

Foreign GTFs will pay increased federal taxes

By Kirsten Bolin
Of the Emerald

Foreign graduate teaching fellows at the University will soon be forced to pay an increased amount of taxes to the federal government as a result of legislation incorporated into the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984.

"(The act) makes it more expensive for foreign students to come to the U of O," says Scott Kerlin, business representative for the University chapter of the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation. "It will probably lead to a decline in foreign students and foreign GTFs."

The act requires non-residents to add in a sum of \$2,390 to their adjusted gross income. Because of this addition, the individual's tax base is increased and a higher tax assessment results.

Most of the approximately 200 foreign GTFs currently working at the University will be affected by the act, Kerlin says.

"We're really worrying about it now because we're filing our taxes," says Sarah Tinkler, an economics GTF from England. "We're finding we need to pay a lot of money."

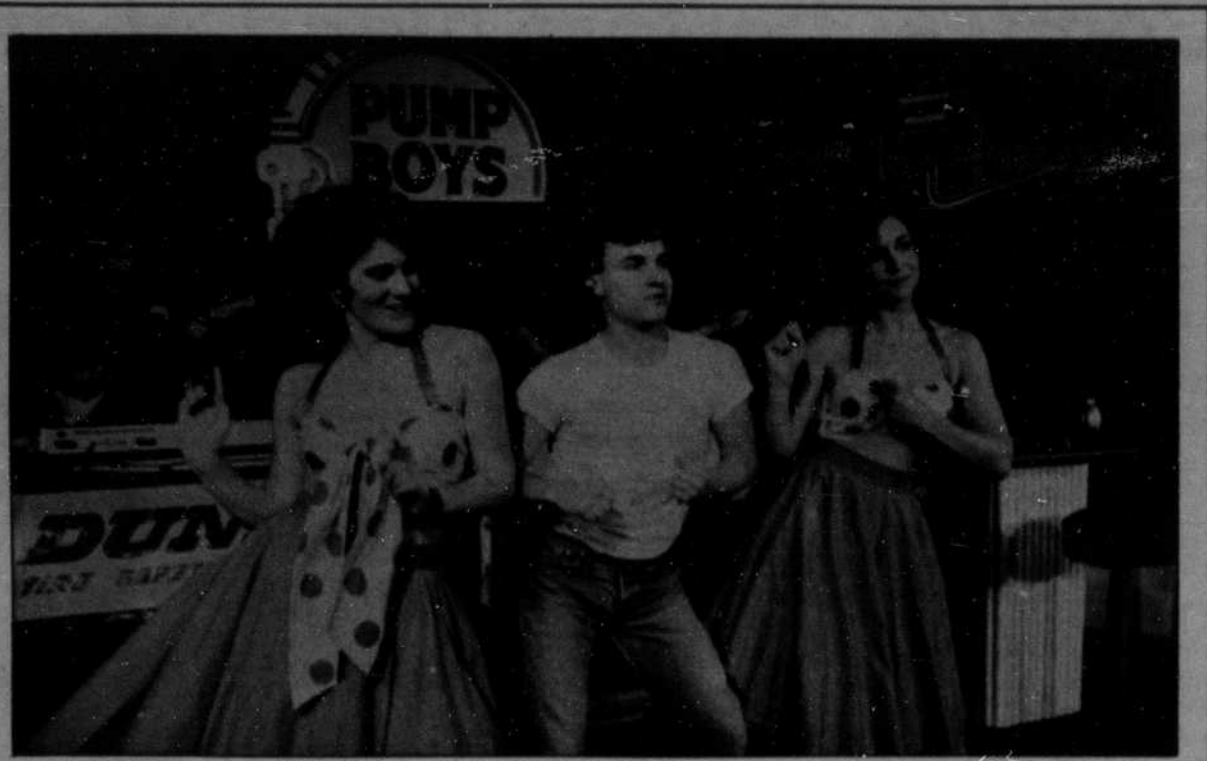
Though the act was approved more than a year ago, its effects are just now being felt as GTFs file federal income taxes for wages earned during 1985.

As a result of the act, foreign GTFs will be treated as non-residents for tax purposes. Prior to passage of the act, foreign GTFs were considered residents for tax purposes — thus paying less taxes — even though they planned to return to their own countries after finishing school.

Tinkler must pay approximately \$800 in taxes on the \$7,000 she earned in 1985, about \$350 more than she would have had to pay under the prior regulations.

Magnifying the problem is the fact foreign GTFs did not learn of the tax change until a meeting organized by the Office of International Services in January. Because GTFs did not know about the act last year, accurate paycheck deductions were not made on any GTF paychecks during 1985, Tinkler says.

As a result of not being informed, some GTFs owe up to \$2,000 in back taxes, says Susan Wheeler, the foreign student adviser at the Office of International Services.



Dinner cabaret becomes honky-tonk

A downtown Eugene restaurant is playing host to a musical production evoking back-country images of '57 Chevies, screamin' guitars and hardscrabble folk hoppin' at the honky-tonk or hunkered down at the local diner...

