Students face bite-the-bullet options

By HARRY ESTEVE
Of the Emerald

As the saying goes, money doesn't buy happiness. And it doesn't seem to buy much else these days, either.

Coping with diminishing spending power has become an everyday headache for most Americans, a malady to which students are by no means immune. And as times get harder, low-income and self-supporting students have less to look forward to than most.

As probable victims of current government spending cutbacks, students face reduced financial aid availability and restricted food-stamp and welfare eligibility, as well as the loss of other social service programs.

These cuts, in combination with pending tuition increases, are bound to make life even more difficult for students who already find it tough to get by.

Most University students are supported either by parents or some form of financial aid. But as inflation and decreased government spending take their toll, these traditional means of support may soon be in short supply.

Regardless, students find ways to make ends meet.

Susan Silburn, a 24-year-old recreation major from Australia, is among the many students who must support themselves as best they can with part-time jobs.

Silburn says her financial difficulties began almost immediately after arriving in the United States nearly two years ago.

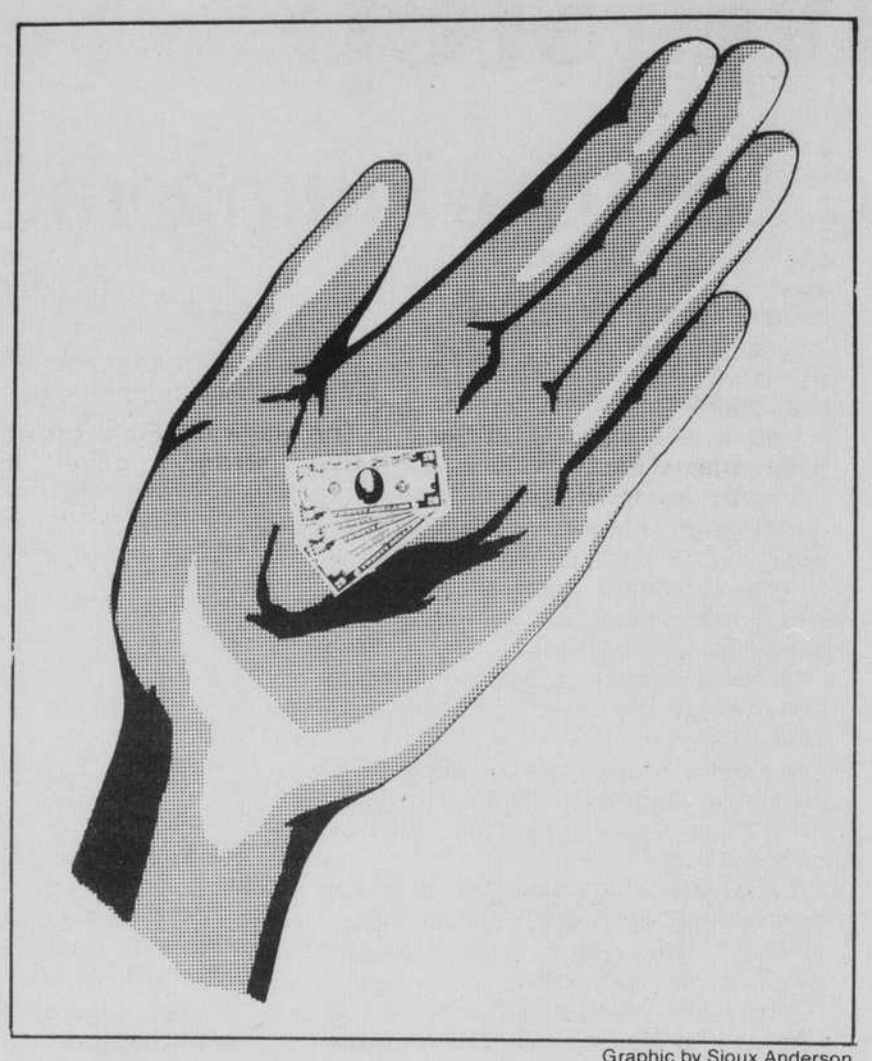
After about $1,000 worth of clothes and money were stolen from her, Silburn realized the money she had saved to pay for her American education would not be enough. A stroke of luck helped her find her current job with the EMU food service, she says.

