

Impact of Measure 88 on students uncertain

■ The tax cut proposal would reduce state funding and possibly lead to a tuition increase at the University

By Anna Seeley
for the Emerald

It's hard to say exactly how much the University would be affected by tax-cutting Measure 88, but both opponents and proponents of the measure say it would reduce the amount of funding distributed by the state government.

Measure 88 would cut taxes by allowing Oregonians to deduct \$2,000 more of their federal income

tax payments from state income tax returns, increasing the maximum deduction from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

If passed, this would reduce the amount of funds available for general government expenditures, including funds for higher education.

Douglas Bilheimer, a consultant for the Oregon Education Association, said the measure would reduce the general fund by \$160 million and would continue to reduce the amount of resources supplied to the University. He said he feels this measure is unfair and unnecessary.

"This is awful legislation," said Bilheimer, "Passage would result in education funding losses at a time when schools are already strapped

for cash."

State Rep. Leslie Lewis, R-Newberg, disagrees. She said the amount to be deducted is very modest and won't have any impact on the amount of funding the University receives from the state.

"The \$3,000 limit was set back in 1986 and was never indexed for inflation," Lewis

said. "This measure was written because we recognized that the \$3,000 deduction was way outdated. More and more people are receiving higher incomes and are forced to pay

more taxes as a result."

Melissa Unger, legislative organizer for the ASUO, said Measure 88, like Measure 91, could raise tuition. She was not able to comment on whether she is for or against the measure, but said that with the tuition freeze ending this year, future tuition would likely be higher if the measure passes.

"[The University] wouldn't want to cut money from programs, so they would have to compensate with a tuition raise," Unger said.

Oregon University System spokesman Bob Bruce also can't speak for or against the measure, but did say the measure could have a fiscal impact on the general fund.

Ballot Measure 88

- The measure would cut taxes by increasing the maximum deductible on Oregon personal income tax returns for federal income taxes paid from \$3,000 to \$5,000.
- Supporters argue that the measure would reduce the amount Oregonians pay in state income taxes without harming schools, public safety or other government services.
- Opponents argue that the measure would reduce funding for schools and universities, which could lead to an increase in tuition.

Author speaks about mountain-climbing legend

■ Peter Gillman discussed his biographical exploration of mountaineer George Mallory

By Eric Martin
for the Emerald

As journalist Peter Gillman tracked the historic debate stewing

around the unknown fate of British mountaineer George Mallory, he never imagined the body of the storied Mount Everest climber would be found 75 years after Mallory's disappearance in 1924.

But much to Gillman's surprise, on May 1, 1999, American climbers from Seattle stumbled upon Mallory's remains and photographed them.

Gillman, a former reporter at the London Sunday Times for 15 years, spoke Monday evening in Willamette Hall to a crowd of more than 100 people about his recently completed biography about Mallory.

At the time Mallory's remains were discovered, Gillman and his wife, Leni Gillman, had ironed out the details for a biography about the climber and were gathering information to finish it. The book would explore Mallory's life beyond ice axes and crampons to the symbiotic relationship between Mallory's outdoor ambitions and his wife and children.

But with the flurry of attention devoted to the recent find, publishers told Gillman to push the release date forward.

Despite being familiar with deadlines as a veteran reporter for the Times, Gillman said he kindly declined. There was too much information to gather, and a rush wouldn't do it justice.

The book recounts Mallory's life from his first climb up the steeple and ridge of his father's church to his homosexual relationships and later devotion to his wife and children.

But he also subscribes to the romantic visions of Mallory's daughter, Claire.

"It doesn't matter to me whether or not he made it," Gillman said, quoting Claire. "It was his life I loved and love."

Gillman said this work has been 30 years in the making, but that through the last year the project really took form.

Two people in attendance at Gillman's lecture Monday have a special interest in Mount Everest and in George Mallory — Cottage Grove residents Hugh and Joan Peniston.

Their son is the director of a national park in Nepal close to Mount Everest, and in 1997, longtime pastor Hugh and his son hiked throughout the region. The Penistons said they were drawn to the lecture because of the mystery surrounding Mallory's fate.

"Well, nobody knew what had happened to him," Joan said.

Hugh added: "I didn't know some of the details of his life. But ever since I mentioned his 'I climb it because it's there' statement in a sermon, I've been interested in him."



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Disabilities

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population older than age 65 has disabilities, including everything from mental retardation to asthma to attention deficit disorder to breast cancer.

It is important to understand how the disabled feel because unfortunately, they are often viewed not as regular people but as "eternal children," Asch said.

She said she thinks one way to raise awareness about people with disabilities is to include disabilities studies as a part of higher education curriculum. Asch thinks impaired students are often made to feel embarrassed or different, but such feelings can be changed through a college education.

"Colleges and universities are an important focus because they take the leading role in understanding and changing society," Asch said.

Nikki Fancher, a senior women's studies and pre-med major, said she attended the symposium to

learn what the University is doing to improve the awareness of the disabled.

"It's interesting to see that so much of the population is disabled and has been ignored," she said, adding that the discussion gave her a clearer understanding of what is going on in society.

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Nikki Fancher
senior, women's studies and pre-med major

Philip Ferguson, an associate professor of the department of special education at the University and the symposium's organizer, said he also thinks society has the wrong idea about the disabled community.

"I am troubled that people with disabilities are viewed as having a

medical problem because it's merely a natural part of human diversity," he said.

Ferguson, who teaches disability studies at the University, said he thinks a lot can be learned from disabilities studies because everyone may be affected by disabilities at some point in life. Hundreds of people have physical and mental disabilities, he said.

The curriculum for his disabilities studies classes includes topics such as social policy and ethics for the disabled.

Ferguson hopes to make higher education more readily available to disabled students and said one way to accomplish this is by educating the public about disabilities. He said he thinks symposiums such as this one are important in order to convey the message that being disabled is just one more way that humans can differ from each other.

"They should be treated as a fundamental part of human existence," he said. "It's not just about curb cuts and ramps."

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