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BRIAN KELLY

WIPE OUT ALL STUDENT LOAN DEBT--NOW!

UNIQUE SOLUTIONS TO THE \$1.45
TRILLION DEBT ACCUMULATION

Wipe Out All Student Loan Debt—Now!

Unique solutions to the \$1.45 Trillion debt accumulation

The President in simple terms has netted out the student debt crisis from both a student and parent perspective: "They go, and they work, and they take loans, and they're borrowed up, and they can't breathe, and they get through college and the worst thing is, they go through that whole process and they don't have any job." Trump has it right, and worse than that, when the US system hurts them, our best and brightest lose hope.

Many have excoriated the Obama Administration and government and coffee-breath professors who teach nothing, for making it worse for college graduates. They all make money on the student loan program. Trump says: "You know the one program that the U.S. makes a whole lot of money with is student loans, and that's maybe the one program they shouldn't be making money with... "So, we're going to have to start a program," he said. "We're going to do something very big with loans because you have to get these people going. They really feel down and out."

Donald J. Trump is right. Yet he is the only president who has even talked about solving America's problem with rip-off loan sharks and a government that makes big money off the backs of student borrowers. Ironically, the man willing to help is hated by the very young Americans he speaks about helping.

College graduates and those former students not fortunate enough to complete their degrees need all the help they can get to claw their way out of their college debt. Your author as a professor and as a father understands student debt. He feels and has intellectually analyzed the plight and the pain felt by today's millennials. Besides recommending a total forgiveness and a do-again, this book also examines other ways to solve the problem including refinancing, extending, and providing better payment plans as well as getting universities to put some skin in the game.

This book addresses the massive \$1.45 Trillion student debt already on the books and it presents a boldly unique plan to assure that students with loans have a chance of success with a job of their choice. Isn't it about time? This book tells you how it can be done. You won't be able to put this book down before you know what you can do to help those with student debt be able to afford homes and start families and live the life of a real American and not an indentured servant.



BRIAN W. KELLY

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Wipe Out all Student Loan Debt Now!

Editor, Brian P. Kelly
Author Brian W. Kelly

Unique solutions to the \$1.3 Trillion debt accumulation

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to my wonderful wife Patricia; our three wonderful children Brian, Mike and Katie; and our friendly friends—Ben our very happy dog, who recently became an Angel, and Buddy, our always cheerful cat.

Thank You All!

Acknowledgments

I appreciate all the help that I have received in putting this book together as well as all of my other 135 other published books.

My printed acknowledgments had become so large that book readers "complained" about going through too many pages to get to page one of the text.

And, so to permit me more flexibility, I put my acknowledgment list online, and it continues to grow. Believe it or not, it once cost about a dollar more to print each book.

Thank you and God bless you all for your help.

Please check out www.letsGOPublish.com to read the latest version of my heartfelt acknowledgments updated for this book. FYI, Wily Ky Eyely loves this book and recommends it to all other 11-year old little Maesters

Click the bottom of the Main menu!

Thank you all!

Preface:

Rarely does a book title explain exactly what a book is about. This book is the exception. Wiping out all student loan debt now will immediately solve the student debt crisis. There is no question about it.

It helps to recall that President Obama increased the National Debt by \$9.1 Trillion in just eight years, hoping to assure that illegal aliens had all the resources they needed to take as many American jobs as they could. He just about doubled our debt and has nothing to show. Tell me where the money went?

It is too bad that he did not have the foresight to use \$1.3 Trillion of that wasteful largesse to help America. With less than 15% of this reckless spending, the former president could have been a folk hero among many Americans.

He could have and should have spent more wisely and wiped out 100% of the student debt now strangling our young American adults and holding the US economy hostage. Until the student debt crisis is put behind us, the most physically capable and more than likely, the brightest people in America, our recent college graduates between the ages of twenty and forty, have been taken out of the game.

They will not be in a position to start a business, buy a home, new appliances, a new car, or begin a family. I am talking about 45 million student loan borrowers—seventy percent of all college students / graduates. At a time that we needed Obama's leadership the most, right after the sub-prime mortgage crisis when the economy was at a standstill, how could the former president have missed the opportunity to reinvigorate the economy by freeing 45 million young people from debtor's prison.

The former president had the opportunity to reinsert forty-five million Americans with a propensity to spend money into the economy and he did not choose to act. He chose not to free them from the shackles of repaying a massive and unfair student debt load that will keep them out of the economy for years and years to come.

This book tells Congress and the new president how to solve the crisis and it tells American that nothing happens without a vigilant population. That means we must hold our government and our politicians accountable for solving this crisis that affects almost every family in America.

More and more Americans, even those of us who have paid off all of our student debt are looking at today's student loan dilemma with a different look. The groundswell of concern for removing so many potentially productive Americans from the economy at one time is at an all-time high with more Americans asking Washington to forgive this debt so that young Americans can engage and so that the economy can be jump-started to make all Americans successful.

Young Americans are literally choking on their student debt. It has their lives stopped and each year that it not solved is another day in a veritable debtor's prison. It is so bad that 50% in a recent survey would be willing to give up their most fundamental freedom to be able to lead a normal life.

A survey from Credible, conducted through Pollfish, hits the seriousness of the situation right on the head. It is understandable that young Americans would want a chance in life by having their debt removed. But it was surprising to many what they would be willing to do to be free of those loans. The most popular answer the 500 respondents between the ages of 18 and 34 chose for what they would be desperate enough to sacrifice was "*suffrage*." Yes, half surveyed said they would give up the ability to vote in the next two presidential elections to be able to move their lives forward.

It is not just those who would be set free who feel forgiving student debt is an idea whose time has come. More Americans believe that the US should forgive all federal student debt than feel that the recipients should pay their loans back. The results to many of the survey conducted by MoneyTips.com were shocking. Nearly 42% agreed with the statement, "I believe President Trump's Department of Education should forgive all federal student debt to help the economy."

Less than 37% disagreed, while the remaining 21% neither agreed nor disagreed. Even those who for years were pressuring Congress to do the right thing were taken back. For example, Brandon Yahn, founder

of “studentloanguy.com said: "It is surprising that the majority of the US population supports this measure...Perhaps this student debt burden has spread more across all generations, and popular sentiment is turning the corner as it relates to student debt."

When asked further about the positive impact on the economy and the impact of future student's ability to attend college in the future, most believe that this is a one and done. There should never be another forgiveness. And, so the consensus is that there needs to be a fool-proof solution for new student debt so that new high school aspirants to college do not sign up for debt when they do not need to do so.

There are a number of notions in this book besides wiping out all of the \$1.45 Trillion. This book discusses most if not all of the theories about how this happened and how it can be made to never happen again. Additionally, it discusses a number of student resources and a few tricks that are both honest and long overdue.

Why did Brian W. Kelly write this book?

Brian W. Kelly wrote this book because he cares about college graduates being able to move on with their lives. I am publishing this book because I care. This book identifies the most notable and most serious flaws in student tuition financing. It then solves them by prescribing a number of Kelly-unique solutions to help get the program back on track.

I hope you enjoy this book and I that it inspires you to take the individual actions necessary to help the government of the US stand firm against any attacks on democracy from outside or from within this great country. A great start of course is to stop the government gouging of young Americans, who are plagued with student debt. Instead government should be a helpful tool in solving this deep moral dilemma for our country.

I wish you the best.

Brian P. Kelly, Publisher
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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About the Author



Brian W. Kelly retired as an Assistant Professor in the Business Information Technology (BIT) program at Marywood University, where he also served as the IBM i and Midrange Systems Technical Advisor to the IT Faculty. Kelly designed, developed, and taught many college and professional courses. He continues as a contributing technical editor to a number of IT industry magazines, including "The Four Hundred" and "Four Hundred Guru," published by IT Jungle.

Kelly is a former IBM Senior Systems Engineer and IBM Mid Atlantic Area Specialist. His specialty was designing applications for customers as well as implementing advanced IBM operating systems and software facilities on their machines.

He has an active information technology consultancy. He is the author of 136 books and numerous technical articles. Kelly has been a frequent speaker at COMMON, IBM conferences, and other technical conferences.

Brian was a candidate for US Congress from Pennsylvania in 2010 and he brings a lot of experience to his writing endeavors.

Brian Kelly knows that the student debt crisis can be solved without bankrupting America.

Chapter 1 The Best Student Debt Solution

Congress must have the will to act

There are many solutions for student loan debt at different levels discussed in this book. The first and the best solution is depicted in the title of the book: *Wipe Out All Student Loan Debt Now!* It is clearly the ideal solution from an American point of view and it has economic ramifications that along with the new tax plan can add to a major jump re-starting of the economy. The ideal solution would be to wipe out all of the student debt from all college loans. There are many ways the US can afford this and prosper because of it.

This act alone would free forty-five million debt-ridden former college students, mostly graduates to go ahead and get real lives for themselves. They will be in a position to start a business, buy a home, a new car, and begin a family.

The negative impact of so many student borrowers is clear. Essentially, the US has 45 million Americans, who are putting a big chunk of their monthly income towards their student debts. That means that they aren't spending on other economy-boosting goods or services. This group also has less money to save, invest, or even start a business. The burden is so heavy that over 8 million (and growing) have stopped paying a dime. This phenomenon is called being in default.

Three other Opinions on canceling Student Loan Debt

I am not the only person who thinks it is a good idea to start over again on student loans and wipe what we have off the books as soon as possible. Here are three other opinions as to why it is not only a good idea; it is a great idea and the US can not only afford it; the country will profit from it.

David Muccigrosso, an Armchair Economist, blogging at [//www.quora.com](http://www.quora.com), on Feb 12, 2013 took a shot at answering this important question: *What would be the economic impact of forgiving all US student loan debt?*

At the time this was written in 2013, student loans and debt in the US exceeded credit card debt, at just over \$1 trillion. Now the debt is closer to \$1.45 trillion because there have been no major changes made by colleges and universities to assure new student debtors will be able to pay back their loans. Here is David's piece:

“Around 80% of that is guaranteed by the federal government, with the rest belonging to private lenders.

“Theoretically, winding down all student loan debt would proceed like a national, publicly organized bankruptcy. The federal government would start by forcing lenders to take a "haircut" (significant discount to outstanding principle) on the loans it's guaranteed, and it would allow private loans to be consolidated as federal loans for the purpose of being put through this program as well.

“Winding down \$1 trillion in debt is hard in any circumstance. This will be even harder given the sheer amount of bitching the financial sector already does about the federal government. The program would probably take from \$500 to \$800 billion in total spending (equating to a 50-20% haircut for investors) - roughly the same magnitude as the Bush stimulus package.

“Most banks would not be crippled, but the financial sector would still have a hard time dealing with the hit to their balance sheets...

“The other major problem would be that a program of this magnitude would destroy the student lending market as we know it. Higher education finance would have to be replaced by a spending package on the order of at least \$1 trillion and involving some higher taxes to provide free universal public higher education - the only real option once you've taken debt-financed education off the table. (TBH, I'm actually in favor of a less dramatic version of this whole wind-down and conversion, but this incarnation is just too unworkable)

“On the plus side, those suffering under student loan burdens would have a lot of income freed up. You'd probably see surges in multifamily unit construction (apt buildings), the auto industry, and nightlife/entertainment spending, but the economic activity wouldn't cancel out the huge Wall Street shit fit that would be simultaneously occurring.

Forgive student loan debt to stimulate the economy.

Originally Written – January 29, 2009

By – Robert Applebaum at <http://studentdebtcrisis.org>

Back in 2009, President Obama signed into law a \$787 billion stimulus package on top of Bush's grossly mismanaged \$700 billion TARP bailout from September. That is more than the total student debt of today, \$1.45 trillion.

Shortly thereafter in 2009, the Federal Reserve basically printed an additional \$1,000,000,000,000 to inject more funds into the monetary system, which will undoubtedly have the effect of diminishing the purchasing power of the dollar. Now, we are approaching twice the total of all the student debt. In other words, if we acted then to forgive the debt, it would be all gone, and all paid for.

Since then, the US government has paid out trillions of dollars in bailouts, handouts, loans and giveaways, with no end in sight as our leaders tried to do anything and everything to get our spiraling economy under control. While some of what Washington has already done may act to stimulate the economy, much of the trillions of dollars already spent will, no doubt, have proven to be just money wasted.

Tax rebate checks do not stimulate the economy – history shows that people either spend such rebates on paying off credit card debt, or they simply save them, doing little to nothing to stimulate

the economy. Presumably, that is why they were removed from the final version of the stimulus bill.

The tax cuts that were included, however, amount to a whopping \$44 per month for the rest of 2009, decreasing to an even more staggering \$33 per month in 2010. This is hardly “relief” as it is likely to help nobody.

The Wall Street financial institutions, auto manufacturers, insurance companies and countless other irresponsible actors received TRILLIONS of taxpayer dollars (as demonstrated above, that’s a number with *12* zeros at the end of it) to bail them out of their self-created mess. This, too, did nothing to stimulate the economy. It merely rewarded bad behavior and did nothing to encourage institutional change.

There is a better way.

How many times have we heard from our leaders in Washington that education is the key to solving all of our underlying societal problems? The so-called “Silver Bullet.” For decades, presidents, senators and members of Congress have touted themselves as champions of education, yet they’ve done nothing to actually encourage the pursuit of one on an individual level.

Some of us have taken advantage of Federal Stafford Loans and other programs, including private loans, to finance higher education, presumably with the understanding that an advanced degree equates with higher earning power in the future. Many of us go into public service after attaining such degrees, something that’s also repeatedly proclaimed as something society should encourage.

Yet, the debt we’ve accrued to obtain such degrees have crippled our ability to reap the benefits of our educations, causing many to make the unfortunate choice of leaving public service so as to earn enough money to pay off that debt.

Our economy is still in the tank, though with Trump already we are seeing great signs of relief. There isn't a reasonable economist alive who doesn't believe that the economy has needed a real stimulus for a real long time.

The only debate now centers on how to go about doing it. While the new stimulus plan contains some worthy provisions, very little of it will have a significant and immediate stimulating effect on the economy. The Obama Administration itself in 2009, did not expect to see an upsurge in the economy until mid-to-late 2010.

Instead of funneling billions, if not trillions of additional dollars to banks, financial institutions, insurance companies and other institutions of greed that are responsible for the current economic crisis, why is not a better idea to allow educated, hardworking, middle-class Americans to get something in return? After all, they're our tax dollars too!

Forgiving student loan debt would have an immediate stimulating effect on the economy. With Trump, we are already back to 3.3% GDP growth. Who knows what having 45 million ready to spend, millennials reengaged in the economy will do for the country?

Responsible people who did nothing other than pursue a higher education would have hundreds, if not thousands of extra dollars per month to spend, fueling the economy now.

Those extra dollars being pumped into the economy would have a multiplying effect, unlike many of the provisions of the 2009 era stimulus packages. As a result, tax revenues would go up, the credit markets would unfreeze, and many jobs will be created. Consumer spending accounts for over two thirds of the entire U.S. economy and in 2009, consumer spending has declined at alarming, unprecedented rates. Therefore, it stands to reason that the fastest way to revive our ailing economy is to do something drastic to get consumers to spend.

This proposal would quickly revitalize the housing market, the ailing automobile industry, travel and tourism, durable goods and countless other sectors of the economy because the very people

who sustain those sectors will automatically have hundreds or, in some cases, thousands of extra dollars per month to spend.

The driving factor in today's economy is fear. Unless and until the middle class feels comfortable enough that they'll have their jobs, health insurance and extra money to spend not only next month, but the month after that, etc., the economy will not, indeed, cannot grow fast enough to stop the hemorrhaging.

Let me be clear. This is not about a free ride. This is about a new approach to economic stimulus, nothing more. To those who would argue that this proposal would cause the banking system to collapse or make student loans unavailable to future borrowers, please allow me to respond. I am in no way suggesting that the lending institutions who carry such debts on their balance sheets get legislatively shafted by having them wiped from their books.

The banks and other financial institutions have already gotten their money regardless because, in addition to the \$700 TARP bailout, even more bailout money came their way. This proposal merely suggests that in return for the Trillions of dollars that has been and will continue to be handed over to the banks, educated, hardworking Americans who are saddled with student loan debt should get some relief as well, rather than sending those institutions another enormous blank check.

Because the banks are being handed trillions of dollars anyway, there would be no danger of making funds unavailable to future borrowers.

To avoid the moral hazard that this plan could potentially create, going forward, the way higher education in this country is financed **MUST** be reformed. Requiring students to amass enormous debt just to receive an education is an untenable approach, as demonstrated by the ever-growing student loan default rates.

Having a loan-based system rather than one based on grants and scholarships or, ideally, public funding, has, over time, begun to have the unintended consequence of discouraging people from

seeking higher education at all. That is no way for America to reclaim the mantle of the land of opportunity.

A well-educated workforce benefits society as a whole, not just the students who receive a higher education. It is often said that an undergraduate degree today is the equivalent of a high school diploma 30 or 40 years ago. Accepting the premise as true that society does, in fact, place the same value on an undergraduate degree today as it did on a HS diploma 30 or 40 years ago, then what is the rationale for cutting off public funding of education after the 12th grade?

It seems to me that there is some dissonance in our values that needs to be reconciled. That, however, cannot come to pass until the millions of us already shackled with student loan debt are freed from the enormous economic burdens we're presently carrying.

Many of the vocal nay-sayers to this proposal seem intent on ignoring the fact that Washington will continue to spend trillions of dollars, likely in the form of handing blank checks over to more and more banks, as a way of getting the economy under control. Normative assessments of how things should be, are fine, but they don't reflect reality.

Accepting the premise that Washington will spend Trillions of dollars in unprecedented ways (a good portion of which will just be trial and error, since we're in uncharted waters), what is the argument against directly helping middle class people who are struggling, rather than focusing solely on the banks and other financial institutions responsible for the crisis to begin with?

Further accepting that there is an aggregate amount of outstanding student loan debt totaling approximately \$550 Billion, (that's Billion with a B, not a T), [even more in 2017] one is forced to ask again, what is the objection to helping real people with real hardships when all we're talking about is a relative drop in the bucket as compared with what will be spent to dig us out of this hole?

In a perfect world, I share these biases towards personal responsibility and having people pay back what they owe and

making good on the commitments they've made. But we don't live in a perfect world and the global economy, not just the U.S. economy, is in a downward spiral, the likes of which nobody truly knows how to fix.

This proposal will immediately free up money for hardworking, educated Americans, giving them more money in their pockets every month, addressing the very real psychological aspects of the recession as much as the financial ones. Is it the only answer? No, of course not. But could it help millions of hardworking people who struggle every month to get by? Absolutely.

Given the economic climate inherited from the Obama years, as well as the plans to spend trillions of additional dollars that have been in the works, one must wonder what is so objectionable about giving a real helping hand to real people with real struggles.

In 2009, the then new Obama Administration was supposed to be about change. Yet, nothing in the economic stimulus package represented a significant departure from the way Washington has always operated – it's merely a different set of priorities on a higher scale, but it's certainly not materially different from any other economic stimulus package passed during the past few decades.

Washington cannot simply print and borrow money to get us out of this crisis. We the People, however, can get this economy moving NOW. All we need is relief from debt that was accrued under the now-false promise that higher education equates with higher earnings.

Free us of our obligations to repay our out-of-control student loan debt and we, the hardworking, middle-class Americans who drive this economy will spend those extra dollars now.

If you believe that there's a better way of climbing out of this economic crisis, one that empowers us to directly spend money, start businesses, free up credit and create jobs, then please join this group and encourage others to do so as well.

There's strength in numbers – the more people to join this group, the louder our voices and the greater the chances of being heard by President Obama and Congress.

Support real change we can believe in!

More Americans Want to Forgive Trillion-Dollar Student Loan Debt Than Want It Repaid

MoneyTips <http://www.ajc.com>

4:00 p.m. Friday, July 21, 2017 Business and Money news

More Americans believe that we should forgive all federal student debt than feel that the recipients should pay their loans back. In a shocking survey recently conducted by MoneyTips.com, nearly 42% agreed with the statement, I believe President Trump's Department of Education should forgive all federal student debt to help the economy. Less than 37% disagreed, while the remaining 21% neither agreed nor disagreed.

"It is surprising that the majority of the US population supports this measure," says Brandon Yahn, Founder of studentloansguy.com. "Perhaps this student debt burden has spread more across all generations, and popular sentiment is turning the corner as it relates to student debt."

...

While income wasn't a factor, gender seemed to affect people's feelings on this subject, with more women favoring forgiveness over men. 47% of the women agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, while less than 36% of the men felt the same way.

...

Reasoned millennial money expert Stefanie O'Connell, "Women are now more likely than men to get a college degree, which may explain why they would favor student loan forgiveness at higher

rates. They're also likely to experience career interruptions due to childbearing and caretaking, which can impede their lifetime earning potential and, consequently, their ability to pay back their loans.

Finally, many of the lucrative jobs that don't require a college degree tend to be in male-dominated fields - carpentry, electrical, etc. - which might explain why more women favor loan forgiveness."

...

Says Student Loan Hero, expert Miranda Marquit, "Many millennials, who thought they were doing the right thing, took on student loan debt only to graduate to an economy where jobs have been scarce, and wages have been mostly stagnant for decades. Gone are the days when you could work for the summer and pay for the following school year.

As a society, we sold a dream and failed to deliver. You can make payments on your loans for decades and barely make headway." Adds Marquit,

"As a result, these millennials are unable to help the economy in other ways. Research indicates they are putting off financial milestones that come with economy-building benefits.

"All the consumption that comes with things like buying homes and starting families is being lost because the largest generation yet doesn't have money to spare. Student loan forgiveness would go a long way toward helping millennials feel stable enough to take the next steps in their financial lives, as well as even starting businesses."

