

# Forest Service offers youth 170 jobs

By CAROLYN BEAVER  
Of the Emerald

Starting this month, the Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC) program of the U.S. Forest Service will provide 170 conservation jobs in Oregon and 60 jobs in Washington for people ages 16 to 23 who are unemployed and out of school.

Funded by the Labor Department, the national YACC project will provide jobs in each of the 19 national forests in Oregon and Washington as well as other national forests across the United States.

Rod Collins, a representative from the Forest Service's Human Resources in Portland, said, "Each forest will have one project with about 10 to 30 people to hire."

The projects include tree nursery operations, erosion control, wildlife habitat and range management improvements, drought damage measures, road and trail maintenance and improvement and recreation development, rehabilitation and maintenance.

The Eugene Bureau of Land Management (BLM) District has been selected to open one of the first project camps in the nation, Ron Wold, project manager, said.

The camp will employ 50 people. Half will be hired by November 1 and the other half will be chosen by December 1. Wayne Tinglum, former BLM engineer, will be Eugene's project director.

Those hired will have some choice about the area where they work and the type of work they want to do. Collins said, however, workers will supply their own housing and transportation.

## ASUO finds new talent

Paul Halpern has won the right to represent the University in the sectional competition of the Bob Hope Search for the Tops in Collegiate Talent.

Halpern topped six other contestants in the program held in the EMU Ballroom Wednesday night. Halpern played guitar and sang his own arrangement of a Kingston Trio's "I'm Going Home" and "Oregon Song," a song he wrote with Dinah Ward.

Halpern now advances to the sectional at the University of Montana in Missoula in December. The finals will be held in Kansas City and will be part of a Bob Hope television special.

Since the sponsor of the local competition, the ASUO, has no funds available to send the winner to Missoula, Halpern said he may try to arrange a benefit performance in order to finance the trip.

Runners-up in the competition were Melody Stafford and Debbie Ettel who performed a medley of 1940's vintage songs. Other contestants were organist Gary Laing and singers Steve Walker, Kathy Wilson and Susy Prielipp.

Cathy Tearnen, who judged the competition along with Jeff Fisher, Lori Peterson and Don Chalmers, said the judging was based on the contestants showmanship and professionalism, along with the interpretation and innovation of their presentation.

"Right now this isn't a residential camp program, although by 1980, we hope to have 75 percent of the project camps residential," he said.

YACC workers will not have to drive to the job sites. They will meet at a forest service station and transportation will be provided to the job site.

Collins said for those persons who show financial need, transportation to the station would be provided.

Besides being 16 to 23 years old and unemployed, applicants must also be U.S. citizens and must pass a physical exam.

Everyone in the program can work up to a year. "Each enrollee is entitled to 12 months in the program, preferably consecutive, but not necessarily so," Collins said.

This year, Congress allocated \$10.5 million for the Pacific Northwest project and of this Oregon will receive \$5.2 million. Eventually, YACC will provide 496 jobs in Oregon and 613 in Washington.

The national YACC program, if all goes well, will be renewed every year. Collins is optimistic that "if the program is successful this year, next year the funding may be tripled," which would provide even more jobs.

The entire program should be in effect by June, he said. "Right now we're waiting on a personnel ceiling. The money has been allocated, but we're still waiting to see how many people we'll be able to hire to direct and help with specific projects."

While there are a few clerical and warehouse jobs, most persons will work outside, in all kinds of weather. Wages are federal minimum wages — \$2.30 per



Drawing by Jim Payne

hour. They will increase in January to \$2.65.

Applications are now available

in Eugene and Springfield. They can be obtained at the Oregon State Employment Division in

Eugene at 423 West 11th Ave. and in Springfield at 330 South 5th St.

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