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Measure 44: Many smokers are mad

Continued from Page 1

"I'm a smoker, so I don't like it, but it's good in that it's for the Oregon Health Plan," said Forester, an undeclared major. "It's good for others, bad for me."

The tax is also bad for Marit Amundson, a smoker of six years. She said she would have supported a slight increase, but not a 30 cent increase.

"It doesn't seem fair. There's a lot of smokers and 30 cents is a harsh raise," said Amundson, a French major.

But Nelsie Munson, a cigarette

smoker for two years, said the tax increase is fair and voted for the measure.

"It's great; there should be a tax on cigarettes," said Munson, a fine arts and art history major.

Munson said she hopes to quit smoking and the tax will encourage her to do so.

"I think smoking is a terrible habit; it's addicting," she said. "It [the tax increase] will hopefully inhibit other people from starting to smoke."

Steve Tosterud, also a smoker, shares Munson's views.

"I voted for the tax; I think cigarettes and tobacco should be held accountable for what they do," said Tosterud, a journalism major. "I hope it'll help me quit."

But Craig Keothel, a history major, isn't planning on quitting his smoking habit.

"I just find it frustrating that we [smokers] are being exploited because of our addiction," he said. "They know we aren't going to be able to quit over 30 cents, so they're going to make some money off us."

Georgia program offers full college tuition

EDUCATION: The HOPE program promises good students a full scholarship to any public school in Georgia

By Tara Meyer

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The young man from the mountains had no money to complete his last two years of college. So Zell Miller joined the Marines, and the service eventually paid for his education.

Years later, as governor of Georgia, Miller launched his own version of the federal GI bill: a free ride through college for students who keep good grades.

"My mother used to tell me to take what you want, but pay for it. You can have a college education, but you must pay for it by keeping a B average," said Miller, a former college history professor.

Now, his old pal Bill Clinton has loosely modeled his own hope for education after Georgia's lottery-funded HOPE scholarship program — Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally — that has doled out more than \$330 million to 239,000 students since 1993.

The president's plan also would require a B average, but would use tax credits instead of lottery-funded scholarships.

"He and I had talked for years about this program, and he was always fascinated with it," said Miller. "When he came up with his HOPE idea, I was very pleased that he was trying to fill the need nationally that I filled in Georgia."

Georgia's HOPE scholarships give high school graduates with a B average free tuition plus \$100 for books at any of the state's public colleges and universities.

At the University of Georgia, 90 percent of the roughly 2,800 Georgia residents in the freshman class aren't paying a dime for college. The same is true for 96 percent at Georgia Tech, which has a total enroll-

ment of about 13,000 students.

No matter what their grades, students can get the same deal at technical schools. And those with a B average who attend private schools in Georgia can get at least \$3,000 a year.

Once they are in, they have to keep a B average or lose the money. Said Miller: "This is an incentive for them to work."

The president's plan, while tied to grades, is less ambitious.

Instead of a four-year ride, Clinton's program would offer a \$1,500 tax credit to students who keep a B average plus a \$10,000 tax deduction for the first two years. Families who make more than \$100,000 wouldn't be eligible.

Ana Alviz had mostly A's in high school but no money to pay for college.

"I couldn't believe I could go for free when they told me," said Mrs. Alviz, a freshman studying criminal justice at Georgia State University in Atlanta. "There's no way I can lose this."

There are second chances.

Students who lose their B average lose their money, but can get it back after a year if they bring their grades up. And students who enter college with high school grades below a B average can get a HOPE scholarship if they earn at least a B average the first year.

Miller won the governor's office in 1990 with a campaign based on using lottery proceeds for education.

Since 1993, \$333.7 million in lottery money has been given to almost 239,000 college students. This year, \$159 million was allocated to the program and the governor hopes to spend \$167 million in 1998.

The program got off to a rocky start when parents complained that the rules were confusing and unfair, and that a B from one high school would have been a C elsewhere. That was solved by a statewide grading standard.

ET ALS

Students for Freedom From Religion are hosting a discussion with Scott Siebert on the Skinners Butte Cross issue in the third floor lounge in

Chapman Hall at 7 p.m. For more information, call 346-1629.

ASUO Women's Center is hosting a Women of Color Discussion

Group in the Multicultural Center at 3 p.m. For more information, call 346-4095.

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