Chapter 2 No Problem Is Without a Solution

The government is not your friend

Despite self-serving governmental, political, and academic apologists suggesting that there is no real student debt crisis, just ask a recent millennial graduate when they hope to start a family. You better have a lot of time. We keep hearing about a student debt crisis. Yet, politicians continue to argue that there is no student debt crisis though everybody else knows that there is. Perhaps the definition of a crisis can tell us--*a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger*.

The fact is that recent students with major loans are having trouble paying them back. The fact is that they have put off major life plans until their personal crisis improves to manageable.

Is the country in crisis? Whether the country is in crisis or not, taxpayers are now on the hook for about \$1.45 trillion outstanding in student debt. That makes student debt substantially larger even than credit card debt. Moreover, it's not looking like it's going to get any better in the future. The graduating class of 2017 owed an average of over \$37,000, up from less than \$30,000 in 2014.

The real problem is many problems

The people that say there is not a student debt crisis suggest that most people will repay their debts though it may take them 10 to 20 years to do it. The real problem, these people believe is the expanding default rate on student loans. Just a couple years ago, the defaulters were at 7 million. Now 8 million no longer pay a dime back.

Your friendly US Department of Education produced a report recently that noted the two-year cohort default rate on student loans increased from 9.1% for FY 2010 to 10% for FY 2011 In 2017, the default rate has already climbed to 11.2% and the average monthly out of pocket student loan payment for a borrower aged 20 to 30 years is \$351. That is a good part of a mortgage payment or a nice payment on a family car.

It cannot be argued that more student debtors are falling behind on their federal student loans. The share of Americans at least 31 days late on loans from the U.S. Department of Education ticked up to 18.8 percent as of June 30, up from 18.6 percent the same time last year.

The total in US student loan debt has climbed to \$1.45 trillion and as of right now, about 45 million Americans have some student loan debt.

Most experts say the program is operating in crisis mode.

Who's to blame?

The easiest people to blame for these problems are, of course, the students. After all they are the ones who took out the loans. However, like your dad and my dad would say, "What do they know?" That's actually the problem.

For some reason, which I admit has little merit, we here in the US have decided that the norm for every child born in America is to have a college education. Consequently, I would suspect we have the worst electricians, plumbers, and auto mechanics in the world as we basically shut down the technical aspects once taught in high school.

From what I have observed, the richest guys in many towns today run the plumbing businesses, electrical businesses, and of course body shops and vehicle repair shops. My cousin Frank, who is a great guy by the way, made his millions in New Jersey by being the one body shop in his home town. Now, he makes a few bucks in a different way. He bought about 300 acres in a PA county town that is producing fracking oil in a big way.

Guys like cousin Frank are tickled that many of their future competitors opt to get college degrees. It follows that when they have to pay off the loans for those degrees, they will not have the cash to build a new garage in town to compete against cousin Frank. That may help Frank, but it does not help America.

The supposed plusses of having to have a degree, for years has convinced the vast majority of US high schools to dedicate their efforts to getting their students prepared for a college education. With so many in America possessing four-year degrees today, the sheepskin is often worth little more than the cost of the ink and the parchment.

Think about the gal or guy who sat next to you in a number of high school classes. Were they college material? When everybody, regardless of smarts became college material, colleges figured out how to bolster their income by admitting them on probations that could continue for four years.

So, there are many students who put in their four years without being fully admitted and are then kicked out without a degree when it is obvious that they had taken enough courses to prove that they never should have gone to college. Now, these poor souls cannot find enough money to start a landscaping business, so they get a job flipping hamburgers trying to come up with \$350 a month to pay off their four-year student loan. Is that a crisis? It sure is.

Somebody in a university and some coffee-breath faculty student advisor who knows colleges are in it for the money, helped convince Johnny or Janie that they could make it whether they should have a degree or not. Consequently, forty-six percent of those that start college dropout before graduating. As hard as it is to believe, one of the major reasons for this is undoubtedly the fact that many should

never have been admitted to any self-respecting college in the first place.

But, we may forget sometimes that colleges are a business also and businesses must survive by having customers who can pay their bills. How wonderful for these institutions with no hearts, that Johnny and Janie equally were able to get a guaranteed student loan so that College A could be assured of receiving their full tuition even if neither had a chance for success.

Another part of the problem is that most seventeen and eighteen-year old's have mush brains and they use valedictorians as models when they are trying to eke out a C in Gym class. Yes, all valedictorians will graduate from college unless they rig the game against themselves. But, most high school students sporting a C average ought to try to find a job as a beautician if they have dexterity, or a barber, or an auto mechanic. If they can get into plumbing or become electrical apprentices, their lives are set.

In Northeastern PA, if the McDonalds and Burger King guys get their \$15.00 hourly wage, then the fully degreed sociology majors who are out working in kindness industries, will be able to up their salaries by about \$10,000 and they can take over the jobs these non-degreed personnel have. Not only can these college grads flip the burgers better in most cases, they can also handle the cash register.

Additionally, management may find a great brain among them and bring them in to a corporate program. So, why the degree and why the student loan for sociology or psychology if you are not headed for a PhD or an MD.

High school 17 and 18-year-old seniors, though they “know everything,” are simply not prepared to choose the right college majors. But, since they have “I know everything,” cards printed by their buddies in Print Shop or elsewhere to present to anybody offering counsel, it is tough to talk them out of a career in rocket science.

Sociology is the most altruistic major as the graduate gives to others all her life and she makes little more than the horse groomer at the end of town, who never spent a dime to get a degree. Nonetheless, there are other degrees similar to sociology that millennials are encouraged to

pursue. For example, many choose majors that align with their passions such as film and video arts, pre-school education, psychology, anthropology, archaeology, fine arts and music. It's great work if you can get it.

Like sociology, the pursuit of knowledge in these majors might be fun and rewarding but they rarely lead to well-paying careers. For that matter, many of the young people who choose these types of careers won't even be able to find jobs. In fact, as of March 2012, 60% of college graduates were unable to find work in their fields of study.

I have seen statistics that suggest that about 80% of college graduates have no choice but to return to the roost and let mom and dad continue paying their big bills in life. No wonder the Democrats think we need illegal aliens to do the jobs in America that Americans never trained themselves to do well.

Colleges and universities are big culprits in the student loan crisis

It is an understatement to suggest that colleges and universities are at least partially to blame for the student debt problem, especially the for-profit schools. Whether they admit it or not, all colleges and universities other than the finest of the well-endowed, are in a competitive business.

Please permit me to tell you a secret that is not such a secret in the boardrooms of our country's most successful universities. It is as clear as day when you follow the prospects of students who matriculate after much consideration. They contemplate whether they should be greeting card designers or plumbers or college graduates.

While they are in such deep thought, a great number of them are enticed by local counselors with affinities to certain colleges or by various program counsellors in universities that need students to enroll to assure revenue. To get the revenue, the counsellors present loans packages that the prospective students cannot ever afford even with a degree in the art of leisure. That is the first reason why there are so many loan defaults.

Traditional 50 and 100 year old colleges and/or universities that would be classified as non-profit endowment based institutions, are

more likely to tell the truth to a high-school flunky, who thinks he should go to college. The flunky wants to go to college often because the girlfriend is going to the same college. Many otherwise bad future marriages would be on the verge of collapse today if the admirer was not already rejected by the institution for lack of cranial substance.

Not all traditional non-profit colleges are so appropriate as to actually deny admittance to a poor scholar. *For-profit* colleges and universities are the worst at grubbing for money from the young chump who wants to be a college graduate because his girlfriend is smart enough to be one.

Under the covers, *For-profits'* admissions departments are run as marketing departments. Marketing to students nobody else wants is their mission. The loan amount and the loan default rates are the highest at these institutions of higher-priced learning. When they default, American taxpayers are again left holding the debt bag, even though the institution is private.

As an example, students that borrow similar amounts to pay for their schooling end up defaulting at a much higher rate at for-profit institutions. In fact, 26% of for-profit students that took out loans between \$5000 in \$10,000 ended up defaulting versus the 10% of students at community colleges that defaulted and the 7% at four-year traditional schools.

Private schools are not immune to this either. They, too, must compete for students. The more aid they can offer prospective students, the more they will attract. This puts pressure on them to accept "marginal" students and for their financial aid offices to promote federal student loans as a way to pay for their educations.

Yet, I have not seen any academic institution in any of the categories from traditional to for-profit ever suggest that the huge assets of the major academies and the lesser capabilities of the lesser endowed, should join together to help the poor students, who tried in their institutions but failed, to be rescued in any way. All of their profits are their profits and they choose to use no profits to help their failed products, their graduates, get through the loan costs needed to have little chance in life.

Maybe we should remind Academia that they are not supposed to be profit making snobs. Their mission is the education of young adults.

The federal government

As hard as it is to believe for those of us that think the federal government can do no wrong, the hoity toity constabulary running all the important agencies in Washington DC have had no problem in ripping-off millennials who managed to get their degrees. They again have had no problem bamboozling those who have put in a lot of years, taken a lot of subsidies, and still have not graduated. And, of course, the piece de resistance is that many of the products of these institutions have yet to get their first job.

It is even more clear that the federal government itself has played a major part in creating the student debt crisis. The government in Washington likes to wash itself clean of any wrong-doing but as a modern-day comedienne would say quite astutely: They're Bad, Bad, Bad!

The *don't be a plumber mentality* has not only helped fuel the idea that everyone should have a college education, it has also made it very easy to get student loans. The socialistic government of the Obama years especially encouraged every high school senior, via their guidance counselors, to fill out and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This assured colleges got paid for attendance regardless of the quality of the student.

The form they fill out not only goes to the Department of Education (Ed), it goes to every school for which a student has applied. The process then becomes automatic as nobody should be denied an opportunity to fail in college.

Sometime in late spring each student receives a notice of the federal financial aid they will receive based on their family's financial situation. In most cases a large part of this aid will be in the form of federal student loans, which the average family will have a very difficult time not taking. It looks like free money when it is not due for four years hence.

It cost nothing for Joey to go to college. But, when Joey graduates the debt machine begins asking to be paid. If Joey does not finish college, the debt machine comes after Joey and his family even harder because they know unless Joey gets a job, nobody will be paying back their loan.

Some say that not even a Chapter 7 bankruptcy can help if you have no money

Suppose, independent of your college life, you were reckless, and you ran up \$40,000 in credit card and medical debts. The government of the US permits you to be able to get them discharged through a method called Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

Why is this? Nobody's perfect and many Americans mess up and find themselves being enticed to engage in debts which they can never repay. Often the seller of the good or service is part of the perpetration. After a while, when an individual realizes he or she cannot get out of the hole they dug for themselves, the government offers them relief.

This type of bankruptcy is known as personal bankruptcy. It is a last resort for people who are so far under, they would be candidates for the poorhouse if there was one that would take them. There is another form of bankruptcy called Chapter 13. Both Chapter 7 & Chapter 13 personal bankruptcy can eliminate overwhelming debt. With Chapter 13, you are put on a payment program so all debt will be paid for in three to five years. With Chapter 7, depending on the finding, you may find all debts discharged.

Debts may include credit card debt, bank loans, medical bills, most court judgments, and deficiencies on repossessed vehicles. Bankruptcy is not free as there is almost always a competent lawyer involved who wants to be paid. The lawyer has to figure out whether to take on a client and he or she must assure the firm can get paid. Not all lawyers will take on all cases. You will have to pay the law firm up front.

Using Chapter 7 bankruptcy, a debtor will almost always have to pay all attorney fees before your case is filed. In many cases, a friend or relative makes that payment. With Chapter 13, a large percentage is

paid up front and the law firm gets paid the rest over three to five years as payments are made to all creditors.

As one might expect, an individual debtor is subjected to major harassment by debt collectors and even garnishment of wages. Those former students who are living paycheck to paycheck and have defaulted on some of their student loans are typically greeted every day with ten or more phone calls from the crack of dawn until the end of the day.

Stop Harassment / Garnishment

It is nice for an individual debtor to receive some relief from such a major disruption in their lives. For example, by law, most actions against a debtor must cease once a Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 personal bankruptcy has been filed. Creditors cannot initiate or continue lawsuits, wage garnishments, or even telephone calls demanding payments.

Keep Assets / Rebuild Credit

Debtors may be able to keep their cars, primary residence, and certain other personal belongings when filing for Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 personal bankruptcy. In Chapter 7, non-essential personal items are sold to help pay for the creditors losses.

Personal bankruptcy law firms are needed because they have the skills to help debtors retain their assets and show you what steps they must take following the bankruptcy so that the debtor can quickly get back on their feet. They also help in rebuilding the debtor's credit immediately after the bankruptcy is resolved.

There is nothing that prevents a debtor, once free of poor-house level debt, to choose to voluntarily pay back creditors without the burden of harassment or garnishment.

Why did the Congress feel it necessary to write bankruptcy legislation? Debtors who are unable to pay their debts do not pay their debts. That

is a fact. They may never get credit for anything in their lives again but there is no fallacious debtor's prison where they are kept until debt is repaid.

Nearly two centuries ago, the United States formally abolished the incarceration of people who failed to pay off debts. Bankruptcy laws actually help creditors collect when the individual has non-essential assets. However, regarding debtors, the clear purpose of Chapter 7 bankruptcy is to discharge certain debts to give an honest individual debtor a "fresh start." The debtor has no liability for discharged debts.

This form of bankruptcy can get almost all unsecured debts discharged except for alimony, spousal support, child support and... **student loan debts**. As tough as Congress is on student loans, they are easy on everyone else as debtors Only kids with the intelligence or experience to say no to college can go through bankruptcy.

Our Congress rewrote the law several years ago making student debts "bankruptcy proof." In other words, if instead of gambling on a credit card, you gambled on the value of a college education, and you lost, you cannot declare bankruptcy. *Thank You Congress*. Thank you to the hip pockets of loan shark lobbyists for giving Congress a place to live.

This means that If you have \$50,000 in student loan debts, you have only two choices – to default on the loans or to repay them. It is not a good thing to default on federal student loans. Our Congress has decided former students and their parents can be bullied legally by loan debt collectors who have been given powers by our representatives that conventional debt collectors can only envy.

Yes, our kids are under the power of low-life loan sharks operating under respectable names. These bad actors got all their power by our congressional representatives. These bad guys can garnish our kids' wages without going to court. They can seize their income tax refunds and even their parents if the loan was co-signed. They can even seize part of their federal benefits such as cash welfare payments even though the cash is just enough to live.

They can also blackball them in life, so they cannot ever gain eligibility for new loans or grants. These bad actors without going to court can also put liens on their property and bank accounts.

For parents or grandparents who decided to help out Johnnie or Janie get an education, by securing a college loan, they are on the hook for life and so is their social security income. What Congress would provide a way out for credit card cheats and treats millennial college graduates like they are con artists? In my opinion, it is a Congress that should be replaced immediately

What could help? Sometimes debt negotiation works. Though there is no Chapter 7 bankruptcy relief thanks to Congress, debtors or their parents / grandparents who are on the hook for payment can seek the equivalent of a chapter 13 bankruptcy. In this type of bankruptcy, reorganization is the theme. The objective is to give the debtor time to reorganize finances and pay off debtors. Most lawyers simply tell student debt clients there is no bankruptcy relief because it is so hard to get.

The federal government's equivalent to Chapter 13 has to do with loan-modification plans. For example, one of these programs is called Pay as You Earn. Of the 45 million debtors, however, President Obama's executive order made only 1.4 million borrowers eligible.

This plan permits financially stressed student debtors to cap monthly payments at just 10% of their discretionary income and it gives them as many as 20 years to repay their loans. Unfortunately, the government is quick to turn debt over to the debt collectors, who make their money by harassing Americans.

Let me ask all Americans if this type of repayment is good for students, why would it not also be used for credit card repayments, medical bills, and the like? Can it be that too many voters would be involved?

Here is what happens when unscrupulous debt collectors and sometimes the loan servicers themselves decide to use their power against Americans.

In its #issues 2012 of American Voices, in a piece by Maureen Tkacik of Reuters titled: *The student loan crisis that can't be gotten rid of*, from August 15, 2012. In this snippet, piece, you get to see three situations where there was a clear abuse of power by the thug student loan collection industry.

“A military veteran sharing his story with Occupy Student Debt has paid \$18,000 on a \$2,500 loan, and Sallie Mae claims he still owes \$5,000; the husband of a social worker bankrupt and bedridden after a botched surgery tells Student Loan Justice of a \$13,000 college loan balance from the 1980s that ballooned to \$70,000. A grandmother subsisting on Social Security has her payments garnished to pay off a \$20,000 loan balance resulting from a \$3,500 loan she took out 10 years ago, before she underwent brain surgery.” How is this fair? Is this what Congress actually wants?

Ms. Tkacik strengthens her case for some compassion by Congress below:

“You have probably mentally cataloged the student loan crisis alongside all the other looming trillion-dollar crises busy imperiling civilization but also enrich the already rich.”

“But it is different from those crises in a few significant ways, starting with the fact that the entire loan business is arguably unconstitutional. You don't have to take it from me: A pre-eminent bankruptcy scholar made precisely this argument under oath before Congress.”

“In December 1975, when Congress was debating the first law that made student loans non-dischargeable in bankruptcy, University of Connecticut law professor Philip Shuchman testified that students: ‘should not be singled out for special and discriminatory treatment. I have the further very literal feeling that this is almost a denial of their right to equal protection of the laws ... Nor do I think has any evidence been presented that these people, these young people just beginning their years on the whole should be singled out for special and as I view it discriminatory treatment. I suggest to you that this may at least in spirit be a denial of their right to equal protection with the virtual pole star of our constitutional ambit.’ ”

Chapter 3 Is the Student Loan Game Rigged?

Do Colleges and Universities have an unfair advantage?

You bet they do!

It costs Academic Institutions nothing when students come out sacked with a lifetime of debt after four to six years with no jobs. Donald Trump can recognize a rigged game better than any man in America. He can sniff them out and call them out and /or play against them and still win. He thinks the student loan game is rigged against students and it favors the universities and the government disguised as loan sharks.

Trump does not like that the game is rigged, and he has promised to fix it. The President believes that Universities must have some skin in the game for any long-term solutions to be built.

Many people are affected by the crisis and, so it is a topic at the dinner table in many homes—especially in those homes in which the student loan invoices are beginning to arrive from junior's or missy's four or five year past sojourn into campus life.

When people in the US discuss the student debt crisis, most focus on how it affects them personally. If they are not directly affected, they discuss the rapid growth in outstanding debt and its impact on the economy and the country.

They may also discuss some of the recent milestones, which are not very positive. For example, student loan debt exceeded credit card debt in 2010 and it exceeded auto loan debt in 2011. It is rapidly rising, and

it passed the \$1 trillion mark in 2012. It is currently at about \$1.45 trillion and growing.

It is a big problem. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that More than 40% of student loan borrowers are either in default, delinquency or have postponed repaying their student loans. It is a crisis and having the federal government making over \$45 billion off the backs of student borrowers in excessive interest payments does nothing to help matters.

With about 40% of students defaulting on their loan paybacks—mostly because the payments are so large, is a problem for all America. It is also a big disgrace for a country that does not want to be labeled as "Third World."

These milestones don't tell us much about the impact of all that debt on the students themselves. Seventeen and Eighteen-year-olds are making lifetime decisions even today with little counselling other than "Don't Worry! Be Happy!"

These naïve high school seniors were originally told by a friendly College Financial Aid Officer that everybody borrows, and it is a privilege to be able to attend this college with the help of the university's loan package.

Does that sound familiar. If Joe's Hot Car Lot was scamming young adults at the same rate as academia, the Justice Department would shut them down. At least Joe's Hot Cars can make it around the block. What about the kids with \$50,000 in debt, no degree, and no job?

Sometimes as learned by default interviews, there was never an up-front discussion of the loan impact when it came time to repay it. As hard as it is to believe, the loans came so easy that 53% of the students when graduating, did not even know there was a payback. And we all know what payback is!

70% of all college students have borrowed and many who are already enrolled still have more to borrow before they finish their degrees and then have to pay for their college education. It is a national travesty.

America and Americans have been told by Team Obama that we are not exceptional. The way government treats the best and the brightest, who owe huge amounts of school debt, is proof that this past president and his administration were not kidding.

Meanwhile, the past president put the government in charge of huge chunks of the student loan industry. Team Obama picked up over 40 \$billion a year in profits by scobbing students with high government interest rates.

No matter how immune you get to hearing about government \$billions here and there, remember that a \$billion is an extremely large amount of money. Even a \$million is quite large. A \$million is so big it gives more meaning to the word billion. It is 1000 million. Would you not like to have a \$million right now?

Obama's government made the debt problem even worse for student loan debtors by taking more interest dollars than needed to sustain the program. Uncle Sam is on track to make \$66 billion in profits after Uncle Obama took over the student loan program six years ago. That's why Donald Trump wants to turn the program back over to private enterprise at competitive rates.

With inflation, a college degree isn't worth much anymore. Everybody has one and the ones who should not have been admitted in the first place, are jobless and in debt up to their ears. Often, they are marginal students and they have two to six more courses to go when they drop out.

Some suggest, and I agree that certain college majors ought not ever be granted loans. Professionals with sociology and philosophy majors are not in demand. Do you know anybody who is employed as a philosopher?

Today, many students opt to continue after graduation to pursue a Master's degree. Universities, knowing the depleted value of their undergraduate degrees suggest that students take out more loans and get a Master's Degree. which may give them a better shot at a job or a promotion--maybe.

After five years or so, experience counts the most. IBM paid for my MBA, but it did not help me one way or another in my career. However, it did give me the minimum credentials to teach as a professor in a college, which I did for over thirty years part time, adjunct, and “full-time.”

I know from my own family that students with graduate degrees have substantially higher debt. Law School graduates owe about \$200,000 and MD Degrees owe as much as \$500,000. If most undergraduate students were getting high paying jobs as in the past, the problem would not be as severe as they would be able to pay back their loans.

