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## Immediate Release

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March 25, 1996

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--How much is your mother worth?

That's the question University of Illinois Economics Professor Fred M. Gottheil asks when he discusses the economics of health care.

Gottheil will pose that question--and others--when he speaks at Illinois Wesleyan University, Wednesday, April 10, at 7 p.m. in Room C101 (first floor lecture hall) in the Center for Natural Science Learning and Research, 201 E. Beecher, Bloomington.

His address, sponsored by Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE), the economics honor society, is titled, "How Much is Your Mother Worth?: An Economic Perspective on the Health Care Crisis."

A reception following Gottheil's address will take place in the science building's Commons, sponsored by IWU's Economics Society.

Gottheil's address comes in the aftermath of the bitter White House-Capitol Hill debate that scuttled President Bill Clinton's plan to overhaul the nation's health-care system. His speech also comes at a time when health care remains a flash point in wrangling over how to balance the federal budget. Democrats and Republicans continue to clash over how to reign in Medicare spending, which covers the cost of most hospital stays and physicians' visits for people over age 65, and Medicaid, which covers some health-care costs for the very poor, those with disabilities, and many residents of nursing homes.

Gottheil has said that not since the decision to go to war against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan more than a half-century ago has the United States faced a national issue so challenging to our way of life as the current debate over health care.

Gottheil also is a professor of basic sciences in the U of I's School of Medicine, where he teaches courses dealing with the economics of health care. He also has served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, now the Department of Health and Human Services.

Gottheil has won many teaching awards, including university-at-large awards, College of Commerce awards, Pan Hellenic awards, the 1994 Alpha Kappa Psi Outstanding Faculty Award, and the Alpha Lambda Delta Outstanding Teacher of Freshmen Award.

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## Gottheil-IWU Speech/2

He is the author of *Principles of Economics*, published this year.

Gottheil's address will follow a 5:30 p.m. dinner in the Turfler Room, Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St., Bloomington, where 17 IWU juniors and seniors will be inducted into ODE. Criteria for induction include: each student must have taken at least four economics courses and earned a 3.0 grade-point average overall and in their economics courses. IWU's ODE chapter has 40 members, including students who are not economics majors.

Pam Lowry, IWU assistant professor of economics, is ODE's faculty advisor.

"IWU's economics program, which has about 50-60 majors," Lowry said, "is unique in several ways.

"First, our students publish one of only two undergraduate economics journals found on any campus--'The Park Place Economist.'

"Second, every economics major conducts original research during the fall of their senior year. Many of these students in the spring of their senior year also go on to do research honors projects, which are presented at IWU's annual John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference.

"And," Lowry added, "we have a large number of students who are double majoring in economics and another field like political science, international business, business, international studies, physics, mathematics, and risk management and insurance."

**Editor's Note:** The Omicron Delta Epsilon, April 10, 5:30 p.m. banquet is by invitation only. However, Fred Gottheil's 7 p.m. lecture, "How Much is Your Mother Worth?: An Economic Perspective on the Health Care Crisis" is available for news media coverage. Gottheil's lecture also is open to the public; there is no admission fee.