

NOW head claims polls are inaccurate

By Dave Berns
Of the Emerald

Polls showing the Reagan-Bush ticket leading the Mondale-Ferraro ticket by margins ranging between 10 and 25 percentage points are based on false assumptions and are inaccurate, says Judy Goldsmith, president of the National Organization for Women.

"The polls are based on the supposition that women comprise 50 percent of the population, when in fact the figure is closer to 53 percent nationally," Goldsmith told an audience of 60 people at the Wesley Center in Eugene, Friday.

Goldsmith says that pollsters do not accurately gauge the sentiment of the electorate.

"Even as early as 1982, in the Illinois gubernatorial race, the polls have been mildly off-base," she adds.

In 1982, Gov. Jim Thompson of Illinois ran for re-election against Adlai Stevenson III. Goldsmith claims that polls on the day of the election had Thompson running 15 percentage points ahead of the challenger. Thompson eventually won re-election by 5,000 votes.

"Why were the polls so off-base in that election? Because Stevenson had a woman running for the office of lieutenant governor on his ticket," Goldsmith says.

The candidacy of Geraldine Ferraro and Walter Mondale's record on women's issues will provide a similar embarrassment for pollsters, she adds.

"Mondale has a tremendous record of leadership, and for the women of this country, he will be the best president we ever had."

Goldsmith pointed to Mondale's Senate voting record on child-care legislation, pay equity, the Equal Rights Amendment and the Women's Education Equity Act.

"We contrast his record with President Reagan's and we can see Reagan has done nothing for the living born," Goldsmith says.

She went on to charge that the president, "killed Title 7 (protection of women in the workplace), has provided the narrowest interpretation of Title 9 (equal protection for women in education), and has cut back funds for the Women, Infants and Children Program, and the Children's Immunization Program."

"The Republican Party did work for the passage of the 19th Amendment which allowed women the right to vote, but that was 64 years ago and its time for them to move ahead," Goldsmith says.

"Conversely, the Democratic Party platform is the most pro-



Judy Goldsmith

gressive on women's issues ever produced by either party."

Goldsmith also claims that a gap does exist between how men will vote and how women will vote on Nov. 6.

Existence of this "gender gap" is an issue of contention among pollsters, politicians, and political scientists.

"A gender gap does exist, and it is largest in the South," Goldsmith says. "Women throughout the country are rejecting traditional stereotypes, and this is exemplified by the assertion of independence found in Southern women."

"There will be 8 million more women than men voting in the presidential election, and it will be women who decide the eventual outcome."

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We urge members of the University community to vote for MONDALE/FERRARO on Tuesday, Nov. 6

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