Bartenders, Waiters, and Short Order Cooks have a tough time handling the new government approved repayment rates for their undergraduate debt. Ironically, a college education is one of the few things in life that’s value is going down, while its price is going up.

More and more parents are advising their less than valedictorian-level children to think about a trade or a less-skilled job, before committing a zillion dollars to a debt they may not be able to pay back.

Why is student debt increasing? Government under Democrat control with grants and support for postsecondary education has simply chosen not kept pace with increases in college costs. Democrats have sold out American-born College students to gain the favor of the coffee-breath liberal professors in the universities. In many ways professors talk students out of being productive members of society. Look what is happening at once prestigious universities across the country.

Government money, AKA Santa Claus, has been diverted to welfare programs and other schemes that give Democrats advantages. The one-time party of the people has forgotten completely about Americans, who are now saddled with huge debt repayment plans while foreign students who overstay their visas are getting their jobs by accepting lower wages.

Colleges are oblivious as nothing has hurt them. They make a ton of money while students and graduates scrounge for alms. This is their renaissance period as we find them going about like their product has no issues. They keep building new theatres, art museums, student

centers and all kinds of amenities to attract students to make their campuses more beautiful to the eye. But, their graduates, who had one heck of a good time using all the amenities for four years, now are stuck paying the bill without a job.

Colleges and Universities need money to build, and heat these edifices to their success. So, the increasing burden of tuition financing has shifted paying for college from the federal and state governments to families using student loans as the preferred vehicle.

Meanwhile the colleges and universities are not investing in helping produce graduates capable of getting and holding jobs. Instead, the contest to become the college with the finest amenities, has pushed tuition charges through the roof.

Since grants and gifts and scholarships simply are not there anymore thanks to the Democrats in Congress, various types of loans in the "package" have become the primary vehicle today for high school students to make the jump to college.

Bankers would be fools to finance a home or an expensive car for a high school senior, who never had a loan in his life. Yet, colleges and universities are encouraged by loan sharks to provide \$100,000 or more in loans to seventeen-year-olds or eighteen-year olds with no questions asked. As a professor with more than thirty years' experience, I witnessed it myself.

I know that many think that forty is the new fifty and thirty is the new twenty. Well in my observations as a professor, eighteen is the new fourteen. I was seventeen when I began college, but I know my maturity level was far more advanced than the bulk of millennials I find as students in colleges today. I graduated at 21 years of age and three weeks later I was working for IBM as a systems engineer calling on IBM computer system clients.

Tuition at King's College at the time was \$450.00 per semester. Today's students take a lot more risk than I such as \$16,000 per semester instead of \$450.00 to be able to bask in all those great amenities. An amenity when I went to school was a desk and a classroom in which the heat worked.

Have we not been asking too much of the 44 million student borrowers who received their loans when they were “fourteen-year-olds?” Are we surprised that for the most part, they cannot handle repayment after graduation?

When I got my “package” from King’s College, it included a \$400 King’s scholarship, a \$500 in National Defense Student Loans. I also received a work study job at King’s at \$1.25 per hour to handle the other \$50.00 for the year.

I got my degree on schedule four years later. In my second year, Pennsylvania began to give state scholarships. Tuition went up a bit and I received a State Scholarship to help cover books and incidentals.

The government no longer carries its fair share of college expenses for students, even though it gets a big increase in income tax revenue from college graduates, who are fortunate enough to get degrees and then get jobs.

Repayment begins soon after graduation

Ironically, when the first loan bill comes to the home address; first the parents, then the students are shocked that they owe so much money. Yet, each year, they signed for the new loans.

Worse than that, they become convinced at the wording of the invoice that they must pay it back. Somehow, until the risk of the student withdrawing from the institution is long past, nobody from the university finds it necessary to talk about the real cost of those loans.

In the eight years of the Obama economy and even for several years before, while “W” had a majority Democratic Congress, American family income has been flat. Many jobs were taken by illegal aliens. There was never a lot of extra anything to pay for “frills” such as education.

Therefore, moms and dads permitted their children to become college students by borrowing more to pay for college or enrolling in lower-cost colleges. So that Joey and Janey would not have to forego a

dream life, mom and dad helped as much as possible but it was so easy for anybody to get a college loan, over 45 million have them today. Even smart students would ask for a little extra spending cash with the loans, so they could go to school with a little stipend and not have to work at the same time.

Jaws dropped as the tuition, the fees, and all the fun paid for by the stipend had to be paid back after graduation.

I ask myself “Why have Democrats in Congress, who theoretically love all people, not solved this lingering problem of student debt? Think about it.

If numbers could speak, what would they be saying?

In a recent policy paper that I read, student loan debt was defined as affordable if [Big IF] half of the after-tax increase in income that a student gains from obtaining a college degree is sufficient to repay that student’s loans in 10 years or less. Nice try.

What if the student cannot get a job that uses his or her degree no matter what the student does? What if the student becomes a local bartender for 20 hours per week? Before we fall off the face of the earth on that notion, let’s look at what the numbers might say.

Suppose the average starting salary for a bachelor’s degree recipient in the humanities discipline is about \$45,000 as noted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers. That figure compares with about \$30,000 in average income for high-school graduates—or a \$15,000 difference.

After considering taxes, the net increase for attending college and taking all the risks is about \$9,000. Half of that (\$4,500) is about 10% of gross income and would be enough to repay roughly \$35,000 in student loans over a 10-year repayment term. This works if the policy paper thesis is operative. It is consistent with the rule of thumb that says total student loan debt at graduation should be less than the borrower’s annual starting salary.

If we accept this as a definition of affordable debt, we can analyze the data from the Baccalaureate & Beyond Longitudinal Study and we would find that the percentage of bachelor's degree recipients graduating with excessive debt grew from 9.8% in 1993-94 to 14.4% in 2007-08. Let's say the percentage has continued to grow at the same rate to today. This would suggest that 16.7% of college graduates are now graduating with excessive debt. But, it sure seems like the real percentage is a lot higher—at least according to the default rate.

Why? Part of the reason is that even this percentage underestimates the bigger problem. It includes all students who graduate with a bachelor's degree—even those without any debt at all. Suppose we were to look only at students who borrowed to attend college. It appears that more than a quarter (27.2%) of them would be and in fact are graduating with excessive debt. Some statistics show the number at closer to 30%

Can an indebted student ever get back their life?

If President Obama wanted to, I believe he could have solved this problem in eight years. He could have had Team Obama analyze and fix the student debt problem rather than have it dumped on President Trump's shoulders.

Even in his trusted Cabinet and his trusty Czars, there were no MBA's. There was nobody who knew anything about capitalism and how it really works. These pompous Cretans looked down on capitalism and those trying to eke out a living in business.

They innately knew that they had all the knowledge necessary as the great elites from the SWAMP always seem to have. Nonetheless the problem is unsolved and nobody from the prior regime is talking about a great report by an expert brought in to solve the problem. There were no experts called in to help.

Looking at the reports so far in this book, you would soon find that students who graduate with excessive debt are about 10% more likely

to say that it caused delays in their major life events, such as buying a home, getting married, or having children.

They are also about 20% more likely to say that their debt influenced their employment plans, causing them to take a job outside their field, to work more than they desired, or to work more than one job.

Perhaps not surprisingly, they are also more likely to say that their undergraduate education was not worth the financial cost. It is a truth that American families have yet to digest. What do universities say about that?

Nobody in the biased, corrupt press is interviewing university presidents on that subject. Why? Because the press is corrupt. But, you already knew that. The Press, the progressives, and the coffee-breath professors and administrators in our colleges and universities are in cahoots. Nobody in this politically correct world would dare utter a negative word about colleges and universities.

Unfortunately, there are no similar studies that can be used to analyze excessive debt for other college degrees, such as associate degrees, certificates, and graduate or professional-school degrees. It is also not possible to evaluate the financial impact of student loan debt on students who drop out of college, even though they are four times more likely to default on their loans.

There is little financial redemption for a college dropout. Maybe that is why we find them as continual lottery players or among those restricted from casinos. Looking for their big break without having a job is a depressing, losing proposition.

What Can Be Done?

Increasing national awareness of college spending is the first step in exercising restraint. Parents understanding that colleges and universities in cahoots with loan sharks with respectable names is a big start. Being brave enough to call Congress out is part of the solution. Replacing Congress is the best option as they choose often to not hear their constituents.

It is extremely imperative that the federal government and the colleges and universities begin tracking the percentage of their students who are graduating with excessive debt each year. This information can then be used to improve student loan counseling if there actually is such a thing today in universities that want to be the most successful in marketing their schools.

Colleges must also be given better tools to limit student borrowing. Unfortunately, reality says that without federal or state insistence, these revered institutions of higher learning might choose not to use the tools designed to help students. There is the risk that a student or many students would be discouraged from enrolling and registrations would decrease.

If colleges and universities were overly willing to help students not be saddled with a huge debt with no degree or no chance of a job, what would make up for their decreased own financial opportunities? Not being able to exploit student borrowers into signing up for their huge tuition packages may be a non-starter for colleges and universities.

Colleges and universities house the smartest of the smart in the form of coffee-breath professors and those coffee-breath professors who have been promoted into the administration while still keeping their tenure rank. They have been aware of the problem for a long time but the gains from extra tuition from unqualified students have been more important than the risk of being discovered as profit opportunists.

In other words, until this point as the public is beginning to hold their feet to the fire, they have checked all of their altruistic feelings at the door. One would conclude that if the college could collect one more enrollment, a little truth bending would not be considered excessive force.

If life were fair for example, college financial aid administrators would be permitted and in fact incented to reduce federal loan limits based on the student's enrollment status and academic major.

Today, in an unfair world for students, they choose not to look at the student's prospects for success, because they may not get the acceptance and registration rate they desire. They are not evaluated as

altruists but as marketing professionals. If they make minimal sales for the university, they will be fired as in any business.

Yes, doing things against the grain would be a lot of work and it might result in less revenue for the institution. Who would suffer? Students who are enrolled half-time simply should not be able to borrow the same amount as students who are enrolled full-time. But, perhaps college officials get a little back when they sell a lucrative loan package from a private lender to a student who never even should have been admitted. Who really knows?

If colleges and universities had a student-first attitude, they would also help students better understand the debt they are taking on. A student-first attitude would mean that administrators would take potential students aside and make the distinction between loans and grants clearer in their discussions, and their financial aid award letters.

Surprise, 53% of the students who get their first loan invoice did not know they owed anything? What does that say about truth in lending? Any of the 53% should be given a full tuition refund. If the university has not taught students to know that their days in college were not free, they have failed in their mission of creating graduates capable of succeeding in the world of today.

Where is the Congress? Donald Trump is a breath of fresh air for at least he speaks about solving this problem in a business way. I believe that the new President will solve this problem because he knows how to; and he loves America and Americans more than its prestigious universities.

Let's consult with an expert

A gentleman named Mark Kantrowitz is one of the nation's leading student financial aid experts. He is the author of a number of books written for students about paying for college. His works talk about things like Filing the FAFSA, Twisdoms about Paying for College, and Secrets to Winning a Scholarship.

Mark is publisher of Cappex.com, a website that helps students achieve their college dreams, and he previously served as publisher of the FinAid, Fastweb, and Edvisors websites.

So, what?

Well, he just gave us most of the facts in this chapter.

Thank you, Mark!

Chapter 4: Solving the Student Loan Crisis and the Housing Crisis

Young people are kept down by Universities

Young and old borrowers alike owe collectively 1.45 trillion dollars of debt from their public and private student loans. With the bad economy for so long, as much as 30% of the borrowers are defaulting on their loans and this number is rising every year.

The former students simply cannot make the minimum payment. It is so bad that older students with loans are now turning 62 years of age. They get an unexpected, unwelcome surprise when their social security checks begin to be garnished by the government loan shysters to pay off these old loans.

It is worse than you can imagine. My research discovered an 82-year old gentleman who once guaranteed a friend's loan and he is now paying 40% of his social security check to pay off the loan. He is left with \$750 per month. Can this be America? Yes, it is, and in his case and many others, the principal was paid off long ago.

Many, including me, a guy who has been a professor, teaching at colleges for over 35 years, are questioning the value of a university education today. It is not a good situation when loan brokers get to collect the student cosigned debt from government's social security payments intended to sustain life.

Our major topic in this book is student debt and how to get rid of it for good. Yet, more and more experts are concluding that there is a tie-in of student loan debt and the lack of a robust housing business in the US. The homeownership rate in the United States is at a 50-year low. As you might expect, it is not admissions counsellors but economists and realtors who worry about that.

The National Association of Realtors and ASA recently found that 71 percent of student loan borrowers who did not own a home cited their college loans as the main prohibitive factor. More than half indicated that they expect their student debt to delay their home purchase by five years or perhaps even more. Housing starts are a great leading indicator for the economy and when the most likely age group, twenty to forty-year-olds are not able to afford mortgage payments, something has got to change. That's why I wrote this book.

Record high home prices certainly don't help matters either. Student debt and the market aren't the only reasons millennials put off homeownership. They are not sure of a lot of things and, so they marry and have kids later in life than prior generations did. Additionally, they have seen higher unemployment rates and more sluggish wage growth than in the past. "All of that is postponing the entry point of homeownership," said Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist.

Should we worry? Yun thinks we should. He says, "First-time buyers cause a chain reaction" in the housing market, which creates activity throughout the economy, from moving truck rentals to appliance purchases.

"That demand is central to the health of the broader real estate market," said Jonathan Spader, senior research associate at Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies. People are most likely to form a family and enter the housing market for the first time in their 20s or 30s. And when young adults buy their first home — often a lower-priced starter — it allows an established household to sell. "To the extent that there's weak demand at the first-time home-buyer level, it prevents existing homeowners from trading up," Spader said.

Student loan debt creates obstacles to homeownership in a few different ways. "The first is the drag on income," Spader said. It makes it tough to accumulate a down payment.

Another reason is that a student loan can make it harder to qualify for a mortgage. Lenders want all of your monthly debt obligations, including your potential mortgage payment, to make up no more than 43 percent of your monthly income. If you already pay 14 percent or

more of your income toward a student loan that doesn't leave much room for a mortgage.

Another big problem on the horizon is that 11.1 percent of student loans are at least 90 days delinquent — more than any other type of consumer debt. “The impact of those defaults on their credit reports could be a barrier to homeownership in the future,” Spader said. “A default is a really big deal -- it's the equivalent of a bankruptcy or a lien on your credit report,”

Asked what college hopefuls should consider as they compare schools and financial aid offers, experts suggest that it's critical to understand what your monthly loan bill will be after graduation. “Students and consumers see a number of \$40,000 or \$100,000, and that number is hard to wrap their heads around.” The big question is “Is a \$1,000 a month payment or more, every month, really going to be OK for you?”

There are a lot of possible remedies to the student loan crisis out there, which will help the homeowner crisis, but there are no guarantees. There is no silver bullet.

When people can't get jobs, and don't have the resources to pursue the dreams of a sustainable life in America, then they get to this situation where the divide between the haves and have-nots gets wider. It ripples all across our culture and economy.

That's why the overriding recommendation in this book is for the government to address the problem; find the assets to afford it, and wipe out all student debt in one big whoosh! I can assure you that there will be no housing crisis once millennials are spending-enabled. Homeowners will be everywhere if we can just get the debt noose off the backs of millennials.

Looking at the student side again, it is intuitive that students in the bottom 60% of the class have substantially lower prospects for work in their chosen field than the top 40%. One after another, many debtors in the bottom 60, are wishing they could have a do-over on that loan decision they made at 17 or 18 years of age. If so, most would never bite that bad apple again.

They now know that their huge loans; many over \$100,000 are beginning to ruin their lives. Nobody, from the high-school counsellors to the College admission officers offered counselling on student debt and the negative impact it would have on the lives of so many of our young in America. Over 70% of graduates are on the hook to pay off student loans. If government, especially our Congress, was not one of the perpetrators, this would already be declared a national emergency?

Where are the good jobs that were promised by the Universities for all the money borrowed? At the same time that most graduates cannot get jobs, the jobs they do get, pay less and are often not in their field of study. The average salary of college graduates has gone down 10% in the past few years while inflation is growing at an ever-faster clip.

Moreover, 85% of college graduates from 2011 have had to swallow their pride and move home with mom and dad because they could not afford life on their own. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to call out: "Houston, we have a problem!"

The problem, to repeat, in addition to our finest representatives, is caused by coffee-breath professors, former coffee-breath professors serving as administrators, government stoolies, politicians, and progressive Democrats that like it when Americans are dependent on government.

Meanwhile the media is not saying anything bad about the universities that permit more and more foreign students into their programs. When the foreign students graduate, they are supposed to surrender their student visas, and head home. But, they do not. Moreover, the US government does not track them to make sure they do go home when their time is up in America. It makes it tough for Americans to get jobs.

Life is so good here in America, that foreign graduates often prefer to become illegal aliens, as nothing bad ever happens to an illegal alien anymore. The bad things happen to American students who graduate and get no jobs.

Guess whose jobs the foreigners on the lam take? A major source of H-1B visas (college graduates) is international students from U.S. university campuses. No corporation in America in the Obama years

had any fear of hiring a foreign graduate who just became an illegal alien. They would work and still work for 50% less than a bona fide American college graduate at the same intellectual level. Colleges encourage corporations to hire their foreign students, so they could recruit more and increase profits. There is no focus on Americans.

The reason corporations hire foreigners before Americans is that they are a ready source of cheap labor. Universities not only sell their foreign national graduates to corporations, they also hire more than their fair share of professors from the foreign national community--many of these have just received graduate degrees (PhD's) from American Universities

They fire existing faculty and replace them with younger foreign national professors willing to work for less money. I know because I was fired from Marywood University during a cost-cutting restructuring and my replacement had recently graduated from the University of Alexandria in Egypt. Marywood did not open up his employment dossier to me but what seems to be is most often what is.

Smaller Universities will even outsource the legal part of the visa work to assure the foreign applicant gets a six-year H-1B visa after graduation. This certainly does not help Americans, but it does not matter.

They will contract with immigration law firms and pay up to \$10,000 or more per faculty member depending on the complexity of the case for the purpose of hiring a new faculty member who will work on the cheap. Meanwhile Americans either get fired, as in my case, or do not get hired.

Do cheap foreign speaking non-citizen faculty have any effect on the quality of education our children receive? Trying to figure out what was just said is very common in today's classrooms. "What did she say?"

It is really tough for Americans to get hired in US Universities since our Congress by law permits an unlimited number of foreign nationals to be hired as professors or staff at US Universities. Additionally,

colleges also love to hire part timers at about 1/10 the pay rate of full-timers.

Buying a home without a job?

With more and more former students not being able to survive without their parents, the student debt crisis also has an impact on the student borrower's ability to ever break away. Purchasing a home is out of the question as the college loan is already bigger than the graduate's mortgage for a first home should be. As noted, this is already having a major effect on the US housing market and it will continue for years to come. Who will buy the new homes if not the young Americans, hoping to begin families.

No solution is simple. With about 30% or more former students ultimately defaulting on their loans, and many more trapped in a financial abyss from which they can never escape, Congress can certainly create a better way to help the student borrower, the housing market, and the taxpayer, all at the same time.

Considering that in the 2009 crisis, with all of the gifts from the federal government to corporations and banks that were failing, many experts have written that this money would have been better applied to the student-debt crisis. Once relieved from the staggering debt under which they suffer, you can bet millennials, all 45 million of them free from the shackles of unending debt, would be out there making America great again by purchasing one needed item after another.

I would suggest that Congress assure that in times when savings earns just a percent or two in interest, student lenders have their interest rates capped at something that is well out of the usury category. Former collegians with loans are in crisis mode in their lives while protected lenders never had it so good.

Congress can do much better for all Americans. I am a conservative and some say Republicans would not go along with a forgiveness of the student debt burden on the only Americans positioned to spend a ton of money if they had it. Shame on Republicans as many Trump loyalists have been saying for years.

Whether Congress takes it out of the fed system as it did in the \$3 trillion 2009 major bailouts to corporations and banks, and nobody missed it, or it authorizes President Trump to sell some assets that are helping nobody in America, to pay for the economic restoration, the Congress has enough sheckles to forgive all student loans if they wish. If the Congress sits on its duff and wrings its hands, the next major action for those hands that I would recommend would be that they clutch the steering wheel of the family car as the one-time so and so's from such and such go back to such and such, never ever again to return to Washington.

Can you imagine the major spark in the economy if all of a sudden, millennials became the big spenders and were enabled to throw house parties in homes they never thought they would own?

The fact that Obama's government made about \$43 Billion a year by charging higher than reasonable interest rates on student loans shows that solving the debt problem was never a priority during the last eight years. Let's hope Mr. Trump looks past Obama to create a system that works.

Chapter 5 What About a Progressive Loan Payback Schedule?

What if neither Trump nor Congress are in a forgiving mood?

We have already posited that the ideal solution is the 100% cancellation of the student debt obligation. Yet, nobody can make Donald Trump see what he does not see, and nobody can ask a corrupt US Congress to see things honestly. And so, people in the US who want to survive will naturally see other solutions that are much better than the alternative to nothing.

Millennials floundering in the wind, choosing to stiff the US government for their indebtedness is not a good option for America.

Without getting very complicated, besides taking away loan shylock privileges and permitting honest deserving former student candidates to file bankruptcy when overwhelmed by student loans, I would recommend putting together a progressive payback schedule.

The schedule would be like the progressive income tax schedule in reverse, based on adjusted gross income. Though we hate the tax tables, understanding them well, will help us all understand this alternate solution.

How much will I have to pay against my student debt?

Every borrower who has income from any source—a job, or government assistance, should have to pay something towards their student loan debt. If the objective were to get loan repayment dollars

in, instead of sparking the economy, then nobody should pay less than 1% of their income.

Government is run by buffoons who think that if they ask for too much and the debtor opts out and pays nothing, they will have won some kind of prize, rather than have failed. Today former collegians are too often asked to pay as much as 90% of their income towards student loan debt. Naturally, this level often forces those finished with college to default on their loans just to survive. Nobody should brag about this.

