

Counseling program to be offered

By NANCY HUFF
Collegian Staff Writer

Students helping students is the concept behind the peer counseling program to be offered by the Office of Student Aid (OSA).

The student-staffed program will offer information and advice on an informal basis to students with questions about financial aid.

Rick Glazier (12th-foreign services) said the program is based on the idea that students more readily seek advice from other students than from administrative officials.

Students will be trained by the OSA to become more familiar with the different types of aid programs. The student positions will be funded through the college work study program, said John Brugel, director of student aid.

The peer counseling program will run on an experimental basis for four consecutive terms, Brugel said, beginning with Summer Term 1977.

After four terms, the program will be evaluated. Sondra Olsen (graduate-counselor education and student personnel), who is presently interning in the OSA, said if the program proves to be successful, the OSA may decide to carry it over on a regular basis.

Olsen said students desiring to apply for staff positions may request the positions on their work-study job applications in the OSA. Two full-time positions are available for the summer, Glazier said, and possibly three part-time for the fall. Only students, receiving college work-study funds may fill the positions.

Enthusiasm and dedication to the program will be two major qualities the OSA will be looking for during interviews for the positions, Olsen said.

The student counselors will go through an intensive five level training program before they will be qualified to work in an actual counselor capacity, Olsen said.

During the first level of training, the students will learn

basic information about all of the different types of aid, Olsen said. The students will also learn the different basic aid, application procedures, information on University billing and referral procedure as well as procedures for aid package adjustments and need-based awarding, she said.

Student counselors will take self tests before passing on to the next level, Olsen said.

At level two, the students will use the information learned at level one in role playing situations, she said. They will be addressed questions commonly asked by students, and their answers will then be compared to written suggested answers, Olsen said.

Level three will require the students to be tested orally by the heads of the different aid departments in OSA, Olsen said.

An integration of all the material learned in the first three levels will be used to further test the knowledge of the student counselors at level four, she said.

At level five, the students will function as counselors at the front desk of OSA under the supervision of the other counselors, Olsen said.

Olsen said an additional level has been added to encourage the students to develop work shops and projects to expand the program.

The students must go through the intensive training, Olsen said, to make sure they fully understand financial aid and give correct information to students and not misinformation.

The concept of the peer counseling program began in Washington D.C. The National Student Lobby wrote and sponsored an amendment to the college work-study program. The amendment required over 3,000 schools participating in the work-study program to hire a certain number of students to work in the capacity of student counselors.

Federal budget okayed for '78

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Working in shirt sleeves and taking each major function of government one by one, the committee managed to chop \$2 billion from its original \$65.2 billion deficit by cutting a variety of their earlier totals.

The final Senate figures reduced Carter's proposed \$111.9 billion defense budget — which the committee had voted to retain on Tuesday — by \$300 million.

Chairman Edmund Muskie, D-Maine, pushing to reduce the deficit figure below House total, declared at one point, "We seem to have developed a habit of \$60 billion deficits. The country is going to begin to wonder what this budget process is all about."

Earlier, the committee approved a \$19.8 billion target budget for the Veterans Administration, \$700 million above the administration's requests.

By a party line 9-6 vote, the committee defeated a Republican effort to lower the revenue figure to \$386.5 billion to accommodate a permanent tax cut the GOP plans to offer in the Senate when the tax bill is taken up later this month.

