

Layoff hurts students

Cushman shutdown

By Randy Wright

In a local example of what could be a national trend in industry shutdowns, the Cushman Motor Works will lay off all but essential workers for one month beginning Dec. 20, according to division manager Herb Jespersen.

Cushman, at 920 N. 21 St., a division of Outboard Marine Corp., employs around 40 UNL students, according to Phil Brewer, the Cushman safety supervisor.

The shutdown is planned to help reduce inventory, Jespersen said, but University students employed by Cushman speculate that the one-month layoff could be extended.

"There's been talk that it might last longer," said Paul Schupback, a senior economics major. "We haven't been assured that it won't, but we received notice that they will try to resume normal operations Jan. 20."

The financial effect on the four student-employees interviewed would be noticeable, they said, but would not drastically affect their education.

"I'll just have to tighten up expenses if it lasts for only a month," said Alan Fuss, a senior zoology and pre-med major. "If it lasts longer, I'll have to look for another job."

John Weddle, a freshman business major, says his seniority will mean he will get vacation pay for the holidays, making his layoff in effect three weeks instead of four. Weddle has a grant and says his education should not be affected by the layoff.

"A lot of the students work full time (40 hours per week) during Christmas, so the layoff will mean losing more than just the usual pay," said Lynn Gray, a junior business major.

Most of the students are manual laborers, operating punch presses and doing welding and spot welding, Schupback said.

Schupback was also concerned that unemployment insurance will probably not be paid during the period.

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