Unless Congress opts on its own to rescind Chapter 7, Chapter 11, and Chapter 13, bankruptcy laws regarding student debt obligations, the first change must be to permit students already in the poorhouse, so to speak, to have the same right to file for bankruptcy as any other American with any other type of debt. Anything else is punishment. So though not on its own, Congress should do the right thing.

Standard debt payment restructuring

In addition to permitting bankruptcy as a better first option, another idea would be to permit the repayment schedule to be altered so it is affordable for the student borrower. So that student debt is not a lifetime proposition, and only those debtors in their eighties escape, those students in default or heading to default, should receive a temporary interest forgiveness.

The forgiveness should last if and until the borrower has the resources to pay again. Thus if debt is \$1000 and \$10.00 is paid during the year, the total debt to begin the next year would be \$990.00, not \$990.00 plus \$85.00 = \$1075. The \$85.00 in this instance, of course would be the forgiven interest.

Besides forgiving interest, the payment schedule should be adjusted. However, rather than restructure debt for one student at a time in a way similar to a Chapter-13 based delinquency, a progressive schedule ought to be a standard option for any student borrower heading for default.

The objective of the program would be to get students back on track to be able to pay their debt and continue on to a productive life. We are not talking about nameless, faceless people that we are trying to help. We are talking about our children, the next crop of Americans to take over our country. Seventy percent of them are hooked on a student loan and many are overwhelmed. We need them to be participating Americans. The maximum rate of payment should be capped at 3% for the most hard-pressed borrowers. That amount would not impact life much, though it would extend the payments at 3% to 33.3 years. Additionally, all student loans should be forgiven after some age, such as 60 or 65.

When students begin to make real money, such as say, \$50,000 a year, a standard progressive schedule of paybacks should be used to set the proper payment amounts. The maximum should be capped at 15% for those in default who are now doing quite well. Of course, in no instance would anybody have to pay more than the minimum monthly payment for the loan even if they could afford it.

Students who go into default often never pay anything back again--ever. So, getting something from such students is a lot better than nothing. The loss of course today is covered by taxpayer receipts.

To help pay for the program, I would also set up a fund so that any taxpayer receiving a refund can check off from \$1.00 up to any higher amount on their tax forms to have part of their refund directed towards the paying down of all student loans on the books for all student debtors. We do this for campaign donations so why not for student loans?

Last time I checked, campaign donations were not in crisis. But, the student loan scenario is in a crisis. Therefore, I have other recommendations.

One of my pet peeves in all of these debt scenarios is that colleges and universities have been able to make a great profit by raising tuition to the point where they know that the government loans will pay enough for them to make a big profit or be in a position to pay huge salaries and offer far-reaching amenities to prospective students.

Do you think the following suggestion should be considered controversial?

Colleges do not suffer at all

All of this money that former students have paid and will pay over the years has already gone into the bulging coffers of universities and loan sharks across the nation, who seemingly have no skin in the game. They have already gotten paid for their "service" up front and have never been asked to look back. It's time we ask them to look back and help solve the mess they created.

They have profited by pocketing and spending the money given by their students, who may not have ever gotten a degree and who perhaps will never be able to get a job. In many cases, the problem is that the education (product of the college or university) was inadequate.

And, since the students in default, as a rule, have not been able to achieve the American dream as promised by the Admissions Counselors, the universities should contribute to a pot to make it right.

Those universities who have encouraged their foreign students to take jobs in the US ahead of American students upon graduation and those that have hired foreign faculty when Americans were available should be assessed a larger contribution for the pot.

Universities cannot be left out of the solution. Only the loan sharks and the universities have benefitted so it is a good thing to call them out and start collecting for the bum product they have put out. Yes, it should cost them until they start being more realistic and accountable, and they behave in a more American fashion, and they resolve to help Americans first.

Their admission departments and "loan" departments have actually created the problem as more than half of the graduating students are unaware that they have debt from a loan or several loans that they signed four or more years earlier. Universities are not blameless. They are a huge part of the problem. In this regard, I would ask the

Congress to enact legislation to make them part of the solution, providing a remedy such as the following:

1. Based on their student default rate, collect a fee of 3% of gross revenue to 15% (same rates as student restructured payback) that is applied to paying down all student loans. The minimum payment would be a factor of the default rate for the institution, the percentage of gross revenue, and the propensity of the institution to favor foreign students and faculty. The exact formula will need some additional work.
2. Limit the number of foreign students by law until the unemployment rate is 3% and cap the number permitted to obtain work visas after graduation to a very small / reasonable number.
3. Limit the number of H-1B visas for faculty to a very small number--3%. It is currently unlimited.
4. Assure the H-1B faculty member on worker visa returns to the home country after 6 years. Worker visas do not get in line for green cards or citizenship.
5. Reduce all non-University H-1B visas from 85,000 or whatever the limit is du jour by 90% until the national unemployment rate goes to 3%.
6. Since some university endowments are large because students without jobs contributed a lot of tuition dollars. The payment plan should include a certain percentage, say 3% of the total endowment each year for ten years to add to the pot to pay off student debt. To make it fair, this should be based on the default rate for the institution.

For those who do not understand the notion of an endowment, it is typically a large fund that is amassed by universities and other institutions from the kind donations / bequeathals of dedicated alumni.

The dollars in university endowments are staggering and could pay off the country's entire student debt. For example, Harvard University alone, with its 380 years' worth of alumni to hit up, boasts an endowment of \$36 billion. Apple Inc.'s famously large cash hoard is

just \$21 billion. Yes, Harvard has more cash than Apple while students are in loan default trying to pay off their Harvard loans. Both Yale University and Stanford University's endowments are also larger than Apple's cash hoard, and Princeton University is not too far behind. Why not help some students of the past who are caught in this muddle?

Chapter 6 Forgive all Student Debt & Pay off the National Debt

Piggyback on a Trump plan to eliminate the National Debt.

America is a rich country. We have learned our lesson on student debt and on the National Debt. We have more than enough assets to wipe them both out and start fresh with a new set of rules to assure this never happens again. Only those who can afford to pay back student loans should get them, and each budget must be balanced 100%. No more US national credit card. Yes, Virginia, it is that simple.

As a candidate, now President Donald Trump promised that he would balance the national budget and pay off the national debt. By studying different thoughts on the matter, I am convinced that President Trump is right.

In no scenario am I talking about destroying Yosemite or the major National parks in the country. That would not be popular with anybody. But if we want to, we can set our debt clean in such a way that all Americans would be helped. On December 4, 2017, the president listened to Utah and gave them back about 2 million acres that Obama had stolen from them. By making selective moves such as this, we can position US and/or states assets to help America and Americans, rather than sit there doing nothing for anybody.

Keeping everything nice, a lot of minerals can produce a lot of what is needed to pay off the Student Loan Debt. Show me a reason why millennials should not be favored over monuments in which even bicycles are not permitted? Isn't that silly?

President Trump is a businessman. He has been considering selling off \$16 trillion worth of U.S. government assets in order to fulfill his

pledge to eliminate the national debt in eight years. He simply has to sell of a little over \$1 trillion and nobody will have student debt anymore.

A senior adviser with the original Trump campaign Barry Bennett said. "How about adding another \$1.3 trillion to the [national debt] repayment plans to handle student debt?" Why is that not a bad idea?

Even though the new total is \$1.45 trillion, I could not agree more. Why should our next generation of intellectuals be the ones who are hurt the most by government? Once we get it paid off, we must get more selective as to who gets loans as we begin to Americanize America. We cannot ever let student loans get out of hand again.

Donald Trump is quoted as saying: "The United States government owns more real estate than anybody else, more land than anybody else, and more energy than anybody else," Bennett announced. "We can get rid of government buildings we're not using; we can extract the energy from government lands, and we can do all kinds of things to extract value from the assets that we hold."

Why should Americans be unable to begin their lives when the US is sitting on such massive assets. The bad newspapers such as the Washington Post and the New York Times want the world to think that our President is a buffoon. He is not. He is just not part of their swamp. That says it all.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Washington Post, Trump said he would get rid of the \$19 trillion national debt "over a period of eight years." Of course, the debt now is approaching \$21 trillion. Check out the debt clock to find out how fast our inept Congress can spend your money. <http://www.usdebtclock.org/>

I believe Donald Trump knows what he is talking about!

Trump has an America-First Fossil Fuel Plan.

President Trump suggests that the US takes a nice cut from opening up all US oil lands. While headlines have reported declining oil, gas, and

coal prices, those declines do not deter from the fact that U.S. energy resources are valuable to our domestic economic growth. It is documented that the US now has the most energy reserves in the entire world.

The most recent government estimate of those benefits was a 2012 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) study, produced at the request of the House Budget Committee, which analyzed federal lease revenues that could be expected to arise from a proposal to open federal lands and waters to oil, gas, and coal extraction.

Unlike former president Obama, President Donald Trump is ready to bring this in right away and it will more than pay for outstanding student debt and it will also pay for a boost in social security benefits to 15% a year for the next eight years. This social security boost will help gain back for seniors what has been stolen by government supported fake CPIs. We can do it all. Why not?

In eight years, former resident Obama increased the national debt by \$9.1 Trillion. When he left office the total for student debt was \$1.3. Obama upset both the old and the young with his excessive spending. Not because he was so generous but because he was a miser with senior citizens providing for the first time in history, zero cost of living raises three times and once a .3 percent raise. He used a bogus cpi to stiff seniors. Can you imagine with \$9.1 Trillion spent, that he did not pay off all the student debt? What can you tell me he bought for all that money?

Remember, now we need just \$1.45 trillion to pay off all student debt. Instead of spending \$500 billion a year on support for illegal aliens, we have the option of instituting a Pay-to Go program and a Resident Visa program that trades self-sufficiency (no freebies) for legalization or a free ticket home. If President Obama can spend \$500 billion a year on illegals and he raised the debt by \$9.1 Trillion on eight years, he surely could have added student loans and it would not have mattered to the debt picture.

By the way, I fully explain the cost savings that can be achieved by these new plans for illegal residents in America as well as how to pay for a plan to make seniors whole again after the government stole

438% their monthly payments. The government purposely miscalculated inflation. The whole story is in these three books

<https://www.amazon.com/Boost-Social-Security-Now-Buddy/dp/194740220X/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Legalizing-Illegal-Aliens-Resident-Visas/dp/194740217X/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Pay-Go-America-First-Immigration-Fix/dp/1947402145>

We need about \$150 billion a year to make proper reparations to seniors who have been taken by our own government on a fake CPI approved by a willful Congress.

Look at the results from the 2015 US study below and please commit to another study ASAP:

The findings of the most recent Energy Report demonstrate that opening federal land that is currently closed-off because of statutory or administrative action, would lead to broad-based economic stimulus, including increasing GDP, employment, wages, and tax revenues. Let's look at these specifically. Who can argue if the GDP increases. It would mean the economy has finally gotten out of the dumps:

GDP increase:

- ✓ \$127 billion annually for the next seven years.
- ✓ \$663 billion annually in the next thirty years.
- ✓ \$20.7 trillion cumulative increase in economic activity over the next thirty-seven years.

These estimates include “spillover” effects, or gains that extend from one location to another location. For example, increased oil production in the Gulf of Mexico might lead to more automobile purchases that would increase economic activity in Michigan.

Spillover effects would add an estimated \$69 billion annually in the next seven years and \$178 billion over thirty years.

The US is not a poor nation. We simply must stop using our resources to enrich the rich and powerful in the US and other nations. It's time to use US assets for US citizens. A proper use of oil and gas reserves will also provide a nice bump in annual job growth for thirty years in the future. Take a look at these projections that you will never see on MSNBC, CBS, NBC or ABC. Why? This is not fake news and it makes Trump's projections look good.

Jobs increase:

- ✓ 552,000 jobs annually over the next seven years.
- ✓ Roughly 2.7 million jobs annually over the next thirty years.

Jobs gains would not only be in fields directly related to oil, gas, and coal but more than 75% of the jobs would be in high-wage, high-skill employment like health care, education, professional fields, and the arts.

Wage increase:

- ✓ \$32 billion increase in annual wages over the next seven years.
- ✓ \$163 billion annually between seven and thirty years.
- ✓ \$5.1 trillion cumulative increase over thirty-seven years.

How is all this for a plan to use US resources to help America and Americans instead of holding it just because we can. In our case, the issue is student debt but this notion from Donald Trump solves a problem with seniors in *the poor house* and an unsustainable huge national debt. How can anybody want something so good, like this, not to succeed.

It is clear that the last eight years with dependence on foreign labor has taken down the wages of Americans to near poverty levels. Recent millennials out of school are trying to get jobs and are not having much luck.

Democrats may not like this plan because it enriches regular Joe's and helps them to not become dependent on government for sustenance. Moreover, it favors American students for jobs over foreign nationals, especially, illegal foreign nationals. When everybody is doing better, the government will naturally collect more tax revenue.

Increase in tax revenue:

- ✓ \$3.9 trillion increase in federal tax revenues over thirty-seven years.
- ✓ \$1.9 trillion in state and local tax revenues over thirty-seven years.
- ✓ \$24 billion annual federal tax revenue over the next seven years, \$126 billion annually thereafter.
- ✓ \$10 billion annual state and local tax revenue over the next seven years, \$61 billion annually thereafter.

With increases in GDP comes increases in tax revenue. When everything is better, and people take home more salary, the treasury revenue increases substantially. Sometimes you don't have to do the math to know a winning proposition.

It ain't just me babe!

On February 5, 2013, Chris Matthews (not the political commentator from *Hardball*) used his fine brain to figure out a lot of things and put them in perspective for regular Americans, who do not have finance degrees. He wrote an article that he titled, *The Federal Government's*

\$128 Trillion Stockpile: The Answer to Our Debt Problems? That, by the way, is more than six times the entire national debt.

We have already reviewed much of this material as the proof that the US can do quite well by using our own resources to treat all of our citizens well. I am in synch with Matthews' conclusions as noted in the prior segment of this chapter. That given, Chris has had a lot of other good stuff to say to help America and Americans. It ain't just me saying it babe!

As a regular human being who happens to have an MBA in Accounting and Finance, I have watched the debate over federal government deficits and debt, which has consumed Washington for some time.

Logic dictates that the financial world will explode if the US keeps spending excessively like drunken sailors. Yet for eight years despite prediction after prediction, the US is still at the top of the globe? Despite what the doomsayers say, we can probably keep spending like drunken sailors and not pay the price, because our asset base is so huge. That means we can wipe out Student loan debt, make seniors whole with eight years of 15% raises as reparations, and we can pay off the national debt. And, why shouldn't we?

Moreover, just about every country invests in the US and they consider their dollars safe. With all of our assets, dollar investments in America are safe. Once we get all the crap paid off, we can go ahead and create better fiscal policies and keep it clean from hereon in. Nothing has yet to explode though President Obama guided America through eight years in which whatever Lola wanted, Lola got.

Republicans were scared cats and never said no to Lola and the cowards never said no to Obama. Democrats loved Lola so much that even though they never saw the back of her hand as she stuck it out for one handout after another, they were compelled to reach way into the bowels of the treasury department to give her more and more.

Now, all of a sudden, these same *give-away Charlie's* in Congress who love giving handouts to illegal aliens, cannot find the cash to boost social security benefits to remove seniors from the poverty rolls and

they can't find enough good heartedness to solve the student debt crisis. What can Congress do?

Yes, instead of helping students riddled with debt, they punished recent college graduates with usurious interest rates and no opportunity to discharge debt when bankrupt, rather than giving them the helping hand they need to become successful Americans.

Yet, still we are here, a stable country despite being \$20 trillion dollar in debt—at least supposedly. Despite the doom and gloom, most regular people have yet to notice a change with all the debt supposedly getting ready to finish off America. Where are the death blows? They are not here, and they are not coming.

Has all this debt hurt us, and if so, how? It makes one think that it may all be a ruse. Have you ever seen a list of *to whom* we owe all the debt? Why are they not clamoring for an immediate payoff if things are so bad?

How disingenuous for Democrats, the biggest spenders in town to complain that giving Americans a tax break in December 2017 would hurt the National Debt Situation. For eight years, Obama and company were able to jack up the national debt at will and he did not even have to explain why! What can we believe anymore?

We know that we cannot believe the corrupt press and now we can't believe the corrupt Democrats who wanted us to believe we could exist on continuing resolutions and no budget for all the Obama years.

Now, all of a sudden, we need a tight budget. Excuse me? Who is kidding whom? If Congress wanted to give student loan borrowers a break and wipe out all student debt and help seniors by doubling seniors' social security checks, would any of us have noticed the strain on our treasury. I think not. So, why not just do it to help America and Americans while we get our house in order.

Now we are somehow to believe that if the Republicans get their new tax reform and a revamped IRS system, we will suffer. In fact, it won't help, and it won't hurt the stability of the nation at all; but it sure will help all those who get a nice tax cut...and it is about time.

The impact on the national debt will not matter an iota just as it has not mattered in the best or the worst of Obama times. So, why bother fretting about it? Of course, for middle income Americans, the impact of the tax cut and the post-card return form will be substantial.

The original arguments for the most part all have been focused on taxes and spending. One aspect, however, of the debate of American creditworthiness that never was discussed is what Donald Trump saw when he looked into the eyes of the huge federal government assets.

If the US is in debt (to whom) so much, then why do we not know who the people are that we owe such amounts to. What are their names?

Should not the assets of a big borrower like the USA be one of the main factors in determining the wisdom of whether the US has a right to continue to borrow and borrow and borrow?

Nonetheless, despite logic well proven in the past, when the US government's debt burden is the topic of conversation, the press has always been willing to remove it from the daily conversation entirely. What do they know that we do not know? Why do they root against regular normal Americans?

There is a recent report from the Institute for Energy Research (IER) that makes more claims about America's prosperity in the future than Donald J. Trump, himself has made. It makes some startling claims about how much U.S. taxpayers own in real assets, through the authority of the government. According to the report, the U.S. government (the people) owns:

- ✓ More than 900,000 separate real assets covering more than 3 billion sq. ft.
- ✓ Mineral rights, on and offshore, covering 2.515 billion acres of land, more than the total surface land in Canada
- ✓ 45,190 underutilized buildings, the operating costs of which are \$1.66 billion annually
- ✓ Oil and gas resources on and offshore worth \$128 trillion, roughly eight times the national debt of the country [at the time of this report]

Unlike this opinion piece by a guy who loves America [the other Chris Matthews] and thinks all student borrowers are being ripped off, the author of these statistics, IER, is a think tank that advocates for deregulation in the energy industry.

Do we trust the government to tell us the truth?

It is a given that any estimate of oil and mineral wealth in unexplored areas is highly speculative. However, none of these research firms want to fail by a factor of 100%.

So, even if the true figure is half what the IER estimates, the fact that the federal government owns property worth well in excess of its total debt is instructive in our current debate about government borrowing. Why would anybody loan the US a buck if the best it could get back was just seventy-five cents?

They loan to the US because we have tons of natural assets.

Regular people have no idea about what the Federal Government's asset total might amount to. Those who do not want a clean slate are motivated to claim we are in trouble. Yet, our assets are innumerable.

The problem is that America's least honest and most pompous and least intelligent people run the government. Yes, I am talking about our Congress who collectively and individually are incompetent, and they are fine in their ineptness.

The non-government, aka US citizens as a group, own much more than just land and the minerals and the oil beneath it. The non-government under the auspices of the federal government also has a very sizable stash of gold., and certainly other stashes of valuable items that it would prefer were not discussed generally.

In fact, at oz., the US has the largest holdings of gold in the world. And, in case you have not noticed, gold is a favorite among investors who have a deep concern about the debasement of government currencies in this era of worldwide, aggressive monetary stimulus.

When the original article was written, the going rate of \$1,660 per ounce was easy to be gained on a trade. It is actually a bit less right

now. At that rate, the US stash is worth nearly \$442 billion. Even that would pay for 1/3 of the student debt owed by mostly the millennials in our nation.

Those of us that know well the meaning of the phrase, “old fart,” know that ever since Richard Nixon broke the link between the dollar and gold in 1971, there’s has been no official justification for America’s sitting on all the gold in Fort Knox. Why not split it up among the citizens or pay off 1/3 of all student loans?

At least some of it could easily be used to pay down the general debt or put toward neglected projects like infrastructure. Of course, if instructed, the US treasury could also use this stash to reduce student debt liability. After all, the debtors are your children and mine.

Ironically, on the US books as a major asset is the portion of the \$1.45 trillion dollars that student loan borrowers owe—about a cool \$1trillion.

Why not just cancel that and let’s all start over? Think about it?

Most Americans would admit that there is a downside to selling off US assets and the sell-off might put major policy objectives at risk. But, it is about time we evaluated these policy objectives against the need to keep our brightest from pulling out of the economy because they can no longer afford their student debt. We can do better.

As noted, it is amazing for many that the federal government still holds on to so much gold. Why? With gold prices so high, it probably makes sense to unload at least some of it for the support of the country. But, we would need to make sure that our untrustworthy Congress did not squander it.

The irony in checking out US assets is it must have something to do with why the whole world is still eager to lend the U.S. money. Despite all the doom and gloom from the corrupt media, the US has so many obvious assets that our country is still the most credit worthy nation in the world. We are still a very rich country in both productive capacity and industrial and natural resources. We should not have our brightest and youngest adults trapped in a debtor’s prison scenario until they grow old.

The financial crises and demographic shifts that have caused our budget problems are either temporary effects or problems that could be solved by a mature discussion about priorities.

If we could sell off just a bit of our hard assets, we could free our most worthwhile assets, the minds of our newest generation to be able to advance their lives positively and help out our country in so doing.

Chapter 7 Should We Fret About the Debt?

Why has the National Debt not crushed us?

