

guest opinion

Abortion: A violation of human dignity?

By Michael Lang

Three years and several million abortions later, the real question of the abortion issue "Is abortion the taking of human life?" has not been faced by many and has been minimized by the pro-abortion (euthanasia) groups. Instead of the true issue, emotional appeals using evasive rhetoric and ridicule were substituted. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, the American people began to be indoctrinated to the so-called "New Ethic," without ever facing the fact that abortion kills.

The September issue of California Medicine states: "The process of eroding the old ethic and substituting the

new has already begun. It may be seen most clearly in changing attitudes toward human abortion . . . Since the old ethic has not yet been fully displaced, it has been necessary to separate the idea of abortion from the idea of killing, which continues to be socially abhorrent. The result has been a curious avoidance of the scientific facts, which everyone really knows, that human life begins at conception and is continuous whether intra- or extra-uterine until death . . . The very considerable semantic gymnastics which are required to rationalize abortion as anything but taking a human life would be ludicrous if they were not often put forth under socially impeccable auspices."

Equal protection of the right to life from arbitrary attack is, (or has been) firmly established, almost without exception, in the traditions and religions of civilized man for nearly four thousand years.

"But tradition and law are not the source of man's equality; they only acknowledge its presence as a fact of his nature. The Declaration of Independence speaks of men as created equal—created not born; it seems likely that its authors intended to express their conviction, to-

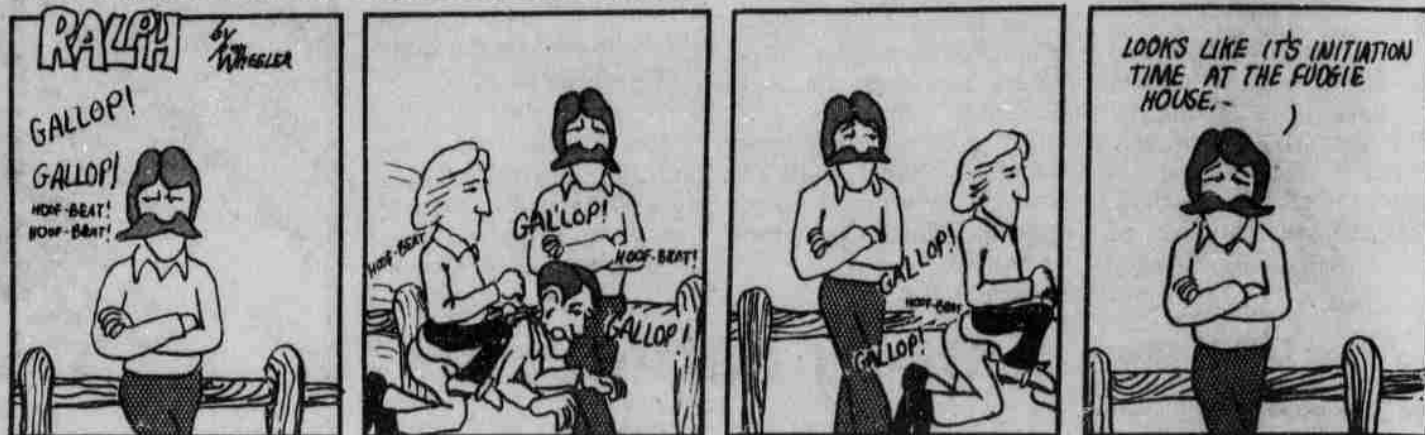
day verified by science, that humanity is conferred by human parents at conception." (from *The Death Peddlers War on The Unborn* by Paul Marx, O.S.B. Ph. D.)

"All men are created free and equal," we say in our constitution. Obviously we do not mean equal in achievement, ability, opportunity or material goods. The only possible meaning is that each man or woman shares a dignity, a sameness which is intrinsic to their humanity. As it is impossible for one person to be more, or less, human than another at any stage of development, we must concede that the unborn human is the same as you or I, differing only in non-essentials such as size and ability.

Equality is caused then by man's common and indivisible humanity, with all its dignity and uniqueness. Therefore, we as humans cannot exploit or enslave other humans to achieve our ends, nor do we have the right to terminate another human's life for the sake of convenience or expedience.

