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Designing on deadline
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Protesters take stand

Eugene residents gathered Friday to protest the United States' refusal to join a Soviet ban on nuclear testing.

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Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

GTFs lose tax exemption, must take cut in paychecks

By Stan Nelson
Of the Emerald

University Graduate Teaching Fellows can expect \$150 withheld from their April and May paychecks for taxes, leaving many to wonder how they will be able to manage their living expenses.

The Oregon State System of Higher Education authorized the change in withholdings to comply with a recent federal government decision. The decision prompted more than 50 GTFs to gather in Friendly Hall Friday afternoon to voice concerns over financial difficulties that will result when the deductions take effect.

A federal exemption preventing GTFs from being taxed on tuition expired Jan. 1 said Muriel Jackson, assistant vice president for administration. Graduate tuition of \$615 a quarter now will be considered taxable income for GTFs.

A first-year GTF receives \$511 a month and free tuition for services provided to the University. With the additional federal tax deduction, up to \$220 will be withheld for taxes in the months April and May, said Steve Rodgers, a romance languages GTF.

The amount left over barely will be enough to live while trying to be an instructor and a student, he said.

After May, \$47 will be deducted monthly as tax on tuition.

A consideration is before Congress to extend the tuition exemption, but no action has been taken, Jackson said.

"There is a very strong possibility Congress will act (and extend the exemption). But without knowing, it puts us in an extremely difficult

spot," said Ross Hall, the State System's comptroller. Federal taxes were not withheld the first three months of the year in expectation of some action being taken, Hall said.

But with no decision forthcoming, the State System decided to begin withholding income for taxes beginning in mid-April, Hall said.

"It all boils down to whether we are willing to assume liability if there is no relief from Congress," he said. It would be virtually impossible to recover money from GTFs once the term ends.

'There is a very strong possibility Congress will act (and extend the exemption). But without knowing, it puts us in an extremely difficult spot.'

— Ross Hall

and the State System would have to pay the tax itself, he said.

In the event Congress decides to restore the exemption, refunds would be given, Hall added.

Rogers said the announcement came as a surprise to many GTFs. Many hoped lobbying efforts would be successful in extending the exemption.

The Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, a GTF union, currently is developing strategies to respond to the situation.

Late-night restaurant closes its doors

By Patrick Low
Of the Emerald

Another Eugene landmark was lost Friday morning. But rather than succumbing to a bulldozer like the Mayflower Theater, which was torn down March 3, this piece of the city's history was lost to bankruptcy.

Hoots Family Restaurant, 440 E. Eighth Ave., a favorite late-night haunt of truckers, graveyard-shift workers, college students and assorted insomniacs since the late 1960s, finally lost a two-year battle against bankruptcy Friday and closed its doors for good.

Marilyn Hooton, the original owner of Hoots, opened the diner in 1968 after purchasing it from a prominent restaurant chain. She managed Hoots until 1973 when the pressure of trying to run a 24-hour restaurant while raising a family became too much for her to handle. Hooton sold the diner to Clyde Scott, the current owner of Hoots.

"It was a social scene," Hooton recalled. "College students coming in for coffee with friends. It was hard not to like the people. He (Scott) pretty much kept it the way it was."

Scott could not be reached for comment.

One change Scott made after taking over was to install a miniature jukebox in each of the booths, a feature that became a Hoots trademark. The low-volume jukeboxes were notorious for having minds of their own, seldom playing the selections chosen. But the sound of several boxes playing simultaneously

created the strange aural ambiance that all Hoots regulars knew and loved. At any given moment, barely audible strains of country, pop and rock music would float amid the busy rumblings of customer conversations.

"I think it's atrocious that it closed. I always thought it was a place that was real," said Ian Barrett, a University speech, and telecommunication and film major who lives a block away from the restaurant. "Real-life kind of people.

Sometimes it was surreal. It just had this bizarre feel to it."

"The atmosphere was pure Americana," added Barrett's roommate, Marc Vatter, a University economics major.

Hoots regulars are already lamenting the sad passing of one cherished pastime: trading acidic repartees with the restaurant's waitresses.

"Did you ever get that one woman who was always going, 'Yeah? You want coffee?'" Barrett asked. "One time this waitress comes up to me and talks to me for five minutes about her sister. And I've never met this woman or her sister. It was kind of humorous," he said.

"I'm sort of depressed about (Hoots closing)," said Sheila Moon, a pre-business University student and another late-night veteran of Hoots.

"It's great to go over there at night and see all those strange people. I just hope they find something to replace it. After Lenny's (Nosh Bar) closed, this town seems to be losing all its fun late-night places," she said.

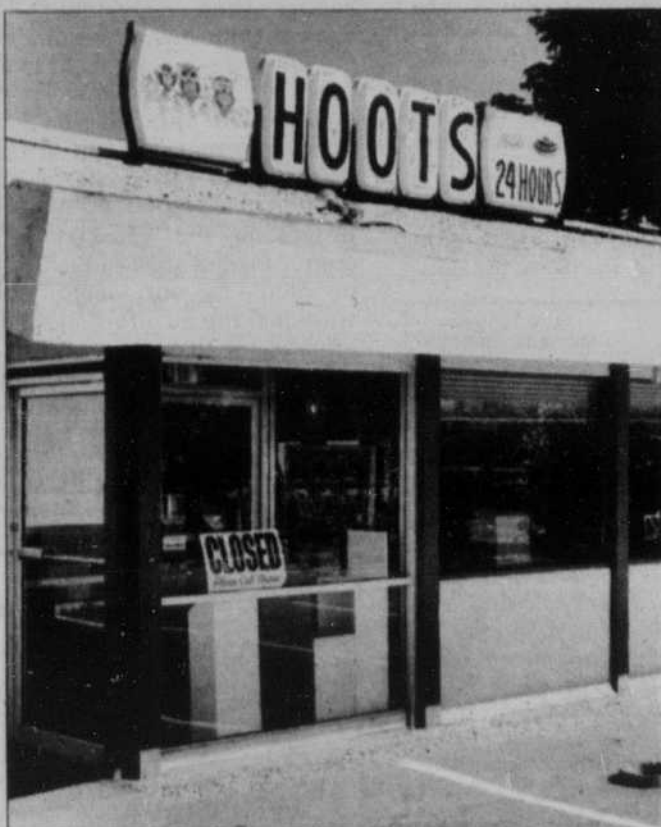


Photo by Derrel Hewitt

Hoots Family Restaurant lost a two-year battle against bankruptcy Friday, forcing the 24-hour restaurant to close down for good.

Advertising team claims top award in regional contest

The University advertising team successfully fulfilled its members' prediction this weekend by winning the Northwest regional ad competition for the fifth time in five years.

The ad team's campaign for Levi Strauss & Co. was chosen as the number one campaign overall at the competition in Yakima, Wash. The win qualifies the ad team for a shot at the national competition sponsored by the American Advertising Federation in Chicago June 14.

Prior to the regional competition, members of the ad team had expressed their confidence in the quality of their work and hoped they would win the competition a fifth year.

"Our success really says a lot for Oregon's journalism school," said Robin Joannides, the ad team's student director. "It really shows that we have at least the best advertising program in the Pacific Northwest."

Advertising students Sue Gray, Sue Linders, Michael Fish, Mark Strickler and Joannides presented the campaign at the competition. Other team members include Jill Corkum, Beth Buglione, Carlos Lamadrid, Bob Rickert and Laura Willoughby.