In trying to get a grip on why we actually can choose to forgive the entire student debt load and give a 15% a year boost to social security recipients, Mike Norman has written a nice piece that he titles The National Debt: Why Fret Over Something That Doesn't Exist? I asked Mike if I could reprint his article in this book. Here it is below:

The National Debt: Why Fret Over Something That Doesn't Exist?

By

MIKE NORMAN

OCT 25, 2016 | 1:00 PM EDT

The public is lied to when it comes to the so-called national debt. They're clueless about it, as are most, if not all, of our lawmakers.

First off, there is no debt. The debt is dollars. The government spent \$20 trillion more than it took away in taxes over the last 240 years, and those dollars, held by the non-government, comprise a big portion of the non-government's wealth. Nothing is "owed." It's owned, by us, the people.

Second, there is nothing to pay back. The money was paid, ended up in someone's bank account and now it's being held in the form of Treasuries.

What's a Treasury? A Treasury is a dollar, the only difference being it's a dollar with a term (duration) and a coupon (interest payment).

Why would people hold dollars in the form of Treasuries? To earn some interest, that's all. It's like saying, why would you put your money in a savings account as opposed to a checking account? Same reason, to earn interest. If you want it back in your checking account, you tell your bank and it switches it back from your savings account to your checking account.

That's how it works with the government, too. It "pays back" holders of Treasuries all the time. That's called a redemption and when Treasuries are redeemed the government simply instructs its bank, the Fed, to take back the securities and credit the individual's (or firm's or foreign government's or whoever's) bank account and, voila, it happens. Paid back.

In fact, it happens so regularly and on such a big scale that it will totally blow your mind.

I am about to give you some numbers. Mind you, these are not numbers I made up or to which had some kind of top-secret access. Nor is this inside information that I am exposing.

Rather, these are publicly available figures that you can get—free—right off the U.S. Treasury Department's website.

The resource is called the Daily Treasury Statement and it's really a fascinating document. It is posted daily on the Treasury's website and it's literally like looking at the checkbook of the federal government. Just like your checkbook, it has all the deposits and all the withdrawals, among other things.

You can see everything. Every line item of spending (withdrawals) and every item of revenue (deposits) that runs through the government's accounts daily, monthly and yearly. Table III below:

On this document there is a table -- Table III-A -- that gives all the redemptions of bills, notes, bonds and other securities the government redeems (pays back) every day, month and year.

If you go to the last statement of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, and you scroll down to that table I just gave you, Table III-A, you will see the government redeemed (paid back) \$94.2 trillion in one year! I put a screenshot below

Please note: All figures on the daily Treasury statement are in millions, so don't come back to me and say it was only \$94.2 million. It's \$94.2 million, million. That's \$94.2 Trillion. See the image below.

Daily Treasury Statement Shown on Following Page:

[You can see charts it better in the original article at the following URL

<https://realmoney.thestreet.com/articles/10/25/2016/national-debt-why-fret-over-something-doesnt-exist>]

1		DAILY TREASURY STATEMENT		PAGE: 4	
Cash and debt operations of the United States Treasury					
Friday, September 30, 2016					
(Detail, rounded in millions, may not add to totals)					
TABLE III-A Public Debt Transactions					
Issues	Today	This month to date	Fiscal year to date		
Marketable:					
Bills:					
Regular Series	\$ 0	\$ 593,008	\$ 5,700,876		
Cash Management Series	0	0	95,032		
Notes	118,827	162,827	2,055,865		
Bonds	0	12,000	189,114		
Inflation-Protected Securities Increment	-18	-1,707	10,700		
Federal Financing Bank	0	0	2,685		
Nonmarketable:					
United States Savings Securities:					
Cash Issue Price	3	77	899		
Interest Increment	3	449	5,800		
Government Account Series	411,005	7,771,840	87,217,782		
Hope Bonds	0	0	0		
Domestic Series	0	0	0		
Foreign Series	0	0	0		
State and Local Series	96	11,807	99,366		
Other	1,042	23,268	270,694		
Total Issues	\$ 530,959	\$ 8,573,571	\$ 95,648,584		
(Stated at face value except for savings and retirement plan securities which are stated at current redemption values.)					
Redemptions	Today	This month to date	Fiscal year to date		
Marketable:					
Bills:					
Notes	94,603	128,603	1,705,765		
Bonds	0	0	29,837		
Federal Financing Bank	0	0	1,976		
Nonmarketable:					
United States Savings Securities:					
Government Account Series	394,653	7,776,014	86,627,213		
Hope Bonds	0	0	494		
Domestic Series	0	0	0		
Foreign Series	0	0	0		
State and Local Series	67	5,542	68,270		
Other	1,042	23,251	270,559		
Total Redemptions	\$ 490,404	\$ 8,510,422	\$ 94,225,737		
Net Change in Public Debt Outstanding	\$ 40,554	\$ 63,148	\$ 1,422,827		

Ninety-four point two trillion! In a single year. And nobody knew about this. Furthermore, the world didn't fall apart, the dollar didn't collapse, interest rates didn't spike, we had no inflation and everything was fine.

There is the proof, right in front of our noses, that the debt is meaningless. It's just a bunch of bookkeeping entries. Keystrokes. It's time we stop fretting over this. People need to educate themselves about what this debt is and how they are being manipulated and propagandized about it.

The debt is not a bad thing, it is an asset of the non-government; however, ignorant, cynical, corrupt, dogmatic and self-serving

groups like the Pete Peterson Foundation and organizations like Fix the Debt are in the business of keeping Americans misinformed and getting them to act against their own interests. These groups are bad and need to be stopped.

There is no debt! Please share.

Chapter Conclusions

I have no particular love for millennials but like it or not, they are Americans and they are our direct progeny. We have no other. What Congressional policy and corrupt student lending practices have done to them is a sin for sure against them and all of America. We need to end it now.

I have proven ten-times over that we can both afford it and help all of America at the same time. By energizing a group of our forgotten young adults, our economy can make Donald Trump's 3.3% GDP increase look like chump change.

Either Congress does this for us or we get a new Congress. It is that simple. We the People!

Chapter 8 Congress Treats Student Borrowers Poorly

It's like it's your kids; not their kids!

One would think we either elected buffoons or people who simply do not care about u--or both.

If we did not elect them, that is what we got anyway. There ought to be enough money in the federal budget to hire experts. Donald Trump and every other successful business mogul runs their businesses with experts to make a buck. Our Congress is clearly not made of experts.

Nobody does it alone and nobody hires the second team to do the job. How could our legislators be as ambivalent on something as simple as the interest rates for student loans? They are harlequins, I regret to say, and their time has come. Smart Americans must send them home for good and find other smart Americans to take their places.

History of student loan interest rates

Let's take a look at the tumultuous history of student loan interest rates. At best it is characterized by bipartisan indecision, delayed legislation and temporary solutions. Congress gets a solid "F" grade for this performance. At worst, the government hired workers with the lowest IQ's to figure this out.

Understanding the events is key to knowing Congress's thinking on interest rates' current trajectory. Here's a quick summary of the last 20 years in student loans. This information was gleaned from the New America Foundation.

1992-93: (6.94%) Variable interest rates are introduced for federal student loans.

1993-94: (6.22%) Congress creates the direct loan program to gradually eliminate the need for bank loans.

1994-95: (7.43%) The variable rate maximum drops from 9% to 8.25%.

1998-99: (7.46%) The interest rate change set to begin in 1998 is postponed another five years. C

2001-02: (5.99%) The scheduled 2003 alterations become a topic of debate. Student advocates defend the change.

2002-03: (4.06%) The 1993 rate change is canceled. The current variable rate remains in place. In 2006, loans will begin to carry a 6.8% fixed interest rate.

2004-05: (3.77%)

2005-06: (5.3%) With the 6.8% fixed rate in place, Congress launches a campaign pledge to cut student loan interest rates in half.

2007-08: (6.8%) Making good on the pledge, Congress passes a bill for a temporary 4 yr. interest rate reduction.

2008-09: (6% for Subsidized Stafford, 6.8% for other loans)

2010-11: (4.5% for Subsidized Stafford, 6.8% of other loans) Third phase of rate cuts, Congress eliminates the bank-based federal student loan program.

2011-12: (3.4% for subsidized Stafford, 6.8% for other loans) The fourth and final phase of temporary rate cut.

2012-13: (6.8%) The 2007 rate reduction expires on July 1, 2012 and rates revert to 6.8%.

Apr. 27, 2012: The House passes bill to extend the 3.4% interest rate.

2015-2016: (4.29%)

2016-2017: (3.76%)

2017-2018: (4.45%)

Follow the bouncing ball...

One thing is for sure, Uncle Sam positioned the government to make a killing on student loans. Uncle Sam is the bad guy here just as Uncle Obama was when he took over the student loan program to help finance Obamacare.

Would you believe the government is not your friend?

The secret behind the curtain is a dirty secret. The federal government does not want any of us to know that it makes an enormous profit under the federal student-loan system — an estimated \$433 billion over the next 10 years. Some critics of student loans say that it's nothing more than a boondoggle paid for by super-inflated tuition costs and driven by the government-sponsored predatory lending system.

A second little secret is that the Department of Education (ED) actually profits if you default on your loans. This is because it makes money on students that default. It's estimated that the ED collects an average of 100% of the principal on these loans, plus an extra 20% in fees and payments.

Assigning student graduates to debtor's prison

Raising the loan rates as the federal government did in mid-year 2012 for Stafford Loans helped about as much as putting all the student debt laggards, many from our own families, into a debtor's prison. This is not part of my solution.

About seven million students had enjoyed "reduced rate" Stafford loans to help them get through college. The interest rate on these loans

was scheduled to double on July 1, 2012. It was heading from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent unless Congress acted. Congress, a group who have no time for America while being paid by Americans let the rates go up.

The House had already passed the necessary legislation to do so and the Senate was planning a similar action. This would raise costs by an average of \$1,000 each, according to the White House. While many students were already in default, a thousand dollar increase surely was not expected to help them pay their loan off any quicker.

When students default, it is not good. In some cases, they ruin their lives, and it costs us all. Ask yourself why interest rates are so high on student loans. They are higher than mortgages. How is that? Ask Congress!

Who determines that interest rate? Who pockets it? The government scoops our kids at a high rate while offering less than one percent on deposits. How is that fair? To repeat, Obama's increase still brings in over \$45 billion a year in revenue from students who were told they could borrow to get ahead in life. Now, millions are stuck in a rut.

Students with a debt of \$100,000 or more, and there are more and more and more of them, face payments well over \$1,000 per month. That is tough to pay when you are unemployed. It is tough to pay if you are on Social Security. That is why over 8 million student borrowers have already defaulted and more default every day. Check out why the US Congress introduced bankruptcy laws in the first place.

For your edification, it helps to know that somebody is making a killing on this interest and it is not you or me. The National Student Loan Debt Clock raises 2,726 dollars per second according to Market Watch.

When I paid off my National Defense Student Loan (NDSL) in the 1970's, my payments were just over \$10.00 per month. I paid it off as soon as I could as it was just an annoyance. I also had a PA State low-interest loan and its payments were closer to \$25.00 per month. It took a little longer to pay this off but by the time I was married at 27 years old, all of my student loan debts were paid.

This is not possible today. Back then, the government was not interested in sending young men and women into debtor's prison or making them dependents of government for life.

Today's students are looking at big payments for a long, long time and while they are making those payments, they are postponing serious relationships, postponing starting a family, and postponing buying a new home. Ironically, millennials fail to see a connection between their experiences and the US government's philosophies. Yet the connection is there.

Millennials simply cannot afford the big loans and the more oppressive the government makes payback terms, the more likely student borrowers simply give-up. They just drop out; stop paying; and stop answering the phone. That surely does not help the US taxpayers or those who build homes for a living. Of course, we can throw all these young "bums" in jail?

Can Mighty Mouse save us all? Can Mighty Mouse save any of us? "Here I come to save the day... that means that Mighty Mouse is on his way!" Don't count on it but the Mighty Obama did take a swipe at the problem and it has been recorded.

On Oct. 26, 2011 President Obama decided to save the world—again. He came out with a new initiative that would allow student borrowers to cap their loan repayments at 10 percent of their discretionary income starting sometime in 2012. The consequence of Obama's directive was that the effective date was two years earlier than the same act that was passed by Congress. Obama likes doing things without Congress. BHO took credit for something already underway.

In October 2011, ABC reported that Obama said: "We can't wait for Congress to do its job. So, where they won't act, I will." Upon inspection, unfortunately, as well intentioned as it might have been, the Obama plan did not help those who already had student loans (pre-2008) and had graduated or had left school. In other words, most of the students with the problem were not part of this solution. But, it was good press.

I have a better plan than Obama's for potential borrowers as you will see when you work through this book. You will see that this is a solution for those student borrowers and their parents who are already stuck in the mire. There are about 45 million student borrowers, so chances are you know somebody who is stuck.

Chapter 9 Should I Go to College?

It depends is the best answer.

This was never a tough question in the past. The answer was always “YES.” It is a tough question to answer nowadays. Unless you are convinced that you can be at a minimum in the top 25% of your class, and you are willing to work unbelievably hard to assure your class rank, you are better off trying to get a job right now and forego college temporarily. That is just an opinion.

From the 1960s on, there never was a question even if it were asked. “Everyone needs to go to college, right? Right.” If you want any sort of job today – up to and including clerking or being an executive assistant – for years you’re told you need a college degree. But does it always work out? Less and less!

And, so, some people believe that the whole idea that everyone needs to go to college is nothing more than ill-founded social engineering much the same as the idea in the early 2000s that everyone should own a house. Did you ever hear of the subprime housing crisis? Of course, you did!

Where do we go from here?

How does the thinking that right or wrong you must go to college work out in reality? Most young people who buy into this idea do not have enough money to pay today’s super-inflated college costs. There is a great solution at hand. They borrow the money.

They are not credit worthy enough to buy a moped, certainly not a motorcycle, a car or a small home. But, somehow, they can secure a

loan of equal or more value that without a big job after graduation, they can never pay back.

Why does any lender take on such a risk? Because government secures the loan for them even if the student has no chance in college.

This year's college students graduated owing an average of around \$39,000 only to discover that due to the poor job market they have less of a chance than ever of actually getting a good job in a field commensurate with their degrees. Too bad!

The sellers of the stuff they bought, the coffee breath professors and the big shots in academia never agree for the student borrower to take out the big eraser and wipe their signatures off the loan documents. The kids are in it forever.

If I had a say

Since seventeen-year-olds operate as the new fourteen-year-olds today as I see it, I would suggest that nobody gets a student loan until they are the new seventeen, which would be twenty-one. Everybody once released from college with or without a degree and almost always with a huge debt package, are looking to achieve a good-life today. Too late! Unless the fourteen-year-old in you at seventeen made the right loan decisions, you are done unless Congress steps up and does something.

If it became a law, all decisions by students hoping for a college degree could be made with cash. No problem. Loans would be outlawed for college degrees in my world until you were twenty-one. You could use your cash at any age and enroll. It's on the cash provider.

However, for those with no cash, and no relative providing cash as a sponsor—until they were from birth to twenty-one years-of-age, there would be no loans for them to attend any college. Once they hit twenty-one, the new seventeen, they would be granted student loan privileges.

By that time, when they reach twenty-one, hopefully, these affected millennials would have engaged in several jobs and would understand better what life is all about.

I would suggest the following to students contemplating college today as seventeen-year-olds operating as fourteen-year-olds: Go home. Don't ruin your life. Male or female, see first if you like being an artisan, a wood craftsman, a plumber, or an electrician, before you bet on the cum-line on making it big by investing \$25,000 or more for year one of a college career that today is very iffy.

Unless somebody is handling your tuition other than you or a loan, "Do not go to college full-time. You are the only one taking the risk that it will help you in the future. If it does not help you; you may be strangled by debt. If you do not graduate or others beat you big time in the class-rank area, you will suffer all your life for the mistake of choosing college over a career in another field that does not require a degree."

Worse than that at \$25,000 per year, when you find out what you want to pursue in life, it will be much less easy to achieve if you have \$100,000 of debt strapped to your back. Everybody will see it. That's just the way it is.

I would suggest taking a few college courses at a time in your spare time and in the summer. Don't take English unless that is your love. Read a lot and write a lot. Get enrolled into a course in the discipline you might choose to follow. See if you can be an engineer. See if you can be a computer technician. See if you can be a chemist.

Do not take easy courses that work towards your credit requirement as you may find you don't want to be an Oceanographer but instead a diver and what a shame to have all that student debt when being a diver does not cost quite so much!

Until you absolutely must, know that so many others are swamped today by student loan debt. Mostly it is unnecessary if you don't set a four-year degree plan in motion. Do not take out any student loans. Ever! Save your life so you can be free.

What does Sue think?

When a reader named Sue commented on the ABC report of Obama's initiative on their News site, she offered the best advice I have seen in a long time to assure new students that are not now swamped by student debt, to avoid ever getting into the big student borrowing hole.

Sue responded with tremendous insight into the real problem today with student loans—the 800-pound gorilla in the room that nobody wants to talk about in an honest way.

In Sue's words: "I actually don't believe that we should put a college education in everyone's hands and think that line of thinking is part of the problem with education in this country." Sue continues:

"For decades we've restructured our elementary and high school systems to become one-size-fits-all and college is quickly going that route too. But the reality is that not everyone fits the mold. Not everyone is cut out for an office job and not everyone is cut out for construction.

"In some communities, we are now seeing a return to skills training in high schools, where kids can graduate from high school with a two-year business degree from the local community college and a cosmetology license, or a mechanics license as well as their high school diploma.

"These are kids who can go right from high school into the work force with the training they need, start working (or start their own business from their parent's garage). They won't be saddled with student loans."

"The President's program [Obama era] of encouraging students to go into debt (sorry, but a student loan is a debt) to get an education is backwards – and in the end, not everyone needs a college education to move the country forward. They simply need to be trained to do what they want to do, and preferably, they should learn it in high school." [Preferably, they should not have to be on the verge of lifetime bankruptcy when they understand their choice of professions in life.]

Bring back Kuder aptitude tests in high school

Sue did not say this but surely, she was thinking about it. We need better aptitude tests and attitude tests that we do not overly respect a college education.

Let's bring back the Kuder tests to check aptitude in high school and stop the insistence that everybody needs to complete their life by having gone to some college someplace at some time. Unless you can afford the \$100,000 and are willing to accept nothing in return, stay away from College scene unless again, you are convinced that you will be in the top 25%-33%.

Sue has a head on her shoulders for sure.

Who in a debtor's prison ever has earned enough to gain their freedom? More and more student borrowers, who are already in de facto debtor's prisons see the invisible bars, and choose to escape in the only way they know how. They stop paying even a dime towards their student debt and they stop answering their phone.

They see their student debt as hopeless. After a few reprieves, a few thousand 8 AM phone calls that wake-up mom and dad, several forbearances, with their debt climbing through the roof, they give up and call it quits. For a while before the end, they believe they are paying for the right to remain out of default, in much the same way they would if the dollars were borrowed from a loan shark. Then they find that the merely paid to get a forbearance and none of the debt is paid. Yes, the government loan sharks take all these payments, and none apply towards the loan. How does that help America's young adults. It makes them want to quit paying for sure.

When their total debt balance goes up as they send checks thinking they are paying against their debt, they finally reach a point where the alternative is a better alternative. Why bother? They default on their loans.

Eight to nine million and growing have defaulted so far and they ruined their big opportunities in life. But, paying the most they could for years without decreasing the principle was ruining their little opportunities.

The system is unfair and once smart student borrowers know the game is rigged against them, and that they cannot get ahead, and they cannot change the system, they are smart enough to quit trying. After all they are products of the American higher education system. They know they are being ripped off.

Some want the “deadbeats” to suffer

There are those successful and somewhat lucky graduates who are not suffering from the pain of this huge debt since they have the means or the jobs to pay off their loans. I have read their comments. They do not want those less fortunate to get a break, especially if they perceive they will be paying for it or if their kids struggled with it and succeeded.

Though they are in the minority, many of them are indignant that the others, not so lucky should get a small break, and surely not a big break. They have little compassion for those who do not pay their bill even if they have no job and no means of support. If they gave it little thought, they would agree that such deadbeat borrowers should be put in debtor's prison to teach them a lesson.

They resent the fact that they had to pay off their debts on their own in order to move ahead. This is understandable to an extent but what do they want the guy or gal who they beat out for the only job in town to do?

From the Internet chatter on student loans, many that are doing well do not think that their university peers should even ask taxpayers to help them pay off their loans as it would be unfair to those, such as the fortunate with jobs, who are paying or who have paid their loans off on time.

I agree with their outrage, but the reality separates itself from their outrage. This is surely understandable, and I would have do have reservations about forgiving all of these debts. Yet, I believe it is best for America is we forgive them and start the system over the right way.

It would be a good idea for those in default, those about to default, and those who ultimately will have to pay for the default to consider making the debt able to be paid without major pain. Nobody gains when the debt is rendered uncollectible and the once hopeful student's life is basically ruined for good.

None of us will ever get in line to give what is not needed to the poor, but most will help as much as we can. I like to say that I will always help the helpless, but I do not want to help make anybody helpless. Giving student loan relief is an exception.

It won't make anybody helpless. It is help that can make people productive for the first times in their lives in some cases. It is good for America. From talking to the parents of students in default, I can assure you that no parent, who in good faith sent their children to higher education institutions that promised the world, expected less of a life in return.

Nobody expected the world in a basket either. However, nobody expected a life of misery after gaining their coveted degree. Meanwhile, the university and the other loan sharks including the US government long ago—all of them—have cashed the checks even though the granted degree in many cases is worthless to this graduate. Perhaps that degree is worthless to most graduates in that particular degree program. But, only the student borrower who got nothing out of it, is on the hook.

