

IN BRIEF

Bruce Miller memorial to be held Saturday

A memorial service for former campus-area icon Bruce Miller will be held Saturday at the Veterans' Memorial Building from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Miller, who was 62 years old and had been a campus- and community-area activist for decades, died in his home April 26 of a heart attack.

Those who knew Miller are welcome to bring mementos and to share stories of his life.

The Veterans' Memorial Building is located at 1626 Willamette St.

20th-anniversary edition of book reviewed today

A review of the newest edition of the book "They Dare to Speak Out: People and Institutions Confront Israel's Lobby," about intimidation of public officials by members of the Israeli lobby, will take place today in 127 Chiles Business Center.

The newest edition of Paul Findley's book comes on the 20th anniversary of its first release. Former University staff member George Beres will be reviewing the book.

The meeting starts at 4 p.m. and is open to the public.

— Jared Paben

Poll: Most people wary of giving up security benefits

BY WILL LESTER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Most people say they are not willing to give up some of their Social Security benefits as President Bush has proposed to save the poor from having their payments cut.

About 70 percent of people surveyed believe Bush's warning that Social Security is running out of money. But most also say they do not like the way the president is handling the issue, according to an AP-Ipsos poll.

"I'm very concerned that Social Security will run out of money," said Cindy Smith, a 47-year-old Republican from Las Vegas who had reservations about giving up her benefits to protect the poor. "I would have to have more information about who those worthy lower-income people are. We're all here to help one another, but I'd need more information."

Many people are resistant to Bush's proposal to have future retirees who are in the middle- and higher-income classes accept smaller benefit checks than they are now set to receive in order to protect the benefits of the poorest Americans.

The president says younger workers in particular can offset the loss with proceeds from the private investment accounts he wants to establish.

Bush has said the current program will not change for workers age 55 and older.

The poll, conducted for The Associated Press by Ipsos-Public Affairs, found that 56 percent of respondents are not willing to give up some guaranteed benefits, while 40 percent said they would. Majorities of Democrats, Republicans and independents were opposed to losing any benefits.

"If I was guaranteed that the poor would get what they're supposed to, that would be fine, but I'm not sure they would," said Margaret Normandin, an 80-year-old Democrat from Laconia, N.H.

A majority of those making \$75,000 or more said they would be willing to forfeit some benefits. Younger adults were more likely than older adults to favor an approach giving up some benefits while protecting the poor.

"That would be all right," said Rich Culbert, a 31-year-old engineer who lives near Rochester, N.Y. "But that's just me not expecting Social Security to be there."

There generally is little public support for giving up benefits or paying higher taxes as a way to address Social Security's financial problems.

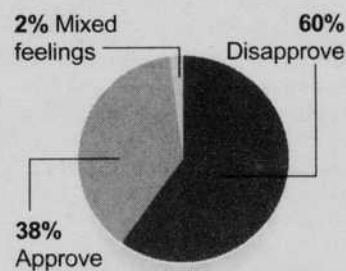
"We all want to fix the problem, but we don't want to pay much for

AP-IPSOS POLL

Wary of president

More than half of people polled disapprove of how President Bush is handling Social Security.

When it comes to Social Security, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way President Bush is handling the issue?



NOTE: Poll of 1,000 adults conducted between May 2-4; margin of error ± 3.1 percentage points

SOURCE: Ipsos-Public Affairs for AP

it," said Charles Franklin, a political science professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who closely follows public opinion. "We want the wealthy to pay for it."

Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster, said persuading the middle class to give up benefits is a hard sell.

"The middle class feels like it's barely holding on," she said. "And Social Security is perceived to be the original middle-class support program."

One of the only proposals that gets support in polls is raising the \$90,000 limit on earnings that can be taxed for Social Security. Bush has suggested he might consider this step, which is opposed by many conservatives, including House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas.

Republican pollster Whit Ayres, who has done extensive survey work on Social Security, said raising the cap would hurt small-business owners.

When asked whom they trust more to handle Social Security, 48 percent of respondents said Democrats and 36 percent said Republicans.

The president still faces strong opposition to his approach to Social Security, with 60 percent of those surveyed saying they disapprove. Even some who back his approach express doubts.

"I approve — except that he's not getting anywhere," said John Rose, a Democratic-leaning retiree from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "He should be doing a better job of selling it."

The AP-Ipsos poll of 1,000 adults was taken May 2-4. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.



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