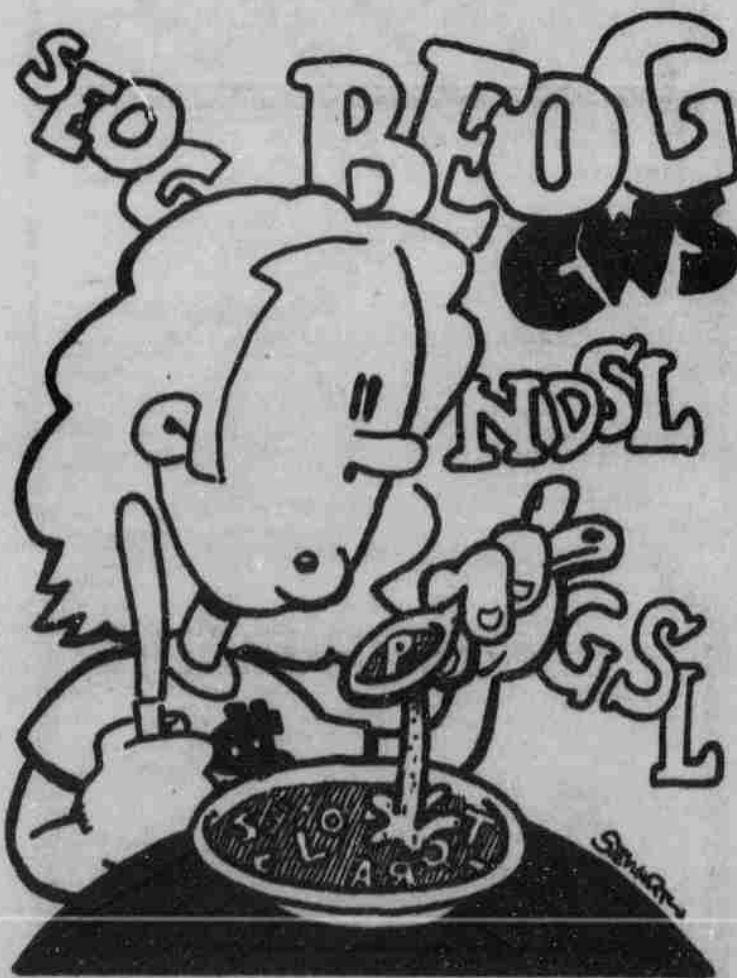
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d.n. soapbox



con/pro

Alphabet soup jumble can spell B-U-C-K-S



By Neil Klotz

(This is the second of a three part series on obtaining financial aid for the 1976-77 school year. Most deadlines fall in January and February.)

NDSL, SEOG, CW-S, BEOG, GSL.

There they are, floating around in the bottom of your bowl like noodles that all seem to spell the same thing: zero bucks for next fall.

The federal financial aid cup never was overflowing, and as we saw last time, boondoggles and scandals have been boring holes into the spoons. Nevertheless, the five federal financial aid programs represented by the above alphabet soup account for \$1.7 billion, so unless you have a sugarparent, you'd better lean over the bowl and start fishing.

National Direct Student Loan (NDSL). If you are going to get a loan, this should be your first choice. If you're enrolled at least half-time, you can borrow up to \$2,500 for a vocational or two-year undergraduate program, up to \$5,000 for your entire undergraduate career and up to \$10,000 for undergrad and graduate work combined.

Unbeatable interest

Repayment doesn't start until nine months after you leave school, and you have ten years to pay at an unbeatable 3 per cent interest. If inflation continues to rise 11 per cent a year, at some time around 1986 you probably could make your loan payments with pocket

change. In addition, part of the loan may be cancelled if you go into the military or certain areas of teaching.

National Direct Loans, as well as the next two programs, are administered through campus financial aid offices. This means that they are subject to the need analysis nightmare described last time. At least for this year, make sure that your office uses the College Scholarship Service (CSS) or American College Testing Program to estimate your need, but not the "income tax" system or Basic Grant system. The last two could cost you several hundred dollars in aid.

After you fill out the Parent's Confidential Statement (CSS's system) or a similar form, the need analysis form will estimate how much you and your family will be expected to contribute toward your education and report that amount to your school. Note: the Parent's Confidential Statement is not an application for aid, just an estimate of your need. Fill out a separate form for the aid your institution will supply.

