



Disown the Loans

Old and new students speak out for change in student loans.

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Millions of people dream of going to college to learn or to be the first in their family to get a higher education, but this dream often leads to lifelong compounding interest. As the amount of money being recruited for college classes increases, more and more loans are being taken out for those who cannot afford to pay for school.

"I believe we need to discuss student aid debt. I have two college students, I myself am a college grad and I have debt, my students have debt," Business owner Carla Davis said. "The interest rate on student loans is ridiculous, it's higher than mortgage rates so we need to deal with that as well."

With the national student debt exceeding \$1.5 trillion, many people are searching for a presidential candidate that will address the student debt crisis.

"I just want somebody who takes the interest of the middle class and regular people over corporate interests," Stephen Ruxton said. "I feel like we haven't had enough of that in the country in the last 20 or 30 years."

Bernie Sanders, the second most popular candidate for the Democratic Party, has stated that he wants to forgive 45 million U.S citizens from their student debt.

"I think all student loan debt should be forgiven. I don't think we should have to pay all that money for education. You have to pay for the education then you get your job just to pay all of that money back," Antwane Sheppard said.

Current college senior Jazlyn Robinson agreed.

"I definitely think that they should think about debt forgiveness," Robinson said. "I don't know if free college is doable, but if they look into it that would be nice as well."

With another college senior speaking out, Robinson has to hope for the loans that she will juggle after she graduates.

"I haven't secured a job yet so I'll just have to play it by ear," Robinson said. "It's very stressful trying to figure out where I'm going to work and if they will pay enough because you do need to have a nice paying job to balance your bills then the debt."

By the numbers



\$1.5 Trillion owed



45 Million Americans in outstanding debt



\$32, 731 average amount owed per person



Small business owner, Carla Davis, becomes emotional while talking about the future. "These people who are in their 70s and 80s are holding the power and the young people are demanding a voice and to be heard and to be a part of the process, we are leaving this to you all. The young people need to know what to stand for," Davis said.

Photo by Lillian Altschul



Sitting on the curb at Soda City, a mother and her children enjoy noodles from a local vendor. The Noodle Lady is one of the small businesses that participate in the weekly event.

Photo by: Lillian Altschul



Livingston Farmers worker takes the time to talk to customers about the importance of fresh produce and urging them to participate in a discount. Livingston farms is a family run business that consistently participates in Soda City.

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