Do not trust admissions counsellors

As a thought that we have introduced earlier in this book, it helps to recognize that at the bottom of the student debt issue today is that colleges and universities oversold their product. What college today is suffering because none of their students were able to get jobs. When

you answer that question, I might feel compelled to scream out “I rest my case!”

The dike is still leaking as colleges are still able to do this with impunity. There are no laws that compel a college not to overpromise. Why not? You find no big stories about colleges being punished for not doing a good job in training our children to excel and perhaps more importantly, to be able to so think for themselves. Isn't that the job of colleges and universities? If not, what is their job? I

US colleges and universities should be punished by having to help their student graduates with their loan repayments. Don't you think that alone would help solve the student loan crisis in the future?

Not learning from their mistakes, universities create a never-ending cycle of students heading for the debtor's prison. These one-time students often get no chance at stopping for a brief respite to have a life, a house, a husband, or a child.

Without assurances of a top-class rank, no sane parent, properly advised by a school or a compassionate government, would have encouraged their children to take out huge school loans approaching a hundred thousand dollars after four or five years unless they knew something good was going to happen. They believed what was said.

In the end, they see their children with a worthless education and a worthless piece of paper to hang on the wall. Now that the results are in, and there are almost nine million loan defaults equaling nine million ruined lives, what sane parents should consider signing up their next child today with the same risk of ruining his or her life.

Only the colleges and universities benefit and it is time that they get called on it. It is far better to be unemployed without a huge debt than to be unemployed and be heading to the veritable debtor's prison until the loan is paid off.

Our Congress does not permit bankruptcy as a solution for young people who cannot pay their student debts. But, if they had paid for their degrees on high interest credit cards, they may actually be permitted bankruptcy relief.

Many parents expected and some still believe that the very act of going to college should result in guaranteed success. The success would include a good job for the graduate and thus there would be a means of paying for the education even if the interest rates were unfair.

Even more importantly, paying off the loan is looked upon as a side show on the ladder of success. Having a fine job that is good enough to provide the means to buy a home and have a better life—that is looked on as the piece d' resistance! For today's older kids, neither are achievable.

Today, unfortunately, as parents have found, the verdict is in. Unless you are in the top 25% of your class, those dreams are unlikely to materialize. Worse than that; those parents who were duped by the admissions counselors in the fancy suits witnessed their children being set up for a life of future miserableness that might just as well be a debtor's prison. I am afraid it is that bad.

Go to the Internet and type in student loan repayments and you can see the despair and the disappointment expressed by the victims of the student loan charade created and continually espoused by our Congress. If you think the credit card issue with young people is bad, consider that Congress decided that with student loans, your children can get no relief at all—ever.

Shall we say the loan sharks / lobbyists and their accomplices in the colleges and universities convinced Congress to act in such a way that does not help students who are merely trying to better themselves? I think you can win a bet on that one. Ask Congress why they do not help today's most academically talented poor?

The irony is that colleges and universities are mum about the problem as if they have no culpability at all. These institutions have become in many ways like the bad businesses listed by the Better Business Bureau.

Ironically, in recent years, as a recruiting tool, colleges and universities, especially those that operate mostly online, have found a need to register with the Better Business Bureau. Moreover, they use

their listing to prove their worthiness to students. The truth is missing from their work.

Better Business Bureau certified

For the Better Business Bureau, legitimate proof of success for a college or university to produce is simply that they actually do bestow degrees. Degrees are simply pieces of paper even if somebody does not respect the supposed meaning of the paper.

The degree of course is intended to represent the end of a major higher educational process that provides the knowledge for one to be successful in their area of study. When presented in the form of a sheepskin or a rolled piece of paper, for the BBB, that is proof positive that the university is not in a scam business. What do the students who have been scammed by colleges and still are not working think of that premise?

When I wrote an article about this debtor's phenomenon in 2012, I was misinformed. I wrote this: "But, does it really provide the proper proof? Are the universities of today, where 85% of American graduates in 2011 were so inadequately prepared for life that they had to go back home for sustenance, really worthy of being heralded by the Better Business Bureau as bastions of opportunity."

My apologies to those who bought my "facts" back then. The bogus 85 percent figure that CNN, Time and The New York Post breathlessly reported that year was incorrect. The number was 45 percent. Forty-Five percent is still high. This number also is a report card on universities and it means that 45% of their job placements did not succeed.

It does not take parents long to determine that the real proof of success, a proof not even asked for by the BBB, is the percentage of students that are employed in their major field. These statistics are even more dismal.

Yet, the colleges and universities continue to be in good standing? Something is wrong in America. An employed college graduate counts

as employed even if they are tossing pizza dough at the Hut or tossing burgers on the grill at McDonalds, while waiting impatiently for the minimum wage to be raised to \$15.00 per hour.

Let me repeat my thesis please. The vendor that provides the no value education—the college or university—is not held accountable for its failure to produce a functioning product. Of course, the finished products are graduates that more often than not nowadays are not at all capable of gaining the promises extended.

Parents must consider as the students are courted by the Admissions Department, and the Financial Aid Department, and all questions were answered in the positive—are they getting the truth?

Four or five years prior to graduation, these students and their parents are asked to sign letters of intent and even the more important quickie student loan applications to permit them to matriculate. Other papers in the pile included their loan applications, already filled out but for the signature. There is no guarantee form within the mass of paperwork, though the guarantee is even more than implied. The implied guarantee is worthless. Your child will be on the hook for the loan repayment.

Moreover, as if the student loan crisis has never happened, these same charlatans, dressed in their university plumage and finery are still permitted each and every year to continue to solicit and encourage a fresh batch of vulnerable 17 and 18-year olds to step into the financial abyss of a life that they will never be permitted to begin. And the institutions do so with vigor and complete impunity. Parents and student borrowers. must beware.

As a former college professor retired in 2011, I know that many parents and student graduates today are questioning the value of a university education. They have good reason to do so.

When the loan brokers have to wait until retirement years to collect the debt from social security or unemployment payments, can we all not admit that something is woefully wrong in America. Why would we encourage more of a bad thing? Where is our Congress?

The Obama Administration produced few really good jobs for fresh college graduates. Any jobs that were created were given to international student visa holders by the same universities that helped our children underachieve.

Should the colleges and universities not be able to take credit for job placements when the lucrative fields in which the graduate is placed includes areas of endeavor such as bartenders, waiters/waitresses, truck drivers, or other blue-collar type jobs?

Do the parents credit the University for these types of job placements—especially for graduate students? I think not.

From what I see from being on the front line, students in the bottom 25% of their class have about zero prospects for getting a first-job in their field. Those in the bottom 60% have a small chance. Most in these circumstances wish they could have that student loan decision, which they made at 17 or 18 years of age back again for a do-over.

Think about your own life/

What great decisions did you make when you were seventeen or eighteen? Now you know the extent of the problem. Student borrowers eventually learn that their huge loans, many over \$100,000, may very well ruin their lives for years. For them, before they realize a modicum of success, they find their life has become a veritable debtors' prison, a dead end for someone the world is ready to call a *deadbeat*, despite the sheepskin hanging on the wall.

Where are the good jobs promised by the universities for all the money borrowed? At the same time that most graduates cannot find jobs, the jobs they do find pay less and less—even if it is in their chosen field. The average salary of college graduates has gone down 10% in the past ten years while inflation is growing at an ever-faster clip.

This is caused by a combination of a poor economy and because foreign graduates holding student visas take American jobs right after graduation. They work for substantially lower wages, especially if their visas are expired.

It helps to again offer the starkest statistic of all so all Americans understand this problem is not going away by itself. The percentages of college graduates living at home varies from survey to survey.

Forty-Five percent of college graduates from 2011 have had to swallow their pride and move home with mom and dad because they cannot afford life on their own. CNN had once reported the number at 85%. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to call out: "Houston, we have a problem!"

In 2005, Penelopetrunk.com wrote this about the problem:

"In the list of what's hot and what's not, blowing all your money on an overpriced apartment is out and sleeping on the twin bed at your parents' house is in. Bobby Jackson is a senior at Williams College who will graduate this June. He will load up a moving container, head back to Washington, D.C. after graduation, and look for a public relations job from the comfort of his parents' home. Jackson typifies the remarkable shift of inter-generational attitudes when he declares, "I love hanging out with my parents."

"According to market research company Twentysomething Inc., 65% of college seniors expect to live with their parents after graduation. The job web site MonsterTRAK reports that 50% of the class of 2003 continues to live at home. "Boomerangers" is what analysts call the twentysomethings moving back home, and the consensus among researchers (who grew up in an era when moving back was a sign of failure) is that being a boomeranger is a strategically sound way to head toward an independent life.

Chapter 10 The Impact of Foreign Students

Who has skin in the student debt game?

I must admit that I am surprised that nobody is calling out the universities for permitting more and more foreign students into their programs and then helping them gain employment ahead of American students. When foreign students graduate; guess whose jobs they take? According to their student visas, they are supposed to return to their country of origin. Once in America, however, they are not about to leave.

There are many groups that help students on their quest for employment in the US after graduating from an American university. Many students come to America to stay and, so they must be employed in order to remain legally in the country. Then again, the illegal residency option is often used when students cannot find jobs in their two-month opportunity period.

International Students taking American jobs is a big problem for American students trying to get a job. Ask the university placement office for the statistics on foreign student placements and for American student placements. Do not let them include the few students who go home in the denominator. Do not let them appear like it is not a problem for you.

Helping foreign students is a big industry

In their senior year, the very same universities and pillaging law firms line up to represent foreign students. They make recommendations for those who want to stay in America and not go home as required by the

terms of their student visas—to which they agreed and swore. International students can take any of these four options:

- ✓ Enroll in the Optional Practical Training (OPT) and work in the United States for a year
- ✓ Get an H-1B (high tech work visa) to work at an American organization
- ✓ Attend graduate school in the US while working on gaining employment
- ✓ Simply do not go home and work underground
- ✓ Whereas we most often refer to these as foreign students; the universities like refer to them as International Students. Watch that trick designed to get American students to think less of themselves because they are not "international."!

How can a foreigner get a job in America after graduation as an International Student? There are a number of answers. Starting from the beginning, a student living in the US with an F-1 or J-1 (student) visa has 60 days to either enroll in another college or university for graduate studies or they can enroll in the OPT program to gain employment.

The *OPT* program is a very good deal for foreign students but not such a good deal for American students. It permits the J-1 and F-1 student visa status to be extended for one year so that the International student can gain professional training in their area of direct study. The application can take three to four months, so most students are advised early in their senior year to begin the process so that at graduation time, they may continue to stay in the country with employment. Their employment, by the way, may very well be the same job for which your son or daughter was aspiring. But, nobody is counting the Americans who are hurt by such programs.

So, after completing all course requirements for the degree, foreign students can gain full-time employment with American companies for one year. During that year, they can work to gain an H-1B visa for the following six years. This gives up to six additional years and then they can look to extend the H-1B again or work with their company

sponsor to help them gain a green card, which is non-citizen, permanent residency in the US. Meanwhile our children who demand a living wage, are waiting for the USCIS to send these job poachers home. But, they never do!

Between 2009 and 2010, as less and less Americans students were being hired, the number of *OPT* students employed in American jobs rose by 14.43 percent.

Overall, if foreign students opt to stay in the US for a longer period of time, they simply get a company to sponsor them for the H-1B non-immigrant visa. This allows them to remain employed at that company for three years, and then they can get that extended for up to six or more years.

So, as the problem for young American student graduates gaining employment comes into focus, we see that a major destination for foreign students is the American workplace by achieving H-1B visas (college graduate – supposedly hi-techs).

International students from US university campuses are prime candidates for these positions. So, an innocent college education for a foreign student winds up being a job killer for American students. Yes, they do work for less. I know!

It is our Congress that permits this to occur by passing laws that are unfair to American citizens. And so, we find foreign graduates with degrees from the same universities as our children applying for jobs at the same companies that would hire our children if they were willing to work under the same conditions and for the same reduced wages as the foreign students.

Once an employer is found, the H-1B visa is granted and the foreign graduate takes the job for typically six years. Meanwhile American students go home to Mom and Dad simply to survive.

In other words, F-1, and J-1 visa holders are supposed to go home but they find university counselors or university lawyers to help get the deck stacked in their favor. They either use the OPT program or they go right to the H-1B visa program, so they do not have to go home.

Because they do not go home, your children cannot get jobs. Any questions?

The reason corporations hire foreigners over Americans is not because they are superior students but that they are a ready source of cheaper, yet still highly competent labor. Universities not only sell their foreign national graduates to corporations; they also hire more than their fair share of professors from the foreign national community. That is how I lost my own job; so, I know.

Many of those hired in universities have just received graduate degrees from American universities. In other words, for financial and diversity reasons, the universities prefer not to hire Americans for the faculty jobs, which they have available. Students are taught American subjects such as American History, by foreigners who can hardly speak the American language – English!

Congress permits colleges and universities to hire an unlimited number of foreigners as faculty or staff with the H-1B visa program. It is the exception to the nominal 65,000 visas permitted each year. American colleges and universities have a vested interest in foreign students and foreign workers. Ironically, they have no such interest in Americans, who pay their salaries.

I have witnessed universities firing existing faculty to replace them with younger foreign national professors willing to work for less money. Smaller universities will even outsource the legal part of the visa work to assure the foreign applicant a six-year H-1B visa. They will contract with immigration law firms and pay up to \$10,000 or more per faculty member depending on the complexity of the case for the purpose of hiring a new faculty member who will work cheap for the sake of the university. How does this help American students?

Do you think that a “cheap” faculty has any effect on the quality of education our children receive? Does it have anything to do with the difficulty our children have in getting jobs?

It is really tough for Americans to get hired in US Universities since our Congress has seen fit to permit an unlimited number of foreign nationals to be hired as professors or staff at universities of all sizes in the US.

With more and more debt-saturated former students not being able to survive without their parents, this also has an impact on the indebted jobless-student borrower's ability to ever consider purchasing a home.

I know that I said this already, but it is how it is, and it is worth repeating. When American college graduates begin to be hired, the housing market will begin to boom again as will the Wedding Chapel business.

This major effect on the housing market and it will continue for years to come until the problem with student debt is solved. Who will buy the new homes if not the young? How can a college graduate that owes the equivalent of a huge house in student loan debt, ever be considered for purchasing a home? One problem will continue to feed the other until the student debt crisis is solved. Then, homes will again be sold in America at the proper sale amount.

No solution is simple. With 30% or more former students ultimately defaulting on their loans, and many more trapped in a financial abyss, from which they may never escape, Congress can certainly create a better way to help the borrower, the housing market, and the taxpayer, all at the same time. It might not benefit foreigners or the universities, but it would help parents and the students that got sucked into promises from university pitchmen that were as powerful as the best infomercials you have ever seen on TV.

Chapter 11 A Few Other Solid Solutions

Reduce student borrower's interest rates

We have already discussed a number of solutions. Congress and the President must act now. Short of debtor's prison, I would suggest that Congress assure that in times when no person in the US can find a savings account earning more than a percent (or two) interest rate; that the lenders should not be able to inflict usury rates on students.

This is common practice today and it leads many student borrowers to default. Why should students pay 6% to 10% while they can earn only 1%? Unless the government is trying to hurt former students, it makes no sense.

Student borrowers need to have their interest rates capped at something that is affordable. What good does it do if 30% default today and perhaps 50% will default ten years from now? How does this help anybody but the guardians of the mythical debtor's prison?

I would like Congress to help me understand why the Stafford Loan interest percentage was raised to almost 7% when only a rare bank pays more than one percent interest. When today's borrowers can get a mortgage for just over 3%, and the best savings rate that the most lucrative banks give is less than 1.5%, why would our government ever permit the Stafford loan or any loan for that matter to be so much higher than the savings interest rate.

On the Sallie Mae Web Site, they advertise an APR of 9.72% for new student loans. This is ridiculous unless you run a government funded debtor's prison, or your background is the loan shark business.

Nobody wants defaults on these loans or any other loans, but the terms have become so usurious and oppressive that the law of unintended consequences is beginning to deal many defaults right from the top of the deck. This must be solved post haste.

Why not permit defaulters a new shot at paying back their loans? Put a package together that includes taking students out of default status temporarily no more interest for two or three years. Let everything counts towards the principle. It sure is better getting something than nothing and the defaulter may come back and begin to pay again.

Bring back the bankruptcy option

All debt should be treated equally. A drug dealer can declare bankruptcy on credit card bills, but a student cannot get a break in massive debt situation with usurious interest rates. How is that?

As we are all aware, Congress has taken the bankruptcy option off the table for students so for many, there is no way out of the hole. There is not even a speck of light at the end of the tunnel. Is this really what we want or should Congress fashion a solution that brings back some hope to what is now a situation that makes many of our young citizens either hopeless or feeling hopeless. Tell me the difference?

After assuring very low, reasonable, payback interest rates, just a hair above the Treasury note, I would recommend Congress make the student loan game fair again by rounding in the student borrower's favor rather than the lender. Simply trace back the last few iterations of legislation and instead of making students targets of corrupt lenders, strip those lenders of the powers that the Congress has given them.

Let me offer some examples:

Most of the laws enacted by Congress have hurt those who do not have the means to pay back their student loans at the rate demanded by Sallie Mae or other legitimate “loan sharks” in the student loan industry.

For example, Congress enacted the 2005 Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, which presupposes that students; who are in fact bankrupt, can be enslaved in a debtor's prison and through prayer, and perhaps some great prison poker skills, can somehow come up with the money to pay off their student loans.

This gift from Congress had a number of sweet surprises for students, who at the time were looked upon as the bad guys! By the way, Congress still treats our kids as the bad guys.

The big surprise in this law is that Student loans that were not guaranteed by the federal government were henceforth deemed to not be eligible to be discharged in bankruptcy. This became law on October 17, 2005. In other words, when credit card companies find out that you used your credit card to pay for a course, they can come after you under this law. If you bought beer instead of education, they could not touch you.

Would any American think that the laws for credit card debt would be less severe than the laws for students trying to gain an American education? What limitations are there on credit card purchases? They can be used for anything. Student loans can be used only for education, so why would Congress treat credit card debt in a more favorable light than student debt? One word—lobbyists!

Additionally, to show its utter disdain for students who cannot get jobs and are forced to default, Congress changed the Higher Education Act and eliminated all statutes of limitations for the collection of student loan debt – even those from the past.

If I don't say so again, all of the provisions of this act should be repealed to give students a fair shot, rather than promote an even higher default rate.

With this law, out of nowhere, students who once had a tough time paying off their loans in times of leniency on student debt, which had passed the time specified in the statute of limitations, and who were thus free from their debt in the 70's and 80's, again found themselves getting billed for the forgiven debt. The government was only kidding.

These guys are now in their 50's 60's and 70's, and social security is being garnished.

Again, their arrearage plus their remaining debt amount became a collectible debt! This gave the loan sharks and collection agencies a new source of revenue. But for the unfortunate students or the grandmas who secured the debt, they became outlaws as their debt remained uncollectible but due nonetheless.

And we know how nice the collectors are when they call at 7 or 8 in the AM.

Here is another goodie. The law now permits lenders to lie about student loans and it is OK! Yes, student loans are specifically exempted from coverage under the Truth in Lending Act (TILA). They are also now specifically exempted from state usury laws...lending money at an unreasonably high interest rate. Charge what you want to students but nobody else.

If the student loan sharking agencies raise the rate to 55%, you must pay the rate. Additionally, most student loan guarantors do not have to adhere to the 1988 Federal Trade Commission legislation requiring an adherence to Fair Debt Collection and Practices in pursuing defaulted borrowers. Thank you, Congress.

Why not? With over 8 million students in default, and parents more and more involved in the game, how does this help anybody? Are the debt collectors included in the private industry job gains the prior administration liked to claim?

Please do not get the wrong idea. There were days in which students graduated and then laughed at the idea of paying back their student loans and eventually the loan went away. These are not those days, and these are not the debtors of which I speak. I am talking about our kids.

I am not looking for a return to those, days but the pendulum has gone too far the other way and Congress must fix it. People are getting hurt in many ways and I read just today of a young lady with stage 2 curable cancer who was being hounded so much by student loan debt

collectors that she took her own life. I am sure there are more situations like this.

Is this what we really want for America? Should we punish our young adults when they are young, and then expect them to grow up to treat the world fairly?

Anybody who checks what the student lenders are doing, and how harshly they treat everybody—people who do not have two nickels to rub together—would admit that somehow a big sin has been perpetrated against the young adults in America and our Federal Government not only permits it; it encourages it! Shame on our Congress for allowing this.

Permitting seventeen and eighteen-year olds to sign up for a life in a debtor's prison is a sin just like the children, just over ten years old, working in the mines prompted the child labor laws.

So, let's solve the problem in a fair way that does not take the life out of the most alive people in America—our children. The recommended solution keeps income flowing to repay the loans and gets the loan sharking, unfair collection tactics, and garnishment of social security out of the student loan business. It is worth a hard look.

Stop new student borrowing abuse

The first step after helping students repay loans is to stop additional student loan borrowing abuse. It is not always best for students to go to college. Getting a position as a truck driver, five years after high school, with a college degree and a huge debt does not help anybody but the university. Getting that job five years earlier helps a part-time student immensely.

First of all, I recommend giving all the defaulted student borrowers a second chance at making it right. That brings eight million lost participants back into the game. If each give just one dollar a year, that is \$5 million more dollars a year than would have arrived otherwise. Everything counts. Let's ask for a buck with options for more than one buck, but let's take the buck because at least we have made contact.

Graduated repayment schedule

Without a total forgiveness, which is the best idea, every student borrower with current income should have to pay something back on their loan but it cannot be the equivalent of being in a debtor's prison. I recommend a progressive payback schedule (like the progressive income tax) based on adjusted gross income.

For those borrowers approaching default, I would add a new type of forbearance in which no interest is charged for several years. Borrowers feel better when they reduce the principal with some of each payment. Once the student goes into default status, they may be inclined to stay there and never come back.

