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this weekend?
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Daly

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She said she feels as though the last 10 years have been a sort of journey for her, a journey of self-discovery and, more importantly, of self-love.

"My inner body was shut-down," she said. "But now I have the ability not only to love my body but to let others love it — me, too. And that's something I want to share."

So to mark this point in her life, which she feels is the end of one journey, she begins another — only this time the trip requires highlighted maps, her 20-pound backpack and a good walking shoe.

Daly left her Eugene home Monday to walk across the country this summer toward her birthplace in Hoboken, N.J. She will average four to six hours per day on foot, then rely on the kindness of strangers to offer rides and lodging along the way. Daly estimates her walk will total more than 1,000 miles by the time she reaches the East Coast.

"The lessons of living more easily with myself are most powerful when I get my whole body, my whole being involved," she said.

The idea for the walk came in February, when Daly was imagining her next individual dance piece. While several of her recent works had been about "getting my body back," she felt this project should be different.

Daly has little or no memory of the period surrounding her childhood illness. "A Foot Across America," as the project is titled, is her personal pilgrimage to re-

claim the lost years and heal old pains.

"But it's not a piece focused on the past," she contends. "It's a celebration of the distance I have come."

She said a voice in her head kept repeating the idea of making the cross-country trip.

"Then I told some friends about it, and they were immediately supportive."

Among the well-wishers is the local arts organization TAPRoOT, which has been instrumental in eliciting financial and material support for the trip through its network of community artists.

TAPRoOT will also be posting her progress on their Web site, www.taparoot.org, during the next few months as Daly sends periodic e-mails and photos from the road.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for people to participate with Karen in pursuing her dream," said Alicia Swearingen, TAPRoOT's director. "There's so much support for what she's doing."

Daly will spend time with family in New Jersey before returning to Eugene in October.

"Then I'll just be my old, normal self again," she said with a laugh.

Daly acknowledged she was mulling around the idea of writing a book about her experience when she returns.

"I'd better take a journal with me if I'm going to do that," she said.

Then, glancing at her already-stuffed backpack near the door, she added, "I could write on napkins, I guess."

Bill

Continued from Page 1A

\$24,000," said Rep. Randall Edwards, D-Portland.

Edwards projected that in 20 years, four years at a public university will cost approximately \$85,000. A private college may cost as much as \$200,000.

The father of three young children, Edwards is especially supportive of Senate Bill 756. With the incredible increase in the cost of education, this bill is projected to "relieve the growing debt that Oregon students and families are incurring to attend college," he said.

The bill sets up a savings account, but the fund would still need to be developed before it can actually be used, according to McSwain. The process could take up to two years.

To establish an account, an initial contribution must be made to the Oregon Qualified Tuition Savings Program in the name of a designated beneficiary. The beneficiary, however, does not need to be an Oregon resident as long as the owner of the account is. After the fund is established, anyone can contribute — cash only — to it.

Taxes won't have to be paid on the money until it's taken out of the fund. Even then, she said, it will be taxed at the rate applicable to the beneficiary's income bracket for both federal- and state-income tax purposes, which is generally lower than the parents'.

Money saved under this plan

can be used for tuition, room and board and books at any accredited post-secondary institution in the United States. It doesn't matter if it's a two-year, four-year or technical school, in Oregon or out, McSwain said.

Matt Swanson, Oregon Student Association board member and State Affairs Coordinator for the ASUO, is also pleased to see the effort to ease the financial burden of educational expenses.

"As we see students being forced into taking on enormous debt loads to finance their post-secondary education, it is imperative that our legislature examines all options towards making education more accessible for Oregonians," he said.

According to McSwain, the bill is still going through many state and federal changes. As of now, however, if the beneficiary decided against attending college, the money could be transferred to a member of the same family. If their was nobody to transfer the money to, there would be a 10 percent penalty, McSwain said.

Unfortunately, however, this savings plan doesn't benefit those who are approaching college age in the immediate future.

For students right now, this may mean more loans. But students now may be eligible to save an average of \$631 on their direct loans, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Oregon Emerald

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene OR 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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