

Be wary of new "line of credit"

The approach is flattering, but "you'd better think twice before accepting an offer of a line of credit from any financial institution," cautions Alice Mills Morrow, Oregon State University Extension family economics specialist.

"If your income is over \$20,000 a year, chances are you've received letters from large banks 'inviting' you to accept a personal credit line in amounts from \$2,000 to \$25,000," the specialist explains.

The offer is made because "of your excellent credit rating" and "because you're the kind of customer we'd like to do business with." The offer "gives you the authority to write your own loans."

The comments are "flattering and make you feel good," but Morrow hastens to point out that most such offers don't mention interest rates or explain you may be able to borrow the same amount of money elsewhere at lower interest.

Information about interest rates and other important matters is contained in the agreement and disclosure statement that must be sent to the prospective borrower, she adds. This statement is sometimes enclosed with the "invitation;" sometimes it is sent after you accept the invitation.

Many banks are now actively pursuing consumer loans because of slow demand in other loan areas. Consumers, however, need to ap-

proach such offers carefully, just as they would any other indebtedness.

For instance, once the line of credit is activated, it will show on the consumer's credit report. "Right now, this might not prevent you from getting a loan from another source, but if the credit market tightens, the credit line could prevent you from being accepted for credit from other sources," Morrow notes.

Examining all credit sources available may mean the consumer can find a similar amount of money at less interest, Morrow continues.

"Using a line of credit is just like using bank cards or retail credit cards," the specialist adds. "Remember, instant credit means instant debt."

Morrow urges consumers to evaluate their economic position and tally all their present consumer debt before assuming more.

If monthly consumer debt payments exceed one-sixth of monthly take-home pay, "you should not be assuming more consumer debt," she believes. Consumer debt is the total owed on installment purchases, credit cards, etc. In fact, everything but mortgage payments.

"Always keep track of how much you owe and how much you're charging," Morrow emphasizes. "Evaluate your economic position before you activate a new line of consumer credit."



PCC Anthony moves on

by Nathaniel Scott

John H. Anthony's administrative skills guided Portland Community College (PCC) from a non-existence community college ranking to one of the top three community colleges in the nation, bids Portland and PCC farewell in mid-August.

Anthony, whose tenure as president of PCC began in 1980, has accepted the position of the founding president of Collins County Com-

munity College in Collins County, Texas.

Collins County sits in what is called the Dallas/Forth Worth area. The area's population is estimated to be two million people.

Anthony is PCC's second president and he began to move the college in the computer science direction three years ago. In a recent interview, Anthony spoke candidly about his days at PCC and what he plans to do as

Collins County's founding president.

He is excited about the opportunity to build a school from scratch and vowed to make it "the best institution in the country." He intends to proceed along the same lines in Texas that won him the national reputation he enjoys.

He said the geographical situation in Collins County is similar to Portland. Both are the center of a highly technological area and he intends to move the school in that direction.

Under Anthony's guidance PCC became more than a two-year school of "basket weaving courses." PCC ranks number one what we are doing in the area of economic development, Anthony said.

Anthony's guidance also made PCC Cascade one of the school's focus points. The optical center and the hub of PCC's electronics program are located at Cascade campus.

Anthony said, "I enjoyed my friends in the Black community. They have been very helpful to me and I tried to keep a commitment to affirmative action." He added that PCC has doubled the number of minorities during the past five years.

Moreover, he said, "I think we have some absolutely outstanding minority faculty members on our staff."

However, Anthony said he is not "satisfied with our (PCC's) record but we have made strides." Anthony's biggest disappointment is that PCC has a better national and state reputation than it does locally. "We even have some staff members who

don't know how good we are," he added.

Anthony's contract with Collins County is reported to be \$95,000 per year. It's a three-year renewable contract, he said.

"I think I have developed a lot of friendships in Portland; I will miss the people very much," Anthony said. "If I can replicate that kind of support in Texas, I'll be very happy."

Anthony has recommended an interim president and thinks vice president Paul Williams and dean James Van Dyke would be good candidates to succeed him as college president.

Nurse practitioners Board of Directors meeting

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Portland Nurse Practitioner Community Health Clinic will be held July 25, 1985, at the North/Northeast Community Mental Health Center Administration Building, 721 N.E. Union, at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The Nurse Practitioner Community Health Clinic has served thousands of children since it opened its doors five years ago. The clientele is of various cultural and ethnic origins, living primarily in North and Northeast Portland. The clinic serves primarily children of low-income families.

For more information, phone 239-8871 or 222-9921.

Legislative changes

SALEM — Oregon's needy will benefit from welfare program changes made by the 1985 Legislature. The major changes include an assistance program for two-parent families, more aid for the disabled, and medical coverage for people who don't qualify for cash assistance. Some of the program changes will take effect in 1986.

Major changes for the state Adult and Family Services Division, which administers welfare programs, include:

—Aid to Families with Dependent Children (ADC): By February 1, 1986, low-income families with two parents may qualify for assistance, which includes cash, medical coverage and job-finding help. Presently, ADC in Oregon only covers single-parent families or families in which a parent is disabled.

The change is a result of Senate Bill 350. Adult and Family Services estimates about 11,000 families will qualify for the program during 1986-87.

—Medically Needy: The present program only covers children and pregnant women who need medical help. Starting in March 1986, the state will provide medical coverage, but no cash assistance, for other low-income persons who don't qualify for welfare. To qualify, the person must be aged, blind, disabled, or a parent responsible for a child under age 18. Children in low-income families

also qualify. The individual's or family's income cannot be more than one-third higher than they would receive on welfare; however, those with large medical bills can deduct those bills to reduce their income level.

Adult and Family Services expects about 5,000 individuals a month to be covered under the program as a result of House Bill 2031.

—General Assistance: Low-income individuals or couples who are unemployable (not just unemployed) are covered by this state program of cash and medical help. Adult and Family Services will expand the program to include two groups of individuals. Those who have stabilized and become employable but who need continued medical treatment to remain employable may receive limited medical coverage and cash payments for 90 days. And, individuals who are age 60 and over will have their lack of education and work skills as well as physical or mental limitations considered in determining eligibility. The expanded program will be phased in starting in August 1985.

—Health insurance: Children in welfare households will be covered by their parents' health insurance policies, even if the children don't live with that parent. House Bill 2813 requires health insurance coverage of children a parent is obligated to provide support for, whether the child lives elsewhere or not.

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