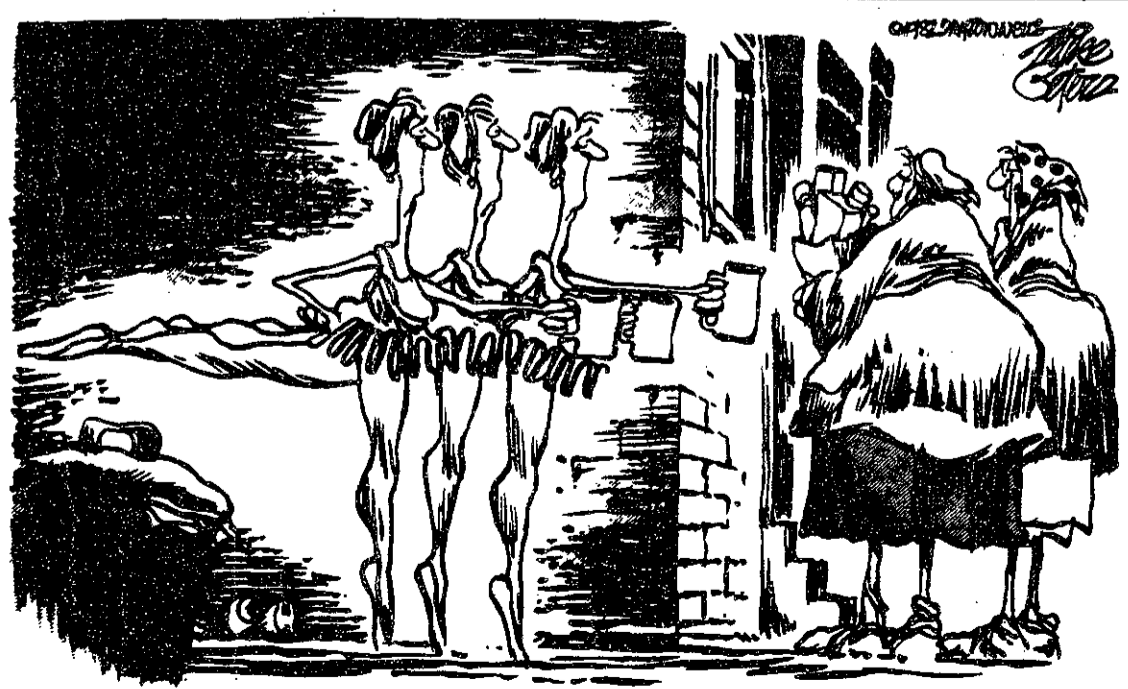
Ivan K. Fong '83 — Chairman
Jerri-Lynn Scofield '83 — Editor-in-Chief
V. Michael Bove '83 — Managing Editor
Allen Frechter '83 — Business Manager

Volume 102, Number 4
Friday, February 12, 1982

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Night Editor: Eric Olson '85; Staff: John Rho '82, Gerard Weatherby '82, V. Michael Bove '83, Bill Leishman '83, Bill Spitzak '83, Stuart Gitlow '84, Bill Giuffre '84, Mia Paget '84, Bill Coderre '85, David Ming '85, Martin Ranchwerk '85, Danny Weidman '85, David Chia G, Susan Hagadorn.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published twice a week during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), weekly during January, and once during the last week in July for \$10.00 per year Third Class by The Tech, 84 Massachusetts Ave. Room W20-483, Cambridge, MA 02139. Third Class postage paid at Boston, MA. Non-Profit Org. Permit No. 59720. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139. Telephone: (617) 253-1541. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. © 1982 The Tech. Printed by Charles River Publishing, Inc.



IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE THE CUT BACKS TO THE PERFORMING ARTS...