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While you were in class ...



Photo by Kim Nguyen

Brian Hoefler spent Monday afternoon riding the waves of the Willamette River to beat the heat. Today's temperature in the Eugene-Springfield area is expected to reach up to 85 degrees.

Split-Roll tax initiative backed by ASUO, OSL

□ Student President Bobby Lee says split-roll property tax would reduce the need for future cuts at the University

By Tim Neff
Emerald Associate Editor

An initiative designed to restore much of the tax revenue cut by Measure 5 drew the support of University student government Tuesday morning at a joint press conference.

ASUO, Student Senate and the Oregon Student Lobby endorsed Oregon Fair Share's Split-Roll Initiative, which is aimed at increasing property taxes for rental-property owners and businesses but not homeowners.

That increase would restore an estimated 70 percent of the property tax revenue eliminated by the passage of Measure 5 in 1990.

ASUO President Bobby Lee said the initiative would provide much-needed relief to the University, which has compensated for the Measure 5 budget crunch by raising tuition and cutting programs and services.

"This initiative is part of a solution that will play a significant role in lowering tuition and restoring services," Lee said.

The student groups portrayed the initiative as a "back-up" plan and urged the Leg-

islature to convene a special session to hammer out a tax reform proposal.

"If a special session is not called by the legislators, the split-roll tax package would be the back-up plan to give Oregonians the opportunity to vote for replacement revenue," Lee said.

The split-roll tax would generate replacement revenue by taxing businesses and rental-properties at a higher rate than homeowners.

Passage of the split-roll initiative would place the upward limit on business property taxes at \$30 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Residential property taxes would be capped at \$15 per \$1,000.

Under Measure 5, tax rates for both business and residential properties will be reduced to \$15 per \$1,000 of assessed value by 1995. The resulting drop in property tax revenue has reduced money available for locally funded programs.

Measure 5 requires that the state compensate for the shortfall, which it has done by siphoning money from the state general fund. That reallocation has cut money available for state programs and services, including universities.

Greg Parker, director of communications for the Oregon State System of Higher Education, said Measure 5 resulted in an 11 percent system-wide budget cut. When

Turn to INITIATIVE, Page 4

Course to address race issues

□ Law School offers summer course on racial injustice in the criminal system

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

On the heels of the Rodney King verdict and subsequent riots, the University School of Law is sponsoring a course this summer that will address the on-

going problem of racial injustice.

"Racial Issues in the Criminal System" is being organized by several faculty and staff members in the law school but is open to all University students.

Faculty from several disciplines on campus, including law, English and corrections, will be on hand to offer perspectives. Because the class is being organized on short notice, some final deci-

Turn to COURSE, Page 5

Buy-back book prices subject to outside influences

□ The bookstore strives to give students a fair price, but lack of publishing competition puts retailers in a bind

By Mandy Baucum
Emerald Reporter

Although students may feel the bookstore isn't giving them a good price for their used books, the buy-back price is subject to change because of influences outside the bookstore.

In addition, publishers tend to jack up new book prices because they don't make a profit on used books, Bookstore General Manager Jim Williams said.

Williams added that fewer course books are sold from publisher to bookstore because of the rise in used book sales over recent years. Ten years ago, fewer used books were offered and the prices were lower because of it, he said.

Copyrights give publishers a lock on the market for their books. The lack of competition allows publishers to set their own prices, putting retail outlets in a bind.

"We have no control over invoice prices," said Melinda Hochendoner, bookstore used book coordinator.

Teachers who fail to submit their book orders early also have an effect on used book prices.

"Teachers are more conscious of book order submis-

sions now than they were five years ago," Williams said.

Both Williams and Hochendoner said they try to give students the best buy-back price they possibly can. But sometimes the prices vary because after the bookstore reaches its limit on a certain book, the buy-back price reverts back to the national wholesale price.

The University bookstore has three nationwide wholesalers who buy and sell used books. The wholesalers are located in Mississippi, Nebraska and Missouri.

The bookstore aims for 50 percent of the new book price as their buy-back rate, until they fulfill their quota for that book. After that, the book returns to the national wholesale price.

For example, a student buying a new book from the bookstore during fall term at \$40 will usually receive \$20 (if the bookstore quota has yet to be filled) as the buy-back price.

That same book is resold for \$30 as a used book. The \$10 difference is part of the bookstore's gross profit which supplies it with enough money to run itself. If the book was not going to be used for the next term, it would be bought back at a price determined by the wholesalers. In this case that would be an \$8 buy-back price.

Of the \$8 buy-back price, \$1.60 goes to the bookstore for operation costs.

'Buy-back prices are not an arbitrary decision. The bookstore has a very systematic way of determining book prices. We try to be a resource for students and faculty members.'

— Jim Williams,
Bookstore general manager

If a teacher turns in a book order late, and the bookstore, not knowing the book will be used, sells the book to one of its three wholesale companies, the buy-back price of the book will be lower (\$8) than it would if it had never left the bookstore (\$20), because the bookstore has to buy back the book they just sold to the wholesale company.

If the book is not sold to the wholesalers it is, as stated earlier, sold to the student for \$30. But the buy-back price will still be \$20, based on the original new book price.

New edition publishing is another factor affecting

Turn to BUY-BACK, Page 4