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Parents Losing \$\$ Battle For Offspring Education

By RON BENTO

Kay Sanders, a pretty 17-year-old cheerleader, will graduate from John Marshall High School in San Antonio one semester early. "College is where I want to be next semester," she says determinedly and excitedly. But, almost as quickly as her shining smile appears, it reverses itself and she says disappointedly: "I'm afraid that that would be a luxury I can't have for the present."

All through school, Kay has been an above average student with many extra curricular activities to her credit and although she could probably succeed in college, she may be kept out for economic reasons.

William B. Sanders, Kay's father, is a prominent pharmacist and drug store manager for a large chain and because of his salary, his daughter does not qualify under the "need" category for financial aid grants.

Though his earnings are substantial (\$15,000 per year), he cannot afford to put Kay through college just yet.

William Jr., a senior in finance at the University of Texas, is under a work-study program while Linda, another daughter who is living at home, is enrolled at St. Mary's University at Mr. Sanders' expense.

"It's costing \$45 per semester hour to put Linda through," he says slapping a checkbook with his hand. "That's quite a sum every semester, but I want her and Kay to make it without working."

With today's skyrocketing costs, it is almost impossible for a member of a family with an average income to attend college without some assistance.

According to R. M. Logan, director of the financial aid office at TAMU, approximately 6,000 students out of the total 18,000-plus enrollment at TAMU are receiving financial assistance through the office.

"By the end of this year, these students will have received more than \$7,500,000 in the form of scholarships, assistantships, grants, loans and salaries for work-study programs," Logan says. Yet, relative to other colleges throughout the country the percentage of students receiving aid at Texas A&M is slightly below the average level, he adds.

Some schools depend heavily on financial assistance programs to maintain enrollment levels.

Spokesmen at Prairie View A&M University report that 75-80 percent of their students are on financial aid, while St. Mary's University, a private San Antonio college, estimates "roughly 85 percent."

"Most of our students receive some type of aid because our University's attendance cost (\$75 per semester hour), relative to other schools in Texas, is high," says a Trinity University representative.

Hayward A. Moncrief, Brazos County Service Officer for the Veterans Affairs Office, says that currently, under the G.I. Bill, veterans with no dependents are eligible to receive \$220 monthly educational assistance allowances if they are attending school full time.

"This is available to vets for 36 months and at times they complain that it is not enough." Softly hitting his desk with a closed fist, Moncrief adds that he then firmly speaks to them as a taxpayer: "The government is paying you to go to school, not party." I also tell them that smart budgeting is of the utmost importance.

According to the Dec. 5 issue of Army Times, "Nearly three million veterans and servicemen have trained under the current G.I. Bill since the program was started June 1, 1966."

Moncrief believes that this indicates the program is successful.

But the current economic conditions of the country go beyond affecting the financial status of college students. Many potential college students are hit hard and some, while still in high school, decide not to attend college at all.

These students are observing what Business Week in the Sept. 23, 1973, issue reports:

"The mismatch between graduates and jobs looks less like a temporary thing and more like a problem that will plague the nation for years to come. Though the economy is soaring, the supply of educated young is still out-distancing demand."

Lawrence Southwick, Jr., writing for the April, 1973, issue of Review of Social Economy, says that many students opt for vocational education, either as an apprentice or in one of the two-year colleges.

"The foregone earnings as well as direct costs are much lower for these alternatives. At the same time," he continues, "the number of service positions and occupations is rapidly expanding. The resulting returns tend to make this an attractive option."

Another important consideration is that in many cases this choice does not rule out later continuation at a four year college.

Reinforcing this trend is the "Industrial Cooperative Training" program at Bryan High School.

"This is an on-job vocational program which permits the student to pursue academic courses in the mornings and involve himself with on-job training in an industrial occupation of his choice in the afternoons," says Gayle Todd, vocational supervisor for Bryan Public Schools.

"These occupations encompass hand manipulative skills, skilled labor, repair work, mechanical pursuits, and service work."

The program is obviously attractive and highly competitive since, according to Todd, only 250 out of 400 student applicants were admitted into the program this year.

He adds that selections are made on the basis of personal interviews, aptitude and interest tests, attendance records and previous grades. Screening is necessary as "vocational education is socially more acceptable than a few years ago."

