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Discussion focuses on tax alternatives

By Rene DeCair
Emerald Reporter

Oregon's tax structure is like an old, wobbly two-legged stool.

With one leg missing and the other two legs being of varying lengths, the tax base for the state's higher education system and other programs is not steady, said Margaret Hallock, director of the University's labor education and research center.

John Mosely, University vice

president for research, and Sen. Grattan Kerans, a democrat from Eugene, joined Hallock in a discussion on campus Tuesday evening titled, "Measure 5, the Tax Crisis and Higher Education."

The three were on campus to try and spark public interest and discussion about ways to replace revenue lost by the passage of Measure 5.

Speaking to a group of about 20 people, Hallock said Oregon is missing the corporate income tax "leg", which currently brings only a small amount of money to the state and has not increased in 20 years.

Hallock said the state instead relies on the other two legs — income and property taxes — to hold up and support its services. And with the passage of Measure 5, the state "sawed our biggest leg in half," she said.

Hallock said 83 percent of state revenue comes from the income tax, which she said is the third-highest in the nation. She also noted that Oregon property taxes, which supply local governments with about 90 percent of their revenue, are the fifth highest in the country.

If the state is to keep its services, it cannot continue to rely on just two taxes, but instead people must work to find a new tax that is politically safe and acceptable to voters, Hallock said.

She added that it will not be easy to get voters to approve a new tax because many people are confused and angry about Measure 5 and unconvinced that higher education needs as much money as it does.

"Margaret made it sound pretty grim, didn't she?" Kerans said referring to Hallock's presentation. "Actually its worse."

Kerans said if replacement revenue is not found soon, the state will need an extra \$1.5 billion by 1995-96, compared with about \$150 million that the state is currently lacking.

Higher education took an \$86 million cut for the 1991-93 biennium that will be balanced out partly by program cuts, tuition increases and surcharges.

However, higher education is

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Most look to new tax for answer

By Joe Kidd
Emerald Politics Editor

Sure, you've heard a lot about politicians' opinions on the \$86 million lopped off the higher education budget.

But what do people at the University think about proposed cuts, tuition hikes and possible solutions?

During a walking tour of the campus Tuesday, one reporter got an earful about Measure 5 from students, faculty and staff members: While they all scorn the cuts and tuition hikes, there is little agreement on how to solve the problems.

Most are looking for some kind of new tax — but what type of tax is debatable. Proposals range from the most-often-mentioned sales tax to totally upending the structure of the U.S. government.

There were those like Karen McGill, an English student who was lunching in the EMU skylight Tuesday:

"I think it's unfortunate there is so much

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Preachin' blues

Depending on one's point of view, Jim Webber either enraptured or enraged students and onlookers as he brought his sandwich board philosophy to the EMU courtyard on Tuesday afternoon.

Photo by Sean Poston

Professors contest proposed rule

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Reporter

University professors expressed concern Tuesday over a proposed conflict-of-interest policy that would limit the amount of time they can spend participating in outside professional activities.

The policy, drafted by a faculty committee, would provide guidelines to determine the boundary between appropriate and inappropriate outside professional activities, as well as the acceptable amount of time faculty members could spend on outside business.

An Oregon law, which the Legislature passed last year, requires the University and all other state colleges to implement such a policy.

Several of the approximately 20 faculty members at Tuesday's hearing expressed concern over what they thought were severe limitations on their outside activities.

"This document, in its present form, and with its present tone of distrust, unreasonably and shortsightedly discourages faculty involvement in the private sector," said Harve Waff, geological sciences professor.

However, committee member Peter von Hippel assured faculty members that they will actually

be encouraged to pursue professional interests outside the University.

"Non-exempt" does not mean "not allowed," von Hippel said, referring to the proposal's list of outside professional activities that would require departmental approval.

"Everyone is encouraged to ask for exceptions to the guidelines."

Chemistry Professor John Keana said he took exception with the policy's "one day out of seven days" limit on the time faculty members could devote to outside professional interests.

He said professors could still fulfill their obligations to the University with a "one day out of five days" limit.

"We all put in more than 40 hours a week here (anyway)," he said.

Committee member Karen Sprague said the one-out-of-seven-days limit was necessary because "(the committee) didn't want to condone a four-day work week."

Keana also commented that the proposal has a "flavor of negativism" and that committee members should make it "more encouraging to University-industry relations."

"This document takes such a negative stance," Waff said. "It needs balance."

Inside

The majority of Eugene voters has opted for keeping the Downtown Mall closed to traffic, leaving proponents of the plan scrambling to find alternatives to help downtown Eugene's troubled economy.

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International

SRIPERAMBUDUR, India (AP) — A bomb hidden in a flower basket killed former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the son and grandson of prime ministers, as he campaigned Tuesday in an election he hoped would sweep the family dynasty back to power.

No one claimed responsibility.

Gandhi recently had been shrugging off security guards. The bomb exploded, tearing Gandhi apart and killing 14 other people, as he stepped from his car into a throng of supporters pressing flowers on him at a campaign stop in Sriperambudur. The town is 25 miles southwest of Madras in

southeastern India.

An Associated Press reporter saw the explosion. United News of India said the device was remote-controlled.

Crowds surged through the streets of Madras as word spread that the 46-year-old leader of the Congress Party had been killed. Private vehicles and three

buses were set afire. Men ripped election posters from walls.

In New Delhi, the federal capital, infuriated crowds set fire to the home of a political rival early Wednesday and attacked foreign TV crews. No injuries were reported. Many residents stood outside Gandhi's house and wept.