Mainstage Cabaret presents "Pump Boys And Dinettes," a '50s-style country-music review conceived and written by John Foley, Mark Hardwick, Debra Monk, Cass Morgan, John Schimmel and Jim Wann. The show is

directed by Melina Neal and Rich Gray.

The show runs Friday through Sunday, next Friday, March 22 and 28-30, at Seymour's Restaurant. All performances begin at 9 p.m. except for 7 p.m. Sunday performances. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$5 at the door. Student-discount tickets will be offered an hour before show time for \$3 with identification.

Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

Students learn how to create instructional software

By Mary Lichtenwalner
Of the Emerald

The computer screen in the classroom displays the name of the program as the Star Wars theme plays in a computerized voice. Brightly colored images travel across the computer screen, words take the shape of a flock of geese in one program, and whole and half images are shown in a fractions lesson.

They're not new versions of Pac-man, Asteroids or Space Invaders. The computer programs that Elizabeth Viaw has taught her students to create for children and adults are instructional programs.

Viaw, a graduate teaching fellow for

the University education department, teaches a course in creating software aimed at school-aged children through adults.

This term, a group of 21 students are in the computer-assisted learning class. The group is made of a blend of instructional technologists, teachers on sabbatical and graduate students in education, Viaw says.

"The majority of the students have had classroom experience in teaching," Viaw says.

Some of her students do have training in computer programming, but many of them only have a little experience on a

word processor, Viaw says. "The motto for the class is 'Let's all push on the same end of the Volkswagen,'" she says, laughing.

The students presented their completed programs to the class this week, and they will exchange their programs with the rest of the students, enabling each teacher to use all the programs in their classrooms, Viaw says. She says by viewing other students' work, students can learn different approaches to take in designing programs.

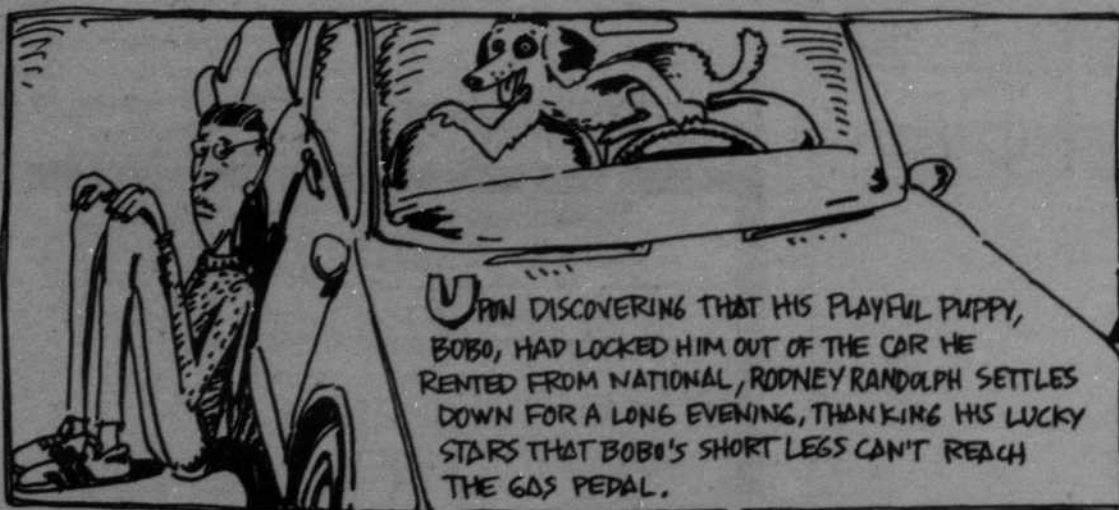
Cheryl Dean, a first- and second-grade teacher at Awbrey Park Elementary School in Eugene, is a student in Viaw's

class. She says after teaching for 20 years, she took a year off to get back to the books, learn new things and meet new people.

"I wanted something practical in my classroom," Dean says. Learning about computers seemed to blend right in with the school's incorporation of a computer curriculum, she says.

Programs on biology exercises, cultural presentations, the Hawaiian islands and managing wildlife were just a few of the programs developed by students.

The course is taught only once each year, Viaw says.



UPON DISCOVERING THAT HIS PLAYFUL PUPPY, BOBO, HAD LOCKED HIM OUT OF THE CAR HE RENTED FROM NATIONAL, RODNEY RANDOLPH SETTLES DOWN FOR A LONG EVENING, THANKING HIS LUCKY STARS THAT BOBO'S SHORT LEGS CAN'T REACH THE GAS PEDAL.

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Eugeneans to plant flowers as part of community project

A new community project series designed to get Eugene residents involved in brightening up the city's neighborhoods is continuing through June.

"Project City Pride, Make Eugene a Blooming Success" started in February, with "Project Tree Plant," which included tree-planting ceremonies along Franklin Boulevard and on 6th Avenue. March activities, falling under the "Project Welcome" title, include planting flowers along city entrances.

In April, community residents can participate in "Project Blitz," the biggest spring clean-up effort ever.

Later in May, businesses will take part in beautifying the city by engaging in "Project Spruce-up." And in June, "Project Flower Shower" kicks off with more flower planting.

Those interested in helping out can call the Eugene Parks and Recreation Department at 687-5310.

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