

emerald



Walk on by

Students walk across a lawn on the University campus near Susan Campbell Hall. The lawn wears a sign asking its friends to help it recover from a hard winter and previous footsteps.

College work study takes a nose dive

By Ann Portal
Of the Emerald

Rumors drifting out of Washington, D.C. hint that College Work Study funds may be cut in half for the 1982-83 academic year, which would mean a sudden drop in the number of students able to count on work study as part of their financial aid.

Robert Clodius, president of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, reported two weeks ago that the Reagan administration will propose on Feb. 8 a 40 to 50-percent reduction in all financial aid programs — including work study.

That could really hurt the University, where more than 1,800 students were awarded work study money

this year, according to Charlene Simpson, work study coordinator for financial aid. Every year since 1974, the University's financial aid office has awarded work study money to more than 1,500 students.

Employers of students with work study money must pay only 20 percent of the students' salary. For example, a psychology professor can employ a student to help in research for \$4 an hour, but the professor pays only \$1 an hour.

Eliminating nearly 900 student positions also could cause a serious reduction in University services, which have come to rely on student work study help more and more during the past 10 years.

Jerry Moseley, associate provost for student affairs, says he supports work study positions because of the dwindling employment opportunities for University students in the community.

But Moseley says that he is "fearful that we do have a vulnerable spot," because of the number of work study students employed both on and off campus.

He says that when he first came to the University, he was "shocked" to find work study students and Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) workers "were the glue holding together the University."

Now that CETA positions are gone, work study students fill positions that the University otherwise would have to do without, Moseley says.

When contacted last week, the directors of most University services that depend heavily on work study students said they hadn't heard the rumor. When told about Clodius' predictions, most laughed nervously.

"It would make a tremendous difference," says Rosemary Batori, the University Library's business manager. The library employs more than 300 students — 226 of them paid with work study funds.

"There's no way we could keep open the hours we are now," if work study funds are cut, Batori says.

University Librarian George Shipman agrees that the library would be forced to close down "mighty early." He says he has been saying for a year and a half that the library is 30 to 40 classified positions short, and that it depends too much on work study labor.

Work study students originally were meant to be something of a "bonus" to employers, ones who were hired above and beyond the normal workload, Shipman says. At the University, they are doing basic work in



Photos by Duane Schrag

Sylvia Rizo, a work study employee at the EMU Craft Center, molds clay. Most of the craft center staff are paid from work study funds.

some areas, which means "grief — real grief" if work study money decreases, he says.

At the EMU Craft Center, the entire staff is work study, except the coordinator, two assistants and the instructors.

"It probably would mean increased fees and less hours," says Tom Urban, craft center director. "It would hurt us drastically."

Ultimately, the cut would hurt students the most. "Work study is neat because you can get a job that has something to do with your major," says Sylvia Rizo, who has worked as a work study student at the EMU craft center since fall.

Poor turnout will finish fair

This is the year that will either make or break the University's annual career fair, which drew a "disappointing" crowd last year.

The fair, which will be held in the EMU Ballroom from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, is "an incredible amount of work," says Deborah Chereck, career development specialist with the career planning and placement service and the fair's coordinator. She says she's unwilling to go through all the planning next year unless she is convinced the fair is something that reaches students.

"This is our year to focus on the students," Chereck says. "This year we've tried to blitz it in the opposite direction."

Representatives from businesses in 12 areas will attend the fair, which includes a new event this year — panel discussions at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. There also will be an open period from noon to 3 p.m. during which students can meet with about 70 professionals to ask them specific questions about their jobs or organizations.