Unexpected expenses

If you feel the need analysis system has given you a bad shake, say so. Despite what your financial aid office tells you, it is not required by law to follow the need report. Unexpected medical expenses, a sudden death or unemployment in the family, or economic trends can all affect your need, but might not be reflected in the report. To figure out what you'll probably be asked to contribute, write for a free copy of CSS's Meeting College Costs 1976-77 from College Board Publication Orders, Box 2815, Princeton, N.J. 08540.

If your school doesn't have information about these first three programs, you can get it from the Office of Education, Division of Student Support and Special Programs, Health, Education and Welfare Dept., 330 Independence Ave., Washington, D.C. 20201.

2. Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG). You may never hear about the SEOGs unless you go into your aid office in a sackcloth after a month of fasting. Supplemental or undergraduate students "of exceptional financial need who without the grant would be unable to continue their education."

For hungry students

In most cases, this means that you've just spent your last dime on tuition and are heading for the Salvation Army soup kitchen. Or your family has had unexpected expenses that were not reflected in need analysis.

Grants range between \$200 and \$500, which your school must match with scholarships, loans, grants or employment. You can receive up to \$4,000 for a four year program (or up to \$5,000 if you have to go an extra year).

3. College Work-Study (CW-S). To get work-study, you have to have "great" (but not "exceptional") financial need and be enrolled as a graduate, undergraduate or vocational student at least half-time. Your school arranges a job with a non-profit agency either on or off campus for up to 40 hours a week. Pay can range from minimum wage to \$3.50 an hour.

Unclaimed money

4. Basic Educational Opportunity Grants (BEOG). Basic Grants are the darlings of the current administration's financial aid package, so much so that last year, \$135 million went unclaimed because no one knew about

them. An estimated 1.7 million students are eligible this year, and because of an improved public relations program, all funds probably will be used. If you do nothing else, apply for BEOG; any free money is worth the effort.

Step one: Procure an "Application for Determination of Basic Grant Eligibility" from your school, library or from PO Box 84, Washington, D.C. 20044. Fill it out and send it back to the federal office stipulated, not to your school. The deadline is March 15. In four to six weeks, the federal government will tell you whether or not you're eligible.

Step two: If eligible, submit the "Student Eligibility Report" to your financial aid office. It will figure out how much you get according to the stingy Basic Grant need formula. BEOGs are supposed to be no more than half the cost of your education and up to \$1,400 a year. Because of increased student eligibility and decreased funds from last year, the average grant for '76 will be about \$600 and the maximum about \$900.

Seniors eligible

For the first time, seniors are eligible, and although few aid officers seem to know it, so are part-time students. In addition, an Office of Education official told me that next year it won't matter when you started school; in the past, only those who were enrolled after April 1, 1973 were eligible. One final change: If you quit a job to go to school, you can estimate your current year's income in the BEOG eligibility form, rather than how much you earned while working.

5. Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL). While the National Direct Loans use federal money, Guaranteed Loans use private money that you receive after applying to a bank, credit union, or other private lender. All the federal government does is guarantee the loans, should you default.

Need is not a factor in getting a Guaranteed Loan. You can borrow up to \$2,500 annually, up to \$7,500 for your total undergraduate or vocational study and up to \$10,000 including graduate work. Again you have ten years to pay, but interest is 7 per cent. If your family makes less than \$15,000 or you can prove need, the government will pay the interest off while you're in school.

Bankers say 'no'

Aside from paying them off, the hassle with GSLs is not proving you need one, but finding someone to give you one. Unlike financial aid officers, bankers say "no" for a living. And that 7 per cent interest isn't a real lure when a bank can make 15 per cent to 18 per cent on a consumer loan. Some schools have special arrangements with certain banks. If not, try where you or your parents bank.

Although it's not generally known, schools also can be GSL lenders, and will as a last resort. They just need a little prodding.

As with all these federal programs, perseverance pays off. Don't take "rules are made in Washington" for an answer. Schools have a lot more financial aid options than they let on—if you apply early (like right now).

In most cases, they'll be on your side, since eventually it all ends up in their pockets anyway.

Next time: Lesser-known cash sources.
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