

Student loan repayment sometimes ignored

...Williams
...Print

...students that have been
...federal loans through the
...feel confident that when
...time comes to start paying
...the loans they will have
...a job in their chosen field
...the payments will be made
...easily.

...however, between 1968 and
...the government suffered a
...of \$400 million to loan defau-
...and student bankruptcy
...from 760 to 8,641.

Oregon does not rate high in defaults as compared to some other states; two out of every five come from California and Texas. Clackamas Community College claims to have a low default rate and only six bankruptcies in the history of the College, although the number of defaulters in Oregon is rising.

The Oregon Student Lobby, a group representing the student governments of seven state colleges and universities in Oregon, is concerned with the rise in default

rates. OSL executive secretary, Dan Garner, traveled to Washington D.C., to present a plan to make student loans repayable as a percentage of the students' income after graduation.

National Direct Student Loans has the maximum allowable as \$5,000 for an undergraduate and a minimum payment of \$30 per month, which must be paid back in ten years with 3 percent interest. Another program, the Guaranteed Student Loans, allots a maximum of \$6,000 to a stu-

dent for a twelve-term program with payments of \$53 per month over ten years.

The Oregon Student Lobby feels that if these two programs were combined and the student paid a percentage of his or her income on the total of the loans, these figures would be reduced to a payment that the student could afford over the term of employment, no matter what the position pays.

It would be absurd to suggest that all defaulters are crooks.

According to Dick Thompson, Financial Aid Officer at the college, the rate of defaulters is bound to be higher than the usual consumer-loan default rate by the very nature of the program. "We don't run a check on students and are encouraged not to do so," Thompson said. "Students are given a loan if they can show a need and an interest in furthering their education."

"Also, students by nature are transitory and often don't leave forwarding addresses," Thompson said.

Joseph Nocera, a reporter for a Washington, D.C., news service, feels that he is getting close to defaulting on his loan.

"Most defaulters make a medium or, more often, a low salary as they are just starting in their chosen fields and there is little money left after food, rent and bills. Career confusion and unemployment also impair the former students from paying back their loans," Nocera said.

"The job market has changed since 1970," said Garner, Executive Secretary for Oregon Student Lobby. "There has been a cutback in military economy and a depression in the timber industry, plus we are still suffering from the drought. When leaving school, many students find that they are over-educated for some jobs and still others find many jobs filled in their chosen fields, as there has been a growth in college graduates," Garner said.

Congress has not stood still as the defaults and bankruptcies by students continue to climb.

Congress recently approved a law stating that a student can't go bankrupt, and it is to be in effect for five years, although the State Scholarship Commission has a bill in Congress to repeal this 1976 Bankruptcy prohibition.

Reactions from various members in Congress has been outrage, according to Nocera. Some say the former students are irresponsible and are taking the easy way out by failing to pay back their loans.

"One New York judge called them 'little stinkers' for filing bankruptcy," Nocera said.

The government is now getting tough. Health, Education and Welfare have plans to hire a collection agency and, ultimately, taking ex-students to court.

Capping set for Saturday

By Denise Kline
For The Print

Nursing students from fall term night and day Nursing ICI classes will be receiving their caps in recognition of having successfully completed their probationary period.

Carolyn Taylor, R. N., chairperson of the department of nursing, will be in charge of the ceremony.

Rita Albrecht, R. N., a 1977 graduate of the College's nursing program, will be the featured guest speaker.

The nursing department would like to extend special thanks to Debbie Stephans, a Nursing 102 student, for her help in organizing the capping ceremony.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony which will take place Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center mall.

Photo by Brian Snook

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COLLEGE ARCHIVES

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Clackamas Community College

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After prolonged rains throughout January a full moon is caught breaking through the clouds over the College's poet chair.

centimeters

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

10 (M) 17 18 (D) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

40.25 38.82 0.54 -0.05 -0.81 -0.23 20.88 -24.45 16.83 13.06 -38.91 52.00 3.45 50.88 -27.17 -0.16 -0.04 0.60 0.73 0.19 0.46 -19.43 55.93 68.80 -8.49 30.77 30.01 81.29 -12.72 -29.46

0.75 0.98 1.24 1.67 2.04 2.42

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