

Housing: New complex to be safer for residents

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the complex does not receive tax dollars or subsidies.

Students interested in moving into the complex are currently placed on a waiting list, which totals 60 currently, but Eyster said the figure is deceiving because not all of those on the list are looking to move in as soon as an opening is available.

"We're very pleased with [the waiting list]," Gaddini said. "It ensures us we have consistent flow of rents to pay our mortgage."

Students are assigned to the housing based on a set of priorities. Households with children are given first priority, followed by graduate students without children and undergraduates over the age of 21

without children.

Gaddini expects about half of the units will be inhabited by residents with children.

Considering the relatively soft market for housing in the University area this year, the units are quite popular. At \$435 a month for a two-bedroom unit, the rent is more than competitive with the rest of the campus housing market, Eyster said.

The soft market has been created by new complexes such as Duck's Village near Autzen Stadium. In the past, landlords have been able to sit back, raise rates and not advertise, Eyster said.

"It's a much more competitive environment for landlords," he said.

Speaker tells of his life with AIDS

■ **AIDS:** Steve Sawyer's visit to campus was organized by various Christian groups

By Amy Palanuk
Higher Education Reporter

As the seats in Room 150 Columbia slowly filled Thursday night, Steve Sawyer sat in the front row, his eyes closed and his fingers slowly tapping to sounds of Hootie and the Blowfish.

"I was praying," said Sawyer. Praying and focusing on what he was about to say to over 300 students and community members who had come to listen to him speak on what life is like being HIV positive. The speech was organized by various Christian groups on campus and in the community as a way for Sawyer to share his experience with as many people as possible.

"I wanted to do something that had eternal significance," said Sawyer.

In 1995, when doctors told Sawyer his time was limited,



SAWYER

them about his experience with HIV and his discovery of finding peace in Christianity.

"When I was told I was going to die, I looked for someone or something to blame," said Sawyer. "So I blamed God."

It wasn't until Sawyer prayed with a friend during a spring break in Daytona Beach that he discovered that his anger could be dealt with by looking to God.

"I wish I could say that I had this amazing emotional experience," said Sawyer. "I didn't have that, but when I prayed it was like this ton of crud off my

back went away, and I finally had the strength to just not cope, but to be happy."

Sawyer then made the decision to look at his illness not as a struggle but as an opportunity to reach out to others.

"It wasn't until I was able to focus on what what unseen that I was able to gain hope," said Sawyer.

"My body managed to fight off Hepatitis B, but Hepatitis C affected my liver and I was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver," he said.

At the peak of Sawyer's illness, he was diagnosed with only six months to live. That was two years ago.

Now Sawyer reaches out to students throughout the country telling them how his disease has been a blessing in disguise.

"I would much rather have AIDS and be a Christian than to never know what it was like to find this kind of peace," said Sawyer.

Budget: The middle class would also win under the plan

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That's because both the college tax benefits would start to be phased out for families with incomes higher than \$80,000.

Of course, the middle class would mostly win under both Clinton's budget and Republican plans. But GOP savings focus on families with younger children; Clinton's on the college set.

Like any politician's dream, the budget makes most apparent the savings that would flow to families and the services they would get.

Its costs are dispersed through the economy — a 10-percent airline tax here, a pinching of the energy budget there.

"It's the traditional death by a thousand cuts," said Paul Huard, senior vice president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Pain is also delayed until the final two-year push for a balanced budget in 2002, when Clinton will no longer be president. This budget actually would increase the deficit, for all the talk of going the other way.

And as a citizen-friendly version of the budget makes clear, higher deficits mean more competition from the government for the loans sought by consumers and business, making borrowing for everyone potentially more expensive.

Almost all home sellers would escape capital gains taxes under the Clinton plan: all except those who make more than \$500,000 profit on the sale of a house. Wiping that burden out would also eliminate the tax code's big incentive for people to fix up their homes

and buy more expensive ones — now the way to hold that tax at bay.

The impulse to keep moving on up would be left to human nature.

The budget would give back to some of the people on welfare — principally legal immigrants — a portion of what the new law on welfare reform is taking away.

But it counts on big Medicare savings by limiting payments to hospitals, health maintenance organizations and doctors, and on smaller savings from increased premiums paid by the elderly.

All that and more would be done with some assurance that Americans will go on singing and dancing with a hand from government. The thick, nearly impenetrable budget documents contain outlines of Clinton's fight to maintain the National Endowment for the Arts.

In public schools, billions more would be plowed into technology, standards and scholarships. Clinton wants to give \$1,000 to every pupil graduating in the top 5 percent in every high school.

He does not want parents to take their share of federal education money and use it for private schools — that's a Republican idea.

Clinton's tax plan really kicks in for the college-bound, essentially covering the costs of community or state college for the first year and — with a B average — the second year.

That benefit — a \$3,000 tax credit in two years — could also be used for an expensive private university. Alternatively, a taxpayer could take a \$5,000 deduction for post-sec-

IN THE PLAN

■ COLLEGE TAX CREDIT:

Families would get a \$1,500 tax credit for each student in post-secondary education for one year. If at least a B average is maintained by the student, and he or she is not convicted of a drug crime, the family would qualify for a \$1,500 tax credit a second year. Families not earning enough to pay \$1,500 in income tax would not get the full credit. Credit would be phased out for taxpayers filing a joint return with adjusted gross income between \$80,000 and \$100,000. Taxpayers with incomes over \$100,000 would not qualify at all.

ondary education and job training expenses, rising to \$10,000 in 1999.

Under the Clinton budget, a married couple with one child in college, another in high school and a household income of \$35,000 would save \$1,500 in taxes in one year, according to an analysis by Deloitte & Touche.

The same family would save \$579 under the latest GOP plan.

But a family with the same income and children aged 10 and 15 would save \$1,079 from the GOP and \$500 from Clinton.

The Clinton plan would provide these tax savings for a family with one child in college and another younger:

- \$1,500, with household income of \$50,000.
- \$2,468, with income of \$75,000.
- \$2,800, with income of \$100,000.

Raising local fees would undermine Measure 47, Sizemore says

By Landon Hall
The Associated Press

SALEM — For nearly a month the House Revenue Committee has tried to figure out Measure 47, the property tax-cutting law, and Thursday it got some advice from the author.

Bill Sizemore warned the committee that allowing local governments to override Measure 47 would raise the ire of voters.

"We would like to have control over how much money government takes from us. Period," said Sizemore, who is head of Oregon

Taxpayers United.

The committee on Wednesday tentatively approved a proposal to allow local governments to ask voters to override Measure 47. The measure, which rolls back property taxes by at least 10 percent and limits future increases to 3 percent a year, lets cities and counties hold elections to raise taxes as long as voter turnout is at least 50 percent.

Sizemore, who originally disputed the existence of the loophole, admits the local option is a possibility. But on Thursday he

denounced what he perceived as an end-run on Measure 47: raising fees for government services at the local level.

A bill drafted by the committee would allow local governments to raise fees for some services, such as library cards or parking permits, without an election. But an agency that lost funds under Measure 47 would need to put a fee increase to a vote.

Sizemore said voters would see through any attempt by the Legislature to give local governments too much leeway to circumvent

the law.

Sizemore said raising fees for a variety of services is just another way to fleece voters.

Rep. Tony Corcoran, D-Cottage Grove, said he was insulted by Sizemore's comment that the Legislature shirked its responsibility by not passing a property tax limit measure in 1995.

As the hearing came to a close, Corcoran then took Sizemore to task for once saying that a driver's license and a fishing license were all a citizen needed from the government.

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