Up to the poverty line, let's set the percentage at 1% so everybody pays something against their debt. Set the minimum rate of payment in the schedule after the poverty line at 3%. Yes, everybody pays something. For somebody who has already defaulted, forgive the interest payments so the borrower has a chance to climb out of debt. I would suggest a bracket for each 5% after that up to a maximum rate of 25% of income for the highest bracket.

Let's look at a typical IRS schedule. The 2012 tax brackets will suffice to get an idea on how to structure this:

Tax Bracket Single

10% Bracket \$0 – \$8,700

15% Bracket \$8,700 – \$35,350

25% Bracket \$35,350 – \$85,650

28% Bracket \$85,650 – \$178,650

33% Bracket \$178,650 – \$388,350

35% Bracket over \$388,350

Using the same type of structure, this is a first cut at an equitable minimum payment schedule. To get somebody restarted I would recommend a \$1.00 per month for a few years to get them accustomed

to paying something. Note that everybody who makes as little as \$100.00 per year should pay 1% (something) per year on the second bracket, etc. up to the poverty level:

Student Loan Repayment on Yearly Adjusted Gross

\$1.00 per month rather than a default

1% Bracket \$100 – \$11,170 (poverty line)

5% Bracket \$11,170 – \$40,000

10% Bracket \$40,000 – \$80,000

15% Bracket \$80,000 – \$120,000

20% Bracket \$120,000 – \$220,000

25% Bracket over \$220,000

I am not suggesting this is the perfect chart, but it is the right idea. It may be too little or too much. It looks fair to me. We need to ask the people in these circumstances and set the rates, so undue burdens are not the rule. A key element is that interest stops for several years so that the student borrower accepts the loan principle as a debt and they can watch it decrease.

This is just a first look. Ultimately it all depends on a fair interest rate. If the rate or the process is not fair, it will not work. Therefore, Congress must change it as the graduated schedule must be fair and it must lead to the student borrower being free of debt at some point.

It is designed to eventually get the loans paid off but even if it does not, nobody should go broke paying off a debt that is due. So many young people look at say, their Sallie Mae payment, and they know they can't do it ever; so, they default and never look back.

For heaven's sake we do not want the cream of the crop young people in America in any form of debtor's prison. Because Congress permitted unscrupulous colleges and universities, loan sharks, and corrupt loan collectors to saddle seventeen and eighteen-year olds with bad loans and life-changing-debt, we owe our young a reprieve. We owe them a better deal. I know a man with a philosophy of "Make America Great Again," would feel the same.

Of course, even with the repayment schedules above, in no instance should anybody have to pay more than the minimum monthly payment in their official payback schedule for their loan even if they could afford it. Government should donate all student loan profits to help the students who need it the most get out of default.

When somebody becomes a “deadbeat” in the student loan system; they have few other options than to hide from the collector. Those who paid off their loans do not know the scourge of such harassment.

Parents often must change their phone numbers and get unlisted numbers and ask their neighbors to not acknowledge them, so they can protect their children from the incessant phone calls. In America, there must be a better way. Nobody asks illegal aliens on welfare to pay anything back. Why is that? It is not fair.

To help pay for the reprieve, if Congress chooses not to reach into US Assets as pointed out in earlier chapters, I would also set up a means for any taxpayer to donate a \$1.00 and greater by checking a box on their tax refund and having it directed towards the paying down of all student loans.

I would also recommend a web site in which anybody can donate by credit card to help pay down the cumulative student loan debt for American kids trying to better themselves. Payments would be apportioned only to those whose debts are in default, in such a way as to not encourage defaulting.

I do not believe in the free lunch. So, any program must involve the debtor, though it is very unfair to expect 17 or 18-year old's to be able to pay back a huge mortgage. The program also should involve the co-signors, who never would have expected the universities to make it more difficult for their graduates to get real jobs by helping foreigners ahead of Americans.

The student debtor and the co-signor were both duped by the academic institutions to keep the student at the institution for four or five or even six years for an undergraduate degree, though the institution was working against the parents promoting foreign students to employers rather than Americans.

We all know that universities make a big promise about the value and the future promise of an education for a successful graduate. Yet, they have taken no responsibility when the graduate is never employed.

Before any reduced opportunity for retirement (garnishment of social security etc.) should be inflicted against the loan cosigners, the cash collectors should come after the universities for promises un-kept. My final recommendation set therefore as in Chapter 1 and 2 is a bit more controversial.

All of this money that former students have signed for or have paid and will pay over the years has already found its way into the coffers of universities across the nation. Despite being the only party to whom the proceeds have been given, the universities seemingly have no skin in the loan game.

And, since the product of the universities, the students, our children have not been able to achieve the American Dream as promised by the Admissions Counselors, and the Financial Aid Counsellors, there should be recourse.

Since such universities encourage foreign students to take jobs in the US upon graduation and they also hire foreign faculty even when Americans are available, universities are a part of the problem. The recourse should be even more obvious.

In this regard, as noted in Chapter 1, I would ask the Congress to enact legislation to make colleges and universities a part of the financial solution, providing the following:

1. Individual students, who failed to meet reasonable expectations regarding the promised value of their degrees should be able to sue colleges and universities for a part of their student debt balance.
2. Government should collect a fee of 5% of the university's gross revenue up to 25% (similar notion to the student payback schedule with different values for gross revenue) – at least something. This is to be applied to paying down all student loans for graduates or attendees of that particular college or university. The minimum payment would

be a factor of the student default rate for the institution and the percentage of gross revenue. The exact formula will need some work.

3. Severely limit the number of foreign students admitted until the US unemployment rate is 2.5% and cap the number permitted to obtain work visas after graduation to a smaller / reasonable number. Work with American students first for jobs and assistance. No foreign student gets help until all Americans get help.

4. Limit the number of H-1B visas for faculty to a very small number perhaps 2% of total faculty. Today the number is unlimited and often American students in American universities are shortchanged because their teachers are not fluent in English.

5. Assure the H-1B faculty member on worker visa returns to the home country after the visa expires with no renewals. Employee visa holders should not be permitted to get in line for green card or citizenship if they have already been granted faculty status. This is unfair to American professors.

6. Reduce all non-University H-1B visas from 85,000 (65,000) to 2,000 until the unemployment rate goes to 2%.

These recommendations would not necessarily affect those students who are doing very well and can afford to pay off their debt through the normal payment schedules. However, in as much as the Congress is encouraged to remove the ability for financial companies to loan shark any student loan debtor, this plan is designed to help us all.

Even the tax payers will be helped as the five million plus, who today have no hope will be able to begin paying at least a small percentage on their loan. Eventually they will be able to pay a higher percentage, and then hopefully, they will also be able to buy a house and begin a family. The greatest advantage of all in this program is nobody will feel they are in a debtor's prison with no escape.

Chapter 12 Preventing New Massive Student Debt

Solve Both Big Issues!

There are two big issues with the student debt crisis as follows:

1. How to prevent students from accumulating huge student loan debts in the future.
2. How to deal with the \$1.45 trillion student debt already accumulated.

This chapter deals with item # 1. Other chapters in this book have addressed #2. There are a number of clever approaches being discussed in academic and government circles regarding both of these issues.

My university wrote me a letter

On the student side, Indiana State University is ahead of the curve with the most sensible notion yet on new student debt. It is documented that 53% of students who are attending college have no idea that they are accumulating a massive loan debt. I know it is hard to believe. They have no idea that when the student graduates or drops out of college, they will be asked to pay the loan down immediately.

In the flurry of getting admitted to a favorite university, how the bill gets paid is most often the last thing discussed with the admissions counsellor if discussed at all. College loan sharks exist in private industry, but admissions counsellors are often just as guilty in convincing poor students to attend college by taking a huge, easy to-get loan.

Mom and dad and junior and missy are lulled by the hype of the notion of attending college at their choice of universities. They fill out all their forms as everybody else and the admissions department and financial aid department make a determination how much they can afford out of pocket and how much has to come in the form of various grants and aid packages including loans of various kinds.

Nobody considers whether they can pay it back as the assumption is that graduation will bring with it automatically, a high-paying job

Getting a college loan is easier than getting a car loan. It is easier than getting a pack of cigarettes as a five-year-old. That is why many students add the car cost onto the student loan package and they take out a little extra for smokes. Nobody convinces them that there is a down-side to all that debt. In fact, until they meet the piper four to six years later, it all feels pretty good spending money.

The university tuition is always set high especially today with so many sources of funding for students. Giving a little aid to a student is no big deal today. It helps to remember the result of such a system places 70% of students who graduate in a debtor position with tens of thousands of dollars of student loans due.

When the package comes to the student along with an acceptance letter, there is euphoria on the part of the parents and the student. Johnnie and Janie are able to attend a great college and whatever the loan amount is as part of the package is simply another part of the yes vote when the student signs for the package with mom and dad's permission.

The next semester after the summer hiatus, the student begins to matriculate. There appears to be no downside until the debt is due.

Indiana has decided to be a lot more honest with its students and its new student loans are down by almost 20% while the number of students accepting admission is about the same. How is it that Indiana's students do not need as much funding as those students in other universities?

It's simple. Indiana tells them they are going into debt and to think carefully about the amount of debt they are about to take on as the debt from the loan will have to be paid back and it will affect their lives after graduation.

Those looking at the Indiana program and finding that it makes a lot of common-sense are suggesting the notion be more widespread than just one university in the nation. Based on Indiana's success, more schools are getting on the band-wagon.

It should be illegal to grant a loan until a prospective student attends a mini course on the effects of college debt upon life after graduation, and they pass a financial impact understanding test.

Many are suggesting that informative truthful letters should be sent from high schools to moms and dads and the high school students well before the prospective college student chooses whether to go to college or focus on vocational training. It's like telling the whole story and not giving universities and loan sharks the edge.

The crowds of new vigilantes against massive student debt also suggest that each college administer a quiz to incoming freshmen, to make sure they understand the kind of debt they are about to assume. A mandatory SAT-like exam should be put together that provides a risk profile for each student that should be used to assess whether the student qualifies to be granted a loan.

The tests in many ways would help to insulate colleges against nuisance lawsuits later, when students can't find jobs and they blame their college administrators for not disclosing the full extent of their debt. But, more than vindicating the institutions of higher learning, the idea is to provide an honest wakeup call that hits the student and parents between the eyes.

It must tell them that success is not a sure thing but the debt that will be accumulated is a sure thing. Quite frankly such a message may even prompt the borrower to become a much better student.

Intuitive solution not on the US table

Why is it that if you and I now know and those in charge know that the system of today is built to disadvantage our young, why is it permitted? Americans should have been informed years ago that the system is rigged to punish kids for trying to succeed. All of the privileges granted to loan sharks, and collection sharpies including the right to lie, and the permission to increase interest at any time, needs to be understood. Actually, Congress should get rid of these privileges, don't you think?

Millennials, the kids who are most affected by the student loan rigged system, even after graduation simply do not get it. They would be prepared to vote for the same people who created their dilemma even if it creates pain for other young people.

Donald Trump is a one of a kind human being. He hates rigged systems. He got his wealth from a financial bump from dad when young and then he had to work hard to become extremely successful. He loves being extremely successful and wants everybody else to take a fair shot at success.

Today's normal student debt system creates kids whose options have become a life from 23 to 65 years of age in a debtor's prison. Of course, the miserable life is preceded by a great four or five-year stint of raucous parties and an enjoyable life on campus, mixed with a little studying.

College students often get to live at a great college and perhaps gain a degree in their field of choice. In today's world depending on circumstances such as their grades, may not be good enough for a job. While on campus, however, life is swell. But, when the first bill comes, the fun stops.

Sometimes it is more prudent for middle of the road students to say "no," for a few years before going to school. Try life in the workforce before going back for a degree. It would avoid a lot of heartache trying to pay back \$100,000 or more in student debt with a \$15,000 a year job while living with mom and dad.

Colleges and universities and even parents package the deal so sweetly that the new high school seniors cannot say no. After the four or five-year great time post high school, and no job, their life is over for a long time. They are placed into the bucket with all of the other 70%, who are responsible for the \$1.45 trillion of student loan borrowing in America.

Sorry, there is no escape once a high school student elects to take the plunge into the student debt pool. Congress saw to that. Congress decided that there is no way out of student debt and there is no way to make the pain any less severe than having the young adults in America believe their lives are being spent in a debtor's prison with no escape.

Meanwhile the same Congress has tricks so that those related to them in their work effort can escape without owing anything. No Virginia, life is not fair unless you are a Congressman.

So, is there an intuitive solution to high school students unknowingly signing up for a life of bondage devised intentionally so that a prestigious university can collect cold hard cash from unknowing student debtors and deliver little in exchange? A job! Sorry! Universities get jobs for foreign nationals not privileged Americans.

Yes, there is an intuitive solution but millennials I fear would not get it. I can recall that when I went to college and worked with the janitorial staff to get part of my tuition paid, the head janitor had a sign outside his office. It read "A college education is a four-year loaf on dad's bread, and the product comes out fresh with a lot of crust." I never forgot that.

I understood the truth. I did not have the risk today's babes in the woods have in dealing with college loan sharks. I was working my way through with just a few very affordable loans and an academic scholarship.

Yet, I understood as these gentleman on the janitorial staff knew that there were a lot of bold and brazen contemporaries of mine who were convinced that they knew everything. They felt that any help given to them was well deserved. I had met them. I originally believed that they

were smarter than I until the first tests started coming back and then I knew they were made of wind.

I have three millennial children and like Donald Trump's brood, my kids appreciate everything they get. I thank God for that. They tell me that their peers respect little about the old America and do not care about America as their parents do. They have not experienced America as I know it, or my children know it.

I regret that for them. Our country is such a wonderful place compared to all others. I wish millennials were not forced to listen to the labored breathing of coffee-breathed liberal progressive professors in ultra-Marxist universities. They are inundated with anti-Americanism all day long by people who do not care if they get a job or if they can ever pay off their college loans.

As a professor myself, I know these people and I understand why our young in America are so distraught about America. Yet, there is no rational explanation other than the fraud perpetrated on all Americans by the elite academicians whose disdain for rugged individualism or the freedom to be an individual has affected the gentlest minds in America—our young adults. Millennials!

Many young parents say that the first time they realized how smart their parents were, was when they had their own children.

Unfortunately, the current world brought to us by Democrats, who love the idea of a dependent American, are happy with a world full of student debt with no escape. They are OK with foreigners, legal or not, holding all the respectable jobs in America. Our smartest college graduates are sunk in massive debt.

Millennials have been convinced by their coffee-breath professors that the reason they can never enjoy a family, a home, a fine job, and hope for the future is because America sucks. This is not true. As a professor and as a guy who knows these liars, I am so sorry that the students in their charge, millennials as we call them, have fallen for this claptrap.

The fact is that America is the best place to be unless you want somebody else to control your life.

So, what is the solution? We must rely on our "honest" government to get the right message out as early as possible about the risks of huge debt and the potential of no prospects for a good life. When our government is dishonest, we must replace it at the top with people like Donald Trump, and at the bottom with people who are smart like us, who love America.

Not every teacher and not every government employee and not every politician is against the people, but it sure seems too many are. They are guided by a corrupt press which forces all Americans to fight hard to gain the truth. We must demand that our children learn that a college education may very well cost a student a better life if it is not planned and accepted properly. The sooner the better.

College must no longer be the default for all high school students and all the other choices need to be explored by students as they once had been. Kuder tests and other vocational tests need to be brought back and implemented. White-collar professionals should help form white collar potential career paths and blue-collar professionals should present the same for the trades and the physical work place.

In terms of making sure we do not add more bad debt to the \$1.45 Trillion currently owed, we need to make sure that each of those who might accept debt for a larger opportunity, do so with their eyes wide open and with the facts all known.

I have two last suggestions for the period in which all the college signings are done by the high school student.

1. Online course
2. Preprinted complete information forms

1. Each student who plans to attend college should be required to complete an online course of study in his or her junior or senior year, and perhaps in both years, in which they learn about all the specifics about the opportunities of a college degree. The material should include the risks of debt and other methods of paying for tuition, room, board, & books.

2. In addition to the letters and the courses and the brochures that explain to high school students the potential for devastating lifelong debt, the state and national governments should add a student debt information form that is as formal as all the other federal and state and lender / borrower forms.

It should be prefilled based on the student database, with specific information about the borrower. Based on the borrower's high school record and the track record of success for the chosen institution, a computer model should produce a probability of success, calculated based on past histories.

Additionally, all the anticipated costs and the anticipated payback period and amounts should be preprinted along with anything else that would be helpful to the student making an informed decision about debt. This should be regardless of its impact on the university of choice.

Income Share Agreement

There is another notion becoming popular out there to use to finance college instead of borrowing to the gills. It is called an Income Share Agreement. In this, students promise a portion of their future earnings and the burden is not as severe in most cases compared to student loans. These agreements are emerging on the scene with rapidity, so I present them as an alternative. You may study them at the following URL:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/income-share-agreements-help-students-pay-for-college-loan-alternative-2017-3>

Chapter 13 Reminder: Cost of an Undergraduate Degree

The plight of the poor rich

Let's talk about what a major cost a college education has become. It is so huge that it cannot be taken trivially as it can help float or it can totally sink your life.

The first of my unnumbered thoughts is that rich people own the world. There is no question about it. No argument will change that fact. Theoretically, if they wanted to, they could simply eliminate the rest of us. That surely would not be fair, but they could do it as they own all the major resources, the armies, and the armaments.

We could probably throw in for good measure that they own the leadership in most if not all countries. More than likely, the only things that keep them from taking over everything is #1, they do not trust the other rich guys, and #2, there would be no services they could buy if we were not available, walking the earth, to perform the services for them.

I am not rich; but I think I have made it to someplace into the middle class. I have a BS and an MBA. Great rich people, through taxes and through contributions to my college and to the government made it possible for me to win a half scholarship for achievement and a half-tuition loan (National Defense Student Loan) because my parents did not have enough money to send me to college. Two halves do make a complete whole in my case, but in the end, I was responsible for just \$50.00 a year from my private funds.

I was seventeen years old as a freshman until the beginning of my second semester in college. Like today's college students, I was simply

tickled to pieces to be able to go to a great college. I also got a job at the school for \$1.25 per hour under the Federal Work Study Program.

This was the minimum wage at the time. This again was mostly paid for by some rich person's taxes. The college paid 10% for my work, and the federal government paid 90% of my hourly rate.

I am very happy that rich people exist, and I am glad they share their gains with regular people. I was a clear beneficiary. I do agree that the pendulum has gone too far today with a tyranny of the underclass against the rich.

Today the rich still pay most of the taxes and they sponsor an awful lot of good stuff for regular people. I am glad they exist. I am not at all jealous. I do believe it would be a good thing, not a bad thing to become rich through hard work or even by winning the lottery. Good fortune helps us all be better people. I thank God that rich people treated me so well growing up. It sure made a difference in my life.

Today, the school I attended, whose tuition way back in time was \$950 per year with no special fees other than graduation, is now \$34,720 per year. That figure includes fees for all kinds of activities. Those amenities all cost money.

The full load without books estimated at \$1500 per year is in the table on the following page:

COSTS	RESIDENT	COMMUTER
Tuition and Fees (full- time)	\$34,720	\$34,720
Average Room and Board	\$12,136	N/A
Total	\$46,856	\$34,720

That's well over \$100,000 if you are lucky to finish in four years. A little-known statistic is that only 1% of the students pay the full amount. In other words, 99% receive some type of package which includes grants (not paid back) and loans (must be paid back).

It is all bundled nicely so that the student merely has to say OK with his or her John Hancock to be off to college the following fall. There is no documentation that I found that discusses risks.

AWARDS	RESIDENT	COMMUTER
Average		
Financial	\$23,472	\$24,911
Aid Package		

Average Gift

(Scholarship, Grant)

Aid

\$17,730

\$17,914

Some people see the combination of the Admissions Departments and the Financial Aid Departments of universities and colleges in much the same way as a business views its marketing department and its accounting department.

Though Admissions or Enrollment Management (a more exact term) sounds better than marketing, marketing is its job nonetheless. Its mission is to convince the best students to come to the university at the listed price with some discounts.

Let's suppose the name of this college is Student Loan University (SLU). Here are some of the words a typical high school student would find when dealing with the shrewd marketers at SLU to entice the prospective student to go along with the "AID" package, which they receive:

When determining the cost of a college education, one should also take into consideration the value. U.S. News & World Report has ranked SLU among America's best colleges for 18 straight years and Barrons consistently considers us one of the best buys in college education. [Notice there is no guarantee that you will do well.]

Approximately 99% of all full-time students attending SLU receive financial assistance, with the average scholarship being \$10,815 [that leaves $34,720 - \$10,815 = \$23,905$ per year for you to pay]. We encourage every student to apply for financial aid no matter what their family circumstances are. Only after you have applied and been considered for all available assistance will you have a true idea of what your costs will be.

SLU offers a payment plan through Tuition Management Systems (TMS), which allows families to make monthly payments on the balance of tuition, fees, room and board less any financial aid received.

If the cost of the Tuition Management System seems too high for a family, it helps for students to remember that after four years of accumulated interest, the same plan for the next four years would be even more expensive. Sometimes, college tuition at the institution of choice is simply too expensive and a nice community college and / or state college combination may deliver the same benefits at substantially lower costs.

Chapter 14 For-Profit Schools

Should for profit schools even exist?

For-Profit institutions have probably funded a few scientists who created solutions for problems that are making life better across the world. Their stories are not told because, so many have failed in life because they were artificially lifted to be among the gifted and they had few gifts at all from God that a college education would amplify.

So, another increasingly popular topic in the student debt debate is for-profit colleges, which have come under increased scrutiny in recent years. As an explanation, for-profit colleges are often exactly what they sound like – colleges run by substantial, publicly traded companies, or private equity firms, who answer to the interests of shareholders, and their key interest is to make a profit.