In a typical month, Silburn works about 80 hours and brings home approximately $250 in wages. After rent, she is left with a little more than $150 to spend on a month's bills, food and entertainment — a skimpy amount by anyone's standards.

"It's definitely a disadvantage when you consider all the students who don't have to work," Silburn says. "I'd rather not have to." But that's as far as her complaining goes — she says juggling work and classes has been a good experience.

By combining frugality with a conservative lifestyle, Silburn can afford her living costs. A federal research grant helps cover her tuition. "I don't buy textbooks," she says. Instead, she uses the reserve book room of the library and the University's resource center to get the information needed for classes. This method of study apparently hasn't posed any major problems. She says she has yet to receive a grade lower than an A.

"I walk to school, so I don't pay for transportation," she says. Economizing by buying only second-hand clothes and never eating in restaurants, she saves her leisure dollars for the only social activity she spends money on — drinking. "That's the cheapest thing you can do," she says.



Graphic by Sioux Anderson

Even students lucky enough to receive parental support often live on monthly sums ordinarily considered substandard. Business and history junior Eric Sandstrom is one of them. Sandstrom, who gets $230 a month from his parents, chose fraternity living as a relatively low-budget alternative.

Using the money his parents send to cover Chi Psi's monthly room and board, Sandstrom works summer, winter and spring vacations to pay for his tuition, fees, books and incidental spending.

He says his partying "is taken care of by the fraternity," and that keeps expenses down. "I try not to spend money on stupid things like going out and drinking a lot."

"It's also good to stick some money into a savings account, say a couple hundred dollars, for emergencies," he says. Time certificates are best, he thinks, because "you can't get at them for six months."

Even though a part-time job is often the only way to come up with the extra money many students need to continue college, Eugene — with an unemployment rate two to three points higher than the national norm — is notorious for its tight job market. Future student employment predictions look even worse.

According to Ken Masterson, of the campus branch of the Oregon Employment Division, "job openings are very scarce right now."

"People seem to be holding onto their jobs," Masterson says, explaining the dearth of jobs. "Anyone who is prudent, who has a job in this area, should hold on to it."

One emergency option the University provides for those who find themselves in dire straits is the short-term loan. According to the business office, 8,100 students took advantage of short-term loans last year — to the tune of approximately $1.4 million.

Through this program, students can apply for up to $150 and receive the money the next day. Short term loans must be repaid within three months.

siegmund's
Cleaners
FAST SERVICE ON ALTERATIONS
Siegmund's Cleaners
821 E. 13th 345-6321

KONA CAFE
Breakfast Served 7:30-11:30
Monday thru Friday
Two Eggs, Hashbrowns and Toast 1.75
Ham and Eggs, Hashbrowns and Toast 2.60
Diced Ham and Eggs, Hashbrowns and Toast 2.00
Huevos Rancheros 2.25
...plus a selection of omelets and tropical juices. Homemade coffeecakes and pastries are baked fresh daily in our kitchen.
START YOUR DAY AT THE KONA CAFE!
Lunch and dinner served daily also. 345-0214
"On 13th between the Bookstore and Duffy's."

CONAIR®
The Pro is a Deal!
This high-powered, lightweight 1200 Watt dryer has 2 heats, 2 speeds for flexibility. Keep the style you got in the beauty salon with the dryer designed by the pros for the pro.
Available on the Main Floor in The Cosmetic Department Only at the UO Bookstore.
UO BOOKSTORE
13th & Kincaid
Mon-Fri 8:15-5:30
Sat 10:00-2:00
Textbooks 686-3520 • General Books 686-3510 • Supplies 686-4331

PERALANDRA
. . . A Magical Place
THE SALE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
LOTS OF STOCK
40% OFF
APRIL 13-18
BOOKS, RECORDS AND TAPES
Monday-Saturday 10-6
790 E. 11th Ave. • 485-4848