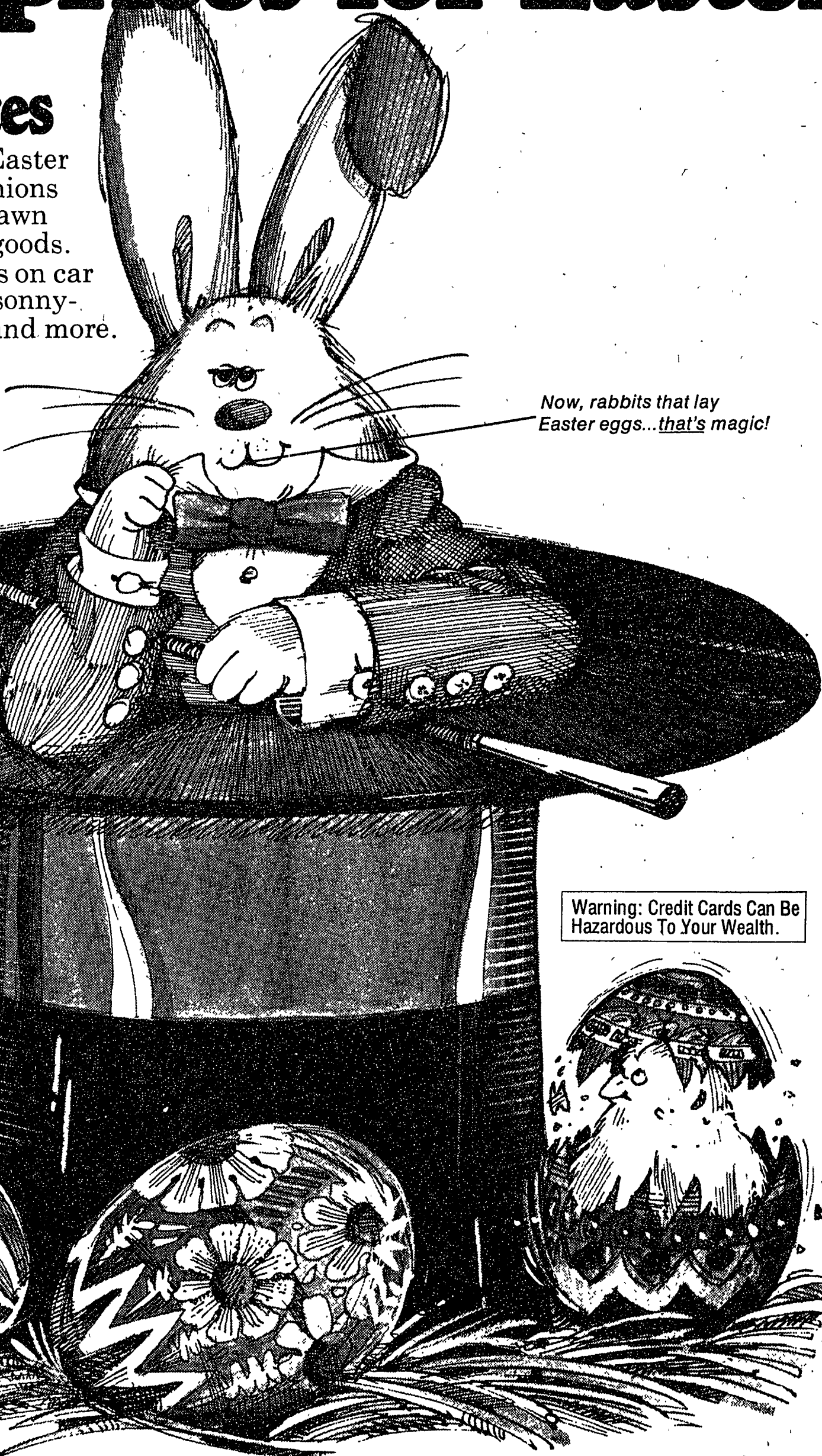
However, Sen. Bennett Johnston, D-La., who said he was "not married to the \$50 rebate," observed that if the Senate rejected the rebate and passed a tax cut, Congress could amend its budget resolution later and adjust its totals.

The figures must be approved by the full Senate, then ironed out with competing totals adopted by the House Budget Committee which is seeking \$462.3 billion in spending, \$398.1 billion in revenues, and a \$64.3 billion deficit.

Both the House and Senate are expected to take up their separate budget resolutions sometime during the week of April 25.

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