

CETA workers lament employment losses

By DAWN GARCIA
Of the Emerald

More than 70 Eugene residents found the real meaning of federal budget surgery this month when their jobs disappeared — some with only two weeks notification.

These workers, along with thousands of others across the country, were employed under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, a \$3.7 billion-a-year federal program founded in 1973.

CETA was designed to help train people for jobs in the private sector.

The program has been helping support many private, non-profit agencies in Lane County by paying the salaries of some of their employees.

CETA saw the beginning of the end when one category of CETA workers was terminated on March 31. Another group will follow on April 15.

"I was real angry about this," says Gail Weimer, crisis program manager at the Rape Crisis Network in Eugene, one of the many private, non-profit agencies affected by the CETA cuts. "We had only two weeks notice we were going to lose our jobs."

Weimer was one of six CETA workers at RCN. Unlike the others, Weimer will continue

Non-profit organizations take brunt of federal budget cuts



working because the agency is scraping together enough money to pay her part-time salary.

"Somebody needs to do the job," Weimer says of her work coordinating the agency's 35 volunteers. "Especially in such stressful situations."

Another CETA worker, who was in charge of a community education program at RCN, was on welfare before getting her

CETA position last January. Now that her CETA job is cut, she says she is forced to go back on welfare.

"It's ludicrous," she says. "It's the lower-income people and students who are being hurt. It doesn't look like progress to me."

A 30-year-old sociology graduate of the University and mother of two, she says welfare is the only way she can support

her two children with the tight job situation in Eugene. But she doesn't like having to be a "welfare mother."

"With all the connotations, it's really hard being a welfare recipient. I have a college degree, I'm intelligent, I have tons of energy. It's not like I just want to 'hang out.'"

"With the CETA job, I was a real person for a while," she

says. "On welfare, you don't feel like a real person."

The drop in her income doesn't help those frustrated feelings.

"I was getting \$580 per month with my CETA job, and now I am supporting myself and my kids on \$320 per month."

"I wrote home telling my parents I'd been dropping to \$320 per month, and they said, 'You must mean \$320 per week.'"

Eugene's job market doesn't look much better than CETA's, according to officials in the Eugene employment office. Lane County's unemployment rate of 11 percent is traditionally higher than the 7-percent state or 6-percent national figures, but the rate hasn't dropped as it usually does at certain times of the year.

"We're not expecting things to improve, and we have 5,000 people collecting unemployment in Lane County every week," says John Moore, manager of the Eugene employment office. "The CETA cuts are going to effect us badly, and we are anticipating stringent cuts in regular jobs in Eugene also."

There is hope for the future of the Rape Crisis Network, however, if it can hang on until the beginning of the fiscal year in July. Weimer expects to get some revenue-sharing funds and state mental-health money.

Grant backlog holds up aid distribution

By GABRIEL BOEHMER
Of the Emerald

University students should be notified of their 1981-82 financial aid awards by May 1, according to Ed Vignoul, University student financial aid director.

But only if the Department of Education is able to process its backlog of 2 million financial aid applications this month.

Vignoul says his staff will work the April 25-26 weekend to process students' applications if the education department sends his office a list of the University's financial aid applicants.

The education department's backlog resulted from a dispute in Congress over the Reagan Administration's proposed cuts in the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant program.

The outcome was a \$600-million cut from the grant

program, Vignoul says. The students with the "greatest" need will get full support, while students allotted smaller grants will receive less money.

Vignoul estimates University students will receive \$300,000-\$500,000 less in basic grants next academic year. But the student financial aid office will attempt to compensate applicants who are denied basic grants with other forms of aid, Vignoul says.

Still, he only can guess how much aid the University will have to give students until the federal budget is completed.

"All the information we have now is garbage," Vignoul says.

Vignoul estimates financial need for 4,550 University students at \$15.8 million. But he says the student financial aid office only has \$14.1 million.

Who will that more than \$1 million disparity affect?

Student financial aid will not

be cut across the board, but some students may be cut off entirely, Vignoul says. The student financial aid office's policy is to meet the students' needs entirely or not at all.

In reality, the University can award students only about \$9 million in financial aid, but Vignoul estimates 25 percent of the students receiving aid will not accept the University's offer.

Vignoul says his office over-commits aid in each financial aid program, counting on attrition of a portion of the applicants.

Although this uncertain formula results in some students getting different kinds of aid than they requested, Vignoul says the books always balance in the end.

"I've been guessing right for 12 years," he says.

Student financial aid reductions may result in more student applications for University

scholarships, says University assistant admissions director Maryan Anderson.

University scholarships are divided into two groups — those based on need and those independent of need. The scholarships range from \$300 to \$3,300 for an academic year.

Although University admissions are 8 percent higher now than last year, Anderson says financial-aid cutbacks could af-

fect future enrollment.

University enrollment relies heavily on out-of-state students who are faced with much higher tuition than resident students. But because of rising out-of-state tuition, the admissions office may have to concentrate harder on recruiting Oregon residents, she says.

"Costs will force folks to look closer to home," for a college education, Anderson says.

Internal Revenue Service wants federal returns mailed by midnight

WASHINGTON (AP)—The final countdown is under way for Americans to file their 1980 federal individual income tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service.

The deadline is midnight tonight.

The IRS expects about 13 million tax returns in the last week of the filing season. It estimates about 94 million returns will be filed this year.

Most large post offices that provide 24-hour service are expected to accept tax returns up to the deadline and affix a postmark so that it meets the deadline, says Jeanne O'Neill, media relations officer with the Postal Service.

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For those who can't meet the deadline, the IRS provides a two-month automatic extension, to June 15, with the filing of Form 4868, "Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Tax Returns." That should be filed by midnight tonight along with a check for at least 90 percent of the estimated taxes owed.

If a taxpayer owes more than 10 percent of his or her taxes when the completed return is filed, the IRS can levy an "underestimated tax penalty" and possibly a late filing penalty of 5 percent for each month it is overdue, says IRS spokeswoman Ellen Murphy.

Extensions are not given to taxpayers filing the single-page 1040A short form or those who

want the IRS to compute their taxes.

The IRS also has advice for those who have completed their returns but do not now have the money to pay their tax liabilities: Mail the return by midnight tonight and include any amount possible. Also enclose a letter telling the tax agency you don't have all the money now. The IRS

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