In search of returns, they do not necessarily provide the best shakes for the best students. These institutions recruit high numbers of students with questionable methods, and they do not always deliver on their promises. The institutional concerns towards students at these schools tend to begin and end with tuition payment, regardless of who pays the bill.

For-profit schools have made a substantial impact on federal student loan debt on the negative side of the ledger. At for-profits, for example, 96 percent of students take out loans, and the average student ends up with \$40,000 in debt. Remember there are 50% in many cases if this were a mean, who have substantially higher debt.

In addition, a 2012 study found that as the government raised federal aid amounts, for-profits closely matched these increases with surges in tuition. They knew they could get away with it as the loans were there to cover tuition. Next, one can argue parallels between for-profit student loans, and subprime mortgage loans during the crisis. Neither

were based on the best financial thinking available and there was a lot of greed involved.

In the Great Recession, the underwriters of subprime mortgages did not pay much attention to the creditworthiness of the loans, just as for-profits in the Student Loan Industry (SLI) do not care for the creditworthiness of students when advising towards federal direct programs. Students pay big prices for being sucked in by such charlatans. The charlatans always get paid and the students always are riddled with debt that must be paid back.

All in all, during the mortgage crisis, the government at least ruled that mortgages could not exceed the value of the home. Maybe the value of a for-profit education should have been taken into consideration during the boom of these institutions (unfortunately, calculating the value would be easier said than done).

On the bright side, increased oversight and regulation has improved the for-profit education sector in recent years. Today, the government has begun “requiring them to prove that, on average, students’ loan payments amount to less than eight per cent of their annual income. Schools that fail this test four years in a row have their access to federal loans cut off, which would effectively put them out of business. So, there is a role for a lobbyist everywhere we turn.

In the past few years, the number of borrowers has decreased, and for-profit default rates have somewhat improved. The trade-off in regulation, however beneficial to the debt program overall, does have important effects on the traditional for-profit attendee. Many students at for-profits are older, part-time individuals returning to school to earn a degree.

These individuals returning to school to better themselves are obviously a huge part of the target audience of the federal loan program. Thus, if the government is going to tighten the reigns on for-profits, something must give to help these students in other respects (such as through increased funding towards community colleges or public institutions).

Potential Solutions

Now that a vast overview of the student debt market has been documented, the most significant part of this debate must be examined – solutions. By far the most frustrating part of the American political landscape today remains the constant finger pointing and grumbling without delivering viable solutions.

In all the research conducted, dozens of reporters, politicians, and journalists have proposed protests on education and student debt, but no reform. Reform is what we need but what type of reform we get depends on some honesty in government. Can we trust anybody? I trust Donald J. Trump.

You may know that at least one presidential candidate went as far as to say that when it comes to education on an international level, “We’re twenty-sixth in the world. Twenty-five countries are better than us at education. And some of them are like third world countries. With Congress’s rules for loan sharks, the US is morphing into a third-world country.”

For the record, this cannot be even remotely verified by any valid news or research source. This candidate also offered other such groundbreaking insights on the Department of Education: “You could cut that way, way, way down”. This is certainly a scintillating opinion, and as much as I would encourage all American citizen to be well informed on such complex and important issues, I would not dismiss any great ideas simply because somebody in the mainstream media suggests that I do so.

Legislative/Political Suggestions

A number of legislators, politicians, and presidential candidates have made a wide variety of suggestions. Donald Trump of course solves both the problem of \$1.45 trillion of debt as well as how to prevent its creeping increase.

While there are hundreds of ideas and potential fixes to the student debt problem, I would like to specifically discuss the ones that appear most valid, without attributing them to anybody.

I've already discussed Trump ideas and they are good. The other ideas and proposals are also from Donald Trump, as well as Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Lamar Alexander, and Mitch Daniels.

To begin, there are some proposals to simplify and improve the student loan crisis. One proposes that limits be set on the federal direct loan program – allowing for a \$50,000 line of credit that can be drawn upon or paid back throughout one's educational pursuit.

There are few specifics on this, but it clearly would reduce debt and it would force students into getting the best bang for the buck. It would also prevent regular Joe's from soiling the linens at Harvard and Princeton.

There is also a proposal that for each increment of \$10,000 borrowed, students would pay back 1% of their income for 25 years. Some initiatives for improvement here involve more real-world experience through internships, certifications, etc., and also through a database listing of various statistics on schools to educate individuals on their decision (unemployment rates, earnings, graduation rates, and others)

Others echo this plan in some ways, saying that there should be movements in accreditation reform and income-based repayment.

Marco Rubio knows the pains of student debt. After paying off his nearly \$150,000 in student loans, he contends that, "People should be allowed, through internships and work study and online courses and classroom courses and life and work experience, to be able to package all of that together into the equivalent of a degree." My problem with that is who is it that grants the degree, Joe Biden?

Some Senators have advocated for making the student loan system much simpler. Through simplification of the FAFSA form that each individual must fill out for student aid, many more individuals will not be deterred by the current 108-question complex document.

Mitch Daniels is always deferred to now that he has ascended to the throne at Purdue. Daniels argues for the use of a more privatized system of income-share agreements, an idea championed by Nobel Prize winning economist Milton Friedman in the 1950's.

Under an income-share agreement, or ISA, students would pay for their education through a fixed percentage of their income after graduation for an allotted period of time. Typical rates are anywhere from 3 to 15 percent of income, and 5 to 20 years.

Daniels launched his pilot junior and senior class program in the fall semester 2016. With Purdue having a reputation as a STEM major (science technology engineering and math) hub, many of its students would benefit from favorable rates and low percentages of income requested. Sociology majors beware.

Industry Experts

The preponderance of expert opinion says that the increasing student debt load is simply unsustainable, and policy changes must be made to help both the federal budget and the students. Next, they suggest that this change comes more from the private sector and less from the government side. Having multiple entities to share the risk of the loans – having “skin in the game” – would surely increase the quality of the loans made and the probability of their subsequent repayment.

Increased help from colleges would also be beneficial; most importantly, schools have begun to advertise better their debt and graduation statistics to let students know what to expect. Lastly, the importance of finding out how to help those that are already ensnared by loads of debt is being pushed forward.

For those who have taken out large amounts and are stuck with no form of repayment, there must be more help in place to get these Americans back on their feet. Other than default, there are few options other than skipping the country.

The great thing about ISA's, if implemented properly, would be that if all does not work out for a student, they would not be deep in a hole of debt from which escape was not possible. Overall, there will hopefully be major changes in the future to save the student debt amount from growing larger, and from convincing students who do not belong in college to stay out or be prepared to pay the price.

From delving into the world of student debt, I know that the problem can be solved if America wants to solve it. Some have developed very complex models with many assumptions. The debt and ISA model can be adjusted based on different median incomes, costs of capital for both debt and ISA, portion of income shared, interest on the debt, etc.

Experts in the business have proposed that the United States make ISAs a more functional funding vehicle. They note that there is currently bipartisan legislation awaiting approval laying the groundwork for ISAs. They offer that the law lays out limits on time of repayment, portion of income, and states that ISAs would not be dischargeable in bankruptcy, like student debt currently.

It also follows what many early adopters have already been using, by limiting repayments only to years where an individual makes \$18,000 or more. Once a groundwork like this has been created, ISAs will be much easier to write up from a legal standpoint, and from a high school student perspective, they will be easier to swallow.

Though I don't like the idea of businesses making a profit on students, I keep looking at some of the features of ISA's which are beginning to make them look more attractive. If investors make a killing, government must step in and limit the student's loss.

One would argue that the government should develop a "one size fits all" type of ISA agreement or debt/equity blend, and private companies develop their own more competitive ISAs or blends. Through the private versions, students would be able to receive more favorable rates based on thorough credit analysis looking at the individual's history, proposed university, major, and other significant factors.

This would encourage individuals to choose better, more affordable schools, and in turn encourage schools to improve their graduation

and debt rates. In addition, through this system, losses can be diversified away due to the law of large numbers. With a pool of students large enough, losses from those that are not as successful can be made up for by the higher performing individuals.

Most importantly though, students who are less successful would no longer be burdened until death with large amounts of debt, which in some cases goes to their cosigners. In turn, individuals would no longer have student debt hanging over their heads, and would be free to pursue whatever career path they please regardless of future earnings potential. They might even be able to buy a house. Don't get too excited as there is lots more to learn.

Don't you think that the current poorer performing colleges should be required to better analyze and advertise their graduation rates, earnings potential by major, and student debt statistics? They cannot simply suggest that it is great being here, throw down \$100,000 and risk losing it all because of our incompetence.

How about legislating that universities create offices of financial literacy to create a direct link between students and their loans? Financial literacy officers would be able to make it clear to students how to pay their loans, amounts, interest on the debt, and length of time they could be paying back their loans. If after year one, depending on the prospects for students with such a class rank, the student should be advised to withdraw and save a ton of money in the future.

Mitch Daniels for all I have seen wants to solve this problem the best way. He has created an office similar to this at Purdue, and he was able to lower student loan defaults to the low single-digits across campus. In addition, before students even choose a college, the FAFSA needs to be simplified, in order for students to more easily qualify for student aid.

College is meant to be as accessible and affordable for everyone as functionally possible, but it should not encourage anybody to go into debt when their future prospects for a job and repayment are grim.

All facts should be disseminated in the media to which the student is most comfortable. Parents must also be informed, especially if they are

forced to cosign. Actually, I would lift the cosign requirement and instead insist the university kick junior out of he is not in the top half of his class.

Lastly for some but firstly for me, colleges must have major skin in the game. Whether through incentives or punishment, universities need to pay for poor default and loan repayment rates. They can pay initial penalties via their massive endowments but after that, they need to be put out of the student loan or ISA business if their product is not usable in America.

Through federal or state governments, funding incentives could also be created for schools that make year over year improvements to their default and repayment rates.

On the other hand, schools could be forced to pay a small portion of student loan payments in years that their default/non-repayment are exceptionally high, in order to remain in the federal program. These incentives would help universities have a reason for concern about their students' success and ability to pay back their loans.

Chapter Conclusion

By understanding the roles of all the involved parties, one can consider ways in which each role can be better fit or incentivized to help make the system work better for all. Through some simple fixes (shortened FAFSA), and others more complex (federal government ISA program), efforts can be made to simplify and create opportunity for students, private entities, educational institutions, and the US Government. In all of these situations, the American College Student needs to be at the top of the consideration list.

Overall, one cannot emphasize enough the importance of this issue. Government student loan debt has tripled in the past ten years, and without making any changes, it will not be getting better.

It is very uncertain what debt levels will be another decade from now. With more and more positions requiring degrees, the best thing America can do for its constituents is to offer simple, affordable,

quality postsecondary education. Perhaps corporations should develop standardized essay and comprehensive examinations that can serve as markers in addition to GPAs for students willing to take such exams.

Most importantly though, the cost of education must be manageable and shared by more than just individual students and the American taxpayers. Through creating valuable synergies between students, educational institutions, the private sector, and the government, a much more efficient system can be implemented. Amen on that!

While students are ultimately responsible; it is also America's constitutional responsibility to create opportunity for its citizens—just like public schools exist for K-12.

I would encourage you to reflect on all those you know that are affected by student debt. This may be friends, family, yourself, or even your favorite barista at the local Starbucks down the street – all of whom are struggling to mitigate sometimes-unmanageable student loans.

Each individual may have a different story, but all have debt in common. Something that affects seven out of ten Americans should, and will soon be, a top priority or there will be a lot of *former* Congresspersons.

As John Harvey of Forbes asserts, “Of course, one could rightly argue that no one forced them to go to college. They freely chose to extend their education beyond high-school leaving age and take on all this debt. But, it isn't as if they are taking out these loans to buy big-screen TVs or take Caribbean cruises.

Moreover, at sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen years of age, these students are so positive on life, just as the smoking, the drug, and the credit card hustlers are getting them early, it is unfortunate but true that the marketing hustlers in our finest universities are convincing them to give up the debt for the greater life and the pleasure of enjoying their university. They never talk about the reality of repayment after graduation.

If I had it my way, I would forgive all student loans immediately, those who can pay and those who cannot, and I know the economy would boom. I bet the economic upturn would pay for itself. Everybody would be happy, and the US would learn a big lesson about loaning dollars to any student less than 21-years of age.

It is understandable that students invest in themselves. In a world, where participation trophies are awarded rather than permitting competition. Students start out not really knowing how good they are. Life is fairer when it is honestly fair. Students who engage in loans to get ahead are trying to increase what economists call human capital. They want to acquire new skills, learn new ways of thinking, and to develop specializations in particular areas of study. In short, they want to better themselves. Some at 17 or 18 years of age are simply not ready, just like they are not ready to be permitted to consume a case of beer on a Friday night.

And, when students finish school and get a great job, we all gain. Nothing resounds truer than this idea. College education benefits more than just the student. It benefits more than the receiver of tuition, textbook manufacturers, loan servicers, or luxury off-campus housing complexes. When American citizens receive a college education, it benefits us all.

But, when it costs these impressionable people (millennials) their future, they realize they should have been taught better in college—but were not because their professors had a coffee-breath ideological bent. The lifetime earnings of so many people, mostly the young and vulnerable have been disrupted because the whole deal was and continues to be a fraud! But, we are America and we Americans own the Congress and we therefore own a means of making it all better.

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Chapter 15 A Debt Plan for Student Debtors

Should students take on all the risk?

Sam Clovis was the national co-chair and policy director of Trump's campaign. He has presented a number of Trump ideas that are still a work-in-progress. Few things regarding student loan debt are final as this matter in the Trump Administration and this topic is too important to rush.

Before the election in 2016, Clovis spoke about Student Debt Issues on behalf of candidate Trump. The Trump campaign expected that higher education was to be a major issue in the fall general election. He was 100% right and Trump had the right ideas. Trump knows there are some good ways to solve the debt crisis and we have already discussed many of them in this book.

[A number of the notions in this chapter have come from the web site--insidehighered.com.]

Colleges & Universities share the loan risk

One proposal being prepared sounds especially appealing. It would alter the current system of student loans in which students have all the risk. It would force all colleges to share the risk of such loans and make it harder for those wanting to major in the liberal arts at non-elite institutions to obtain guaranteed loans. Statistics show that the latter are less likely to be able to pay off a student loan as their incomes if they can get jobs would be quite low. This is a groundbreaking notion.

Trump is well aware that a number of his ideas might face a skeptical Congress. Nonetheless his ideas have gained considerable attention.

One simply must ask if Congress is so smart in evaluating proposals: "Why has it not solved the problem?"

From a parent's perspective, Congress is the greatest enemy of parents caught in the student loan mess. It was Congress that created the law that even students with no means of paying back a loan—those who are in fact bankrupt, still must carry that loan on their backs until the day the student loan holder dies.

Mr. Clovis is a tenured professor of economics at Morningside College, a small private college in Iowa. He took a leave of absence to help the Trump campaign.

Some of Clovis' recent pronouncements on Trump policies have been widely criticized by the same Washington experts and bureaucrats who had been advising President Obama. They find Trump's work as unworkable or unrealistic. Yet, their record is one of complete failure for eight long years.

Clovis said he expected some higher education leaders to react the same way as Trump outlined these ideas in the recently successful campaign. From the beginning, Clovis noted, the campaign remained open to ideas as long as they put the emphasis on student success in ways that have more impact than the failed efforts of past administrations.

Clovis said. "How do you pay for that? It's absurd on its surface." Trump has ideas to pay for everything, including the massive student debt load.

Further, Trump also rejects President Obama's proposals for a state-federal partnership to make community college free for new high school graduates. Community colleges are "damn near free" now, and "almost anyone can afford community college," he said. It is funny that Obama and Hillary are teaming up again on solutions for problems that have been here for each of the past eight years. Where were their solutions when they were in control?

Big Changes for Student Loans

The Trump campaign and now the Trump Administration is working on a complete overhaul of the federal student loan system. Few Americans felt comfortable when Obama got rid of Sallie Mae and then began to make over \$40 billion a year on the backs of former students.

Trump is moving the government out of lending and restoring that role to private banks, and places like Sallie Mae. This was how things were before President Clinton partially and President Obama fully shifted loan origination from private lenders to the government. What does government do well? Not much!

"We think it should be marketplace and market driven," he said. Local banks should be lending to local students, he said, but colleges should be playing a role in determining loan worthiness on factors that go beyond family income.

Further, Clovis said that all colleges should have "skin in the game" and share the risk associated with student loans. Many in Congress (and not just Republicans) have voiced support for that idea.

Unfortunately, Democrats are looking to get some favors for their constituencies, which seem to be the foreign nationals on student visas. The forgotten American is still not remembered by Democrats. The Democrats are arguing already that some institutions -- historically black colleges, for example -- should be exempt, given their histories of educating many students from low-income families who may not have the financial resources of others. But Clovis said that the principle of colleges sharing risk must apply to all institutions.

Further, the overall plans in this book, recognize that the risk needs to be substantial enough to change the way colleges decide whether to admit students, and which programs they offer. After being promised the sun and the moon by admissions counsellors for years, many students fortunate enough to graduate, not only cannot get a job, they have massive debt and they have no means to pay it.

Clovis said he hoped many colleges would continue to provide remediation for those unprepared for college-level work, although he said that he preferred the term "student success programs" to remediation.

He noted that colleges should not be admitting students that they aren't confident can graduate in a reasonable time frame and find jobs. There is little sense for somebody who is a high risk of not finishing college to become engrossed in debt.

Therefore, those who decide who gets student loans, when looking at those students with less emphasis on parent contributions and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, need to consider more of "a partnership" between the student, the bank and the college. "We think if the college has real skin in the game, it will change its model."

And these reforms would make it legitimate for colleges and banks to make decisions in part on students' prospective majors and their likely earnings after graduation, he said.

"If you are going to study 16th-century French art, more power to you. I support the arts," Clovis said. "But you are not going to get a job."

A college should factor that in when deciding on a student's loan eligibility, and the requirement that colleges share the risk would be a powerful incentive to do so, Clovis added. Ya gotta love an educator such as Clovis getting in front of this issue so well.

"If you get into the esoteric aspects of a particular art field, you have to know that those are the circumstances," he said. The moral of the story is that "colleges may not get a new student if they tell the student the truth and they prevent likely defaulters from getting loans. So, they give up something while a prospective student gets a way to figure out how to move ahead without such heavy lifelong loan drag."

Clovis presents the fact that Trump is not against the liberal arts. The fact is that liberal arts positions are few and far between and in most cases, and they pay less than the hard sciences. "The liberal arts education is the absolute foundation to success in life," Clovis said, adding that he hoped business and engineering and health professions

and education students would include liberal arts courses in their college educations.

But it is a different thing altogether, Clovis said, to focus on such fields. "If you choose to major in the liberal arts, there are issues associated with that." Not ever getting a job in your field, and becoming a bartender are two of the issues.

There may be colleges that decide they would be happy backing loans for students who study the liberal arts. That gives college's more skin in the game if they think their education is worth the risk. A prestigious college could legitimately decide that anyone it graduates -- regardless of major -- will do well in life, and so go ahead with approving the borrowing.

"If you go to Harvard, you can major in anything you want, and once you get in the door, you'll be OK," Clovis said, so such a college might be fine with its students borrowing to study the liberal arts. "But not all colleges are in the same system," he said.

Community Colleges, For-Profits and More

The Trump campaign would encourage community colleges, in much the same fashion as four-year colleges, to focus on serving students who can succeed. Helping students succeed is also a worthwhile effort but minimizing risk in the loan area is paramount for both the student and the institution.

Based on his research, Clovis said, there is much for community colleges to be proud of. They do a great job in job-training programs for examples as well as preparing students for year three and four, of a four-year degree.

For-Profits need to be studied further according to Clovis. "The business model for for-profit higher education is quite different" from that of nonprofit colleges. The Trump administration is working to figure out how to propose improvements for the for-profit education sector.

The Obama administration had been widely seen as being very tough on the sector, and many Republicans in Congress had accused the prior administration of overstepping its authority in this area. Clovis, given a chance to weigh in on such criticism, chose to pass. He said the focus of the Trump campaign's and administration's ideas on higher education was public and private nonprofit higher education.

Trump's advisor is a fan of nonprofit colleges that adopt some strategies from for-profit models. For example, he praised Regis University, where he once taught. The institution has a traditional residential campus in Colorado, but a much larger student body enrolled online.

Remove the Department of Education.

Ron Paul and Donald Trump both want the Department of Education to be eliminated. "Once we get into office, we're going to take a hard look at the Department of Education," Clovis said. "There are lots of things that serve people well, but there are many operations that do not.

In wrapping up his discussion, Clovis noted that College administrators should be speaking out in defense of free speech, he said. "We need leadership that says that one side does not get to dictate what is said." Donald Trump is a free speech advocate. Many campuses had shut down all free speech related to the Trump Presidential campaign. What a shame.

There is no question that Trump's plan can help the Student debt issue in two ways. 1. By helping those with minimal chances of success in college to avoid the massive life-ruining debt of massive student loans. 2. Paying off the loan debt through a number of clever techniques, and permitting students to be removed from default when they pay anything.

The problem is real, and Trump is ready to solve it. I am counting on him reading this book to gain additional ideas or solidify those he already is contemplating.

It is definitely not a myth. A friend of mine's son just completed his Masters in sociology at a private four-year institution where he also obtained his BA. His total education debt is now almost \$190,000. His best job offer is for \$27,000.

He would have done as well or better with a teaching certificate. Students and their parents really do need to look at the probable jobs and salaries of their chosen field before taking on that kind of debt.

God bless all the students who do the right thing to protect their futures in a forward way and who protect their futures by not ensnaring themselves in exorbitant debt.

Thank you for giving a few page-turns in this book. Please send the President a book and I will reimburse you for sure. Your picture will be in the next edition.

God bless America!

Other books by Brian Kelly: (amazon.com, and Kindle)

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Brian has written 135 books in total. Other books can be found at amazon.com/author/brianwkelly

