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Slashed 60 percent

The bell tolls for workstudy funds

The budget-cutting axe fell quickly and without warning last week when Richard Thompson the College financial aid officer, announced that the student work/study program had to be slashed 60 percent in order to survive the remaining fiscal year.

The reasoning behind the immense cut is due to a change in federal regulations. When a state's colleges have an excess amount of money for their work/study programs, the old law required them to give the unnecessary amount to the federal government which would then be distributed to the college in that state that ran short of cash. According to the new law, colleges having an abundance of money may use the funds for next years' budget. Clackamas Community College was one of many colleges which ran dry of money. When Thompson asked the federal government for \$80,000 to help the 154 Clackamas students on the program, the feds had no money to give.

"This is the first time in my eight years here that we're not getting any money," Thompson said, "not less money, but no money, period."

What caused the money well to go dry was a miscalculation in the students' usage of funds. "What is done each July is an estimation of how much money it will cost to run the work study funds for that school year," Thompson said. "These estimates are based on the amounts used in the past 10 years by students." Not only used money is considered, but how much of the original allotment wasn't used, how many students drop out of the program by the end of that school year, and how many hours per week a student works also are worked into the estimate. Lastly included in the prediction is the minimum wage that the college must pay its employees.

Unfortunately for the program, nearly everything went away before February. "In July, I had to make predictions as to how many students would re-



ASK NOT FROM WHOM THE FUNDS ARE CUT--Due to the government shortfalls, student monetary needs, and just about everything but yesterday's weather, workstudy funds were axed 60 percent.
Staff photo by Duffy Coffman

tain to the program for winter and spring terms," Thompson said. Then, Westworld hit. "Student retention was up 22-25 percent over last winter," he said, "which means that up to 25 percent more students are staying with the program than usual." That was just the beginning of the drought.

"Students are using a larger portion of their allotments," he said, noting a 30 percent increase in payroll over the past three months. "A student entitled to 20 hours per week usually worked 14-16 hours," Thompson said, "now they're working between 18-20 hours per week." The lakes and reservoirs were starting to run dry.

"Work study became more important to the students as the economic problems grew," he said. "The economy was so poor that people went to school rather than work." Another problem was cited as not many jobs were available during the Christmas break, so students had no other route to take. It was either college or the Army. "Once we made the commitments to the students, we were stuck," Thompson said. Cactus were now appearing.

Then, the Apocalypse hit. In November, a new law was passed by Congress and signed by Carter requiring all colleges to raise their minimum wages to \$3.35 per hour by Jan. 1. The well is empty as the

federally funded program is short \$58,000 on this campus alone. Without the necessary funds to survive the remaining fiscal year, Thompson perceived no other alternative other than cutting the funds 60 percent.

Where does this leave the 154 students on the program? Marv Thornley, College Placement Director, explained that students will be awarded 40 percent of their usual allotments. An individual receiving the maximum amount of \$700 per term, will receive, at the most, \$280.

No monetary help will arrive until next fall when intermittent federal funds start drizzling in again.

ELC to host forum on waste recycling

Representatives from DEQ, METRO Solid Waste Division, Portland Recycling Team and other local, state and national agencies will be at the Environmental Learning Center Pavilion on Tuesday from 1-5 p.m. to discuss problems and solutions in recycling.

Charles Puckett of the ELC said, "The work here has been snowballing. I thought it'd be handy to get the people who have some expertise and experience in handling waste materials together and see if we can't resolve some of the problems that have arisen in this community."

The recycling conference is aimed at exchanging information for the purpose of reviewing, renewing and possibly improving the recycling process, as well as helping schools and other groups to establish their own programs. A small donation is requested of those attending to help the ELC continue its programs.

The ELC currently collects and recycles the paper generated on the College campus. Each Tuesday, the little green scooter makes the rounds to pick up the 50 gallon fiber barrels located near areas of high paper use in various buildings. So far this fiscal year,

11,580 pounds of paper have been recycled.

How this compares with the overall amount of paper waste on campus is not known, but very little is lost after it reaches the ELC. Figures indicate that of some 144 million tons of post-consumer waste generated nationally, only about 7 percent (9 million tons) gets recycled. Europeans manage to do better, recycling nearly half of their paper wastes. In his book, "Going to Waste," James Marshall calculates that if Americans could do as well, they could save over 500 million trees each year. That many trees would make up a forest the size of the New England and Middle Atlantic states.

The ELC is sponsoring the Recycling Conference to improve that situation. The program will begin with an overview of the problem and a look at some of the options. Next, participants will have the opportunity of examining a functioning program. Then presentations and discussion will focus on broadening the collection operation and the process of marketing the materials. Finally, consideration will be given to where the recycling process is headed and how to get it there.

No Prize for 'Mr. Science'

By Tom Jeffries
Of The Print

"We're disappointed, of course, but we won't stop," said Joe Cornett, director of the campus "Totally Outside Productions" video company, about their loss in the Eighth Annual Young Peoples Film and Video Festival. They had entered a 10-minute version of their children's program, "The Mr. Science Show."

"We weren't too surprised. We didn't expect to win," he explained. "We weren't polished enough. We had some poor camera shots, questionable editing, and some segments that came out too long. We lost people."

The show was entered in the college category of the festival and faced some pretty stiff competition. Even though they didn't win, they did receive some attention from local newspapers. The "Lake Oswego Review" and the "Oregonian" both did special features on the show.

"I'm not sure why," continued Cornett, "but people in the media know that video is going to be a place where experienced people will be needed, especially with the growing community access on cable systems. Also, the college has never had a show like this before."

"And even though we didn't

win I learned a lot of important things, like who does their share of the work and who I can count on. We also found the limitations of our equipment. I suppose we might have had a better chance if we hadn't used Mr. Science, but it was an idea we were already familiar with. Of course, if they thought we were totally outside this time, wait'll they see what's next," Cornett added.

"They didn't understand that the show was for children," stressed Mr. Science, the star of the show, "but I'm not worried, we'll win next year. If we don't, there won't be a contest next year, or even a Portland Art Museum."

Golden Thread color calibration chart with technical data including colorimetric values and printer information.