

Veterans' payment schedule revised

By Joe McFeron
Staff Writer

Students attending school on the G.I. bill will not receive a benefit payment next month. Payments to be made in October will range from zero dollars to 12

months in the present payment system combined with the dishonesty of some veterans has resulted in overpayments of \$375 million nationally, \$7.5 million in Oregon. For this reason the Veterans Administration has revised its payment schedule.

Under the old system we could sign a veteran for a two year period, and they receive monthly checks for that period. Mike Umbras, VA representative at Clackamas Community College. "Some veterans dropping out of school after one month and receiving payments for a full year before we got them off the rolls." At times a vet would go to work during the summer session, fully intending to return to school in the fall. Then the job would work into a full-time position at the VA checks just kept on coming. "People don't complain when they're not getting checks," Umbras said.

Under the provisions of the new payment schedule, pre-payment will be abandoned. Benefit payments made July 1, 1977, will be for the month of June. In addition, students attending school on the G.I. Bill will be required to re-register with the VA at the fall quarter each year.

Students not attending summer session will check with this office by August 1. Umbras said. "That way they can get their checks in September; otherwise they will not receive benefits until November."

Students attending summer sessions, the new payment schedule looks like this:

8 WEEK SUMMER SESSION

Check	Amount	Period Covered
1 month		6/1-6/30
1 month		7/1-7/31
12 days		8/1-8/12
2 mos. 18 days		8/13-10/31
1 month		11/1-11/30

11 WEEK SUMMER SESSION

Check	Amount	Period Covered
1 month		6/1-6/30
1 month		7/1-7/31
1 month		8/1-8/31
2 days		9/1-9/2
1 mo. 28 days		9/3-10/31
1 month		11/1-11/30

12 WEEK SUMMER SESSION

Check	Amount	Period Covered
1 month		6/1-6/30
1 month		7/1-7/31
1 month		8/1-8/31
12 days		9/1-9/12
1 mo. 18 days		9/13-10/31
1 month		11/1-11/30

Abuse by some veterans does not stop with the federal government. College policy has been affected by similar

abuse by veterans who have abused the system. "It's rough on everyone," said CCC Business Manager Doug Shannon. "We will defer payments for vets, until they get their next check, but we had to change the policy -- it was costing too much money."

According to Shannon, the bookstore will write off \$828 as uncollectable in

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1973, and \$2040 in 1974. The deferred payment policy was discontinued in 1975.

The same pattern of abuse is apparent in the records of the CCC cashier. Deferred payments outstanding, 1975: summer \$434; fall \$688. Deferred payments outstanding, 1976: winter \$1538; spring \$5476; summer \$957; fall \$1536.

"I would say most of that is uncollectable," said Betty Reynolds, CCC cashier. "There is still \$1915 outstanding from last term, and about \$7000 from this term, but some of that will be paid."

"Overpayment of \$7.5 million sounds like a lot of money until you realize that veterans spent over \$59 million in state colleges," said Reggie Latham, president of a newly formed organization of veterans at CCC who will seek an injunction, if necessary, against the new payment schedule (The organization is so new it hasn't yet been named).

"There are over 13,000 veterans attending school in Oregon, and the \$7.5 million

figure represents overpayments in 10,500 cases over a 22 year period," Latham said. "I'm not suggesting that abuse is justified; only that the figures may seem larger than they actually are when taken out of context."

"Public Law 94-502 (the new VA legislation) was rushed through Congress at 2 or 3 in the morning after they had stopped the clock at midnight on the last day of the session," Latham said, "and no one stopped to consider that the VA is incapable of processing that much paper at one time. Right now 15 to 20 per cent of the paperwork in registration gets lost. This may quadruple that amount; there will be many hungry veterans in December."

Latham's organization will use "positive methods" to get the new regulations changed. "We've organized a letter-to-your-legislator campaign; and I have been in touch with Governor Straub, and Senators Hatfield and Packwood," he said. "We're asking all vets at CCC to attend our next meeting, Tuesday at noon in CC-117, and participate."

Editorial positions available

Applications are available for editorial positions on several student publications at Clackamas Community College, according to Randy Clark, journalism/publication adviser.

Positions for Cougar Print Editor, Dawn Magazine Editor, Yearbook Editor and Publications Business Manager are open for the 1977-78 academic year.

"Each position involves a tuition waiver for the recipient," said Clark. "It will also involve a lot of hours on the job and valuable experience for anyone considering a career in journalism."

The editor of the Cougar Print, the weekly newspaper serving the campus community, will assume duties in the late summer over an editorial staff of 25 to 30 persons.

Next year, Dawn Magazine will be published once a term, according to Clark. "We'd like to make attempts to revamp Dawn next year -- perhaps turn it into a professional

publication that is appealing both graphically and in content," she said.

The yearbook editor will continue to oversee a publication which strives to be a pictorial history of the academic year at CCC, said Clark.

A new position within student publications will be that of Publications Business Manager.

"We'd like to get applications with an academic background in business who are looking toward a career in business administration or, more specifically, marketing and sales," said Clark. The job would entail overseeing the advertising staff for all three publications, and promotion and circulation of the publications.

Applications are available in the Student Publications Center in Trailer A or B, and in the Student Activities Center. Deadline for applications will be May 20. Applicants will be interviewed the following week before a publications committee.

CCC custodians surprise thief

On Friday, April 22, the night custodians at Clackamas Community College surprised a man in the act of stealing over \$100 worth of tools from Clairmont Hall.

At 11:05 p.m. a male was observed inside Clairmont Hall by the night custodian. She saw the suspect leaving by the south entrance and her screaming aroused the attention of a custodian on duty at the other end of the building.

A chase ensued with the custodians racing down the hall and arriving at the south entrance just in time to see the suspect trip over the curb as he fled from the building. He was carrying a Safeway shopping bag which spilled, displaying tools taken from Clairmont Hall worth over \$100.

The suspect did not retrieve his loot and disappeared into the woods behind Clairmont Hall.

"If the suspect is caught he will be charged with burglary two and criminal trespass," said Stan Johnson, chief of security.

A wallet, containing \$25 and other personal belongings, was stolen from trailer B on Wednesday, April 27.

Thirty-one parking tickets were given out last week. Twenty-five for unauthorized parking, three for parking in handicapped zones, two for parking in loading zones and one for unauthorized cycle parking.

Jazz band robbed

Several items were stolen from Clackamas Community College Jazz Ensemble members during their trip to Berkeley, California, for the Pacific Coast Collegiate Jazz Festival last weekend.

The items were stolen from the CCC school bus while it was parked near Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco.

Among the items taken were a Fender Stratocaster guitar and case, a Fender Precision bass guitar and case, an Altec amplifier and a Getzen trumpet and case.

