

Reporter shares poverty-beating hints

By Mary Kempkes

Editor's note: The following story contains opinions of the author.

Being poor is humiliating. College students more often than not, are poor.

Therefore . . . The things we college students lower ourselves to in times of depressed economy and shortage of pocket cash:

No sooner had I told Mom and Dad to butt out of my love life (I was on my own now) than my hand was out for "the monthly check."

Why me? What did I do to deserve being poor?

Mom says I spend too much on frivolities.

I prefer to blame it on the President.

But each year, my banker gets more anxious as my loan grows and my checking account shrinks. I can't help it. Certainly he doesn't expect my social life to suffer just because the car payment is due!

Nonetheless, I guess I could cut back by one movie and week and eat out only three times a week.

But college students can economize in hundreds of ways and for those of you digging deep into pockets and getting nothing but lint up your fingernails, I have a few suggestions that, however degrading, may keep you from starving or going naked to class. (If all else fails, go to class in the raw. It may improve your mood.)

Girls, whatever your dating routine before, do more of it. Insist that the evening always include dinner. Ask for a doggie

bag.

Boys, ask your sweetie either to put up or stay home. (These two conflict but, hey, look out for number one.)

Bum meat and expensive condiments off the folks. Farm kids, wait until right after butchering—begging comes easier and is more profitable.

Recycle gum. Stick it to the bedpost or fold in plastic wrap overnight. The gum will be perfectly good in the morning if slightly petrified.

Since the cost of washing clothes on campus has gone up, wash underwear only once a month. Wear them at least twice before cleaning (or throwing out). Neighbors and/or honey may object but it's hour money.

Drink plain-label beer. For entertainment, solve the puzzles on the bottle lids.

Professors . . .

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ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Bert Evans went so far as to say that Keynesian economics are outdated by 50 years. John Maynard Keynes' remedies were developed for pulling the United States out of the Great Depression.

Evans said the problem now is not a lifeless economy, but one that runs on the idea that "more is better." "We want everything and that's not possible," Evans said. "We can't redefine what's appropriate for ourselves in terms of economic goods and services."

Evans claims there are "too many" automobiles and oil managers. "There are too many people not doing anything."

He called for the removal of incentives for large, inefficient businesses, with benefits only for those "reasonably sized and producing efficient quality products."

The concern with the productivity slowdown should be geared toward changing the types of products produced, instead of increasing manufacturing of inefficient goods, he said.

McCONNELL SAID a revision of the tax structure to create incentives for business investment could turn around productivity declines.

"This is a difficult thing politically," he said, noting that his idea is different from the proposed tax cuts of presidential candidates.

"A tax cut would alleviate unemployment, but add to inflation," he said. "The recession we have created on purpose to alleviate inflation hasn't done the job."

Peterson charged that the "standard old fare" of tax cuts would be only a "superficial" remedy. "We need longer term changes, but that doesn't fit the political cycle."

He accused Republican candidate Ronald Reagan of living in "a fairy land of the past," President Carter of "trying to divert attention from what he's done," and independent candidate John Anderson of "not getting on the ball."

"The American people could respond to leadership that could explain the necessity for the kind of changes that have to take place, but they won't get that from Reagan or Carter," Peterson said, discounting Anderson as a likely candidate.


PETR AGREED that talk of a tax cut was a "political gimmick. I don't view tax cuts as a quick fix for inflation or productivity. I'd rather see investment come as a result of healthy economic activity."

Evans said a tax cut could be a good idea if it were in the form of a structural revision. "It should be lowered on people who are punished the worst now."

But Evans added that he realized a tax revision would not "reorder the economy to use more wholesome products."

Carter, he said, is "sitting in office hoping the problems will go away," while Reagan is "totally ignorant" of the economic situation. Evans compared Anderson's ideas to those of Herbert Hoover, an illusion that "if you give big business more, a little will trickle down to the rest of us."

"The advisors to the president are living in a world that's over with," Evans said.



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