I. A. Ghazalah and Svetozar Pejovich from Ohio University, write in the October, 1973, issue of Review of Social Economy, that vocational and technical training programs update and upgrade the supply of labor services and "promise to yield positive benefits not only to the individual trainee but to society as a whole."

"Furthermore," they write, "technical and vocational education can contribute to the long-run solution of poverty by increasing the potential earning power of those at the lower income scale."

Some high school students, on the other hand, are attracted into some branch of the military service—usually the Air Force—as an alternative after high school.

Sgt. Tony Stigliano, supervisor for the Central Texas Recruiting district, says that the Air Force, now more than ever, is a vocational type service and that the reason why more people do not join is because "no one understands the military and what it has to offer."

Aptitude tests are given and applicants are placed according to their scores and interests. The great majority of jobs and skills the Air Force trains men to perform can be used in civilian life, but a retention rate of 56 percent indicates that many young men join to find a career and they do.

All these options stemming from youths and their middle-income parents' difficulties in financing education will continue to be popular until more money is available.

"With money relatively scarce and the prime rate at 10 percent, not many banks find the student loans attractive," says a spokesman at the Bank of A&M.

And so it goes—a continuing maze of complications. The cost of education continues to rise along with every other service or product. Why?

Southwick proposes his theory in the previously mentioned article:

"During the decade of the 1960s, the higher education industry expanded at a rapid rate, more than tripling its gross revenues. As the expansion of students occurred, a lag in production of the factors of production resulted in the bidding up of the prices of the entire system."

And what can we look forward to? Some economists believe a severe recession is due.

Energy

(Continued from Page 4)

day are used to provide electricity during the night and on days when there is no sun. The home can easily be converted to the public utility company in the event of a long string of dreary days.

"A typical three bedroom home can be equipped with solar collectors and ancillary heating equipment for about \$3,000."

Projects such as this one and increased nuclear power research for use as energy sources are needed to fill the energy needs of the world, let alone the country.

Dr. Gramm commented, "There is not a fixed supply of energy in the world. Technology is constantly changing. The free market system responds by finding other sources of energy. If we will allow it to work, creative individuals will enter the market and innovate new methods of providing energy."

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EGG NOODLES
GREEN VEGETABLE
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SOUTH OF THE BORDER BUFFET
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\$3.50 pre-school children — \$1.25
or
Fresh Green Salad from the salad bar
BAKED BREAST OF CHICKEN served on a bed of Tower Special Rice with chef's own wine sauce
Green Vegetable
Hot Bread and Butter
\$3.95

TUESDAY

GARDEN SALAD from the salad bar
CHAR-BROILED HAM STEAK with pineapple ring
YAM PATTIES with orange sauce
GREEN VEGETABLE
HOT BREAD and BUTTER
\$4.25

WEDNESDAY

TOSSED GREEN SALAD from the salad bar
GRILLED CALF LIVER with sauteed onions
CHEF'S SPECIAL POTATO
GREEN VEGETABLE
HOT BREAD and BUTTER
\$3.50

THURSDAY

FRESH SALAD GREENS from the salad bar
SHISH KEBAB (U. S. CHOICE BEEF KEBAB) served on a bed of
TOWER SPECIAL RICE with rich sauce of wine and mushrooms
BROILED TOMATO with Parmesan cheese
HOT BREAD and BUTTER
\$6.75

FRIDAY — Two Great Specials

FRESH SALAD GREENS from the salad bar
CHOICE CUTS OF CHAR-BROILED TENDERLOIN served on a bed of
TOWER SPECIAL RICE with a rich mushroom and wine sauce
BROILED TOMATO with Parmesan cheese
HOT BREAD and BUTTER
\$4.75
And
GARDEN FRESH SALAD from the salad bar
LOUISIANA SEAFOOD CREOLE made with shrimp, crabmeat, mushrooms and spices blended together and served on a bed of
FLUFFY RICE
GREEN VEGETABLE
HOT BREAD and BUTTER
\$3.95

SATURDAY

CRISPY GREEN SALAD from the salad bar
CHOICE PRIME RIB OF BEEF AUJUS cooked to perfection
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HOT BREAD and BUTTER
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