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Barbara Roberts addressed students and faculty in two meetings yesterday, answering questions on matters ranging from higher education funding to civil rights.

Roberts examines campus concerns

By Joe Kidd
Emerald Reporter

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Barbara Roberts gave a listen — and her opinions — to University faculty members and students in two separate meetings Wednesday in the EMU.

Problems of funding the state's growing higher education system dominated her discussion with faculty members, while issues of race-based violence and civil rights were the focus of student concerns.

Roberts, who is running unopposed in the May 15 Democratic primary, scheduled the meetings as part of a two-day campaign tour of the state.

Roberts described Oregon's investment in higher education as "a major concern" of hers, listing low faculty salaries and a lack of funding for equipment and libraries as crucial problems that need to be remedied.

Higher education funding has been neglected, said Roberts, who currently serves as Oregon's secretary of state.

"And if we don't solve that now, Oregon will be in the backwater forever," she said. "It's clear we have quality (in the system), but to maintain that quality if good faculty don't stay is the question."

Roberts called for abolishing the state's spending

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Brand's forum looks at closed AS department

By Dan Eisler
Emerald Reporter

Elimination of the University's American Studies program dominated discussion between University President Myles Brand and students Tuesday in the last open forum of the school year.

Marlene Drescher, director of the Office of Student Advocacy, acted as moderator between Brand and about 25 students. Theodore Palmer, arts and sciences dean, also attended the forum and answered some questions.

Kevin Donald, an American Studies graduate teaching fellow, asked why action wasn't taken before the major was dropped. The program has remained unchanged for four years, Donald said, with one professor, 7 GTFs and 500 students.

No University faculty member could be found who was willing to replace departing program director Sam Girgus without an expansion of the program, and it's too late to actively seek someone outside the University, Brand said.

"Then that's convenient," one student said.

"For who?" Brand responded. "You're looking for a scapegoat and that's not fair."

"Don't keep passing the buck," the student said. "Obviously someone is making the grand decision."

"I made the grand decision," Palmer said.

If Girgus had resigned earlier the process might have been different, Palmer said. "But we have to work with things the way they are."

"The dean through his best efforts could not find someone to conduct the program at the same level," Brand said, adding that given the fiscal constraints at the University, it's not possible to en-

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Jesus Day rally, concert set for Friday

Christian groups plan celebration

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Associate editor

A coalition of Christian student groups is planning to celebrate Jesus Day Friday with a rally and concert on the EMU east lawn.

This is the first year that University-based Christian groups have joined forces to hold campus-wide activities, although individual groups have sponsored speakers in the past, said Lynn Yonemoto, a member of the University golf team and co-spokeswoman for Jesus Day.

"We're all fired up about this," Yonemoto said. "The changes in our lives (after becoming Christians) are so significant we want to share them."

Jesus Day is not intended to be political, said Kevin Allen, a junior who helped plan Friday's events. Rather, it is designed to call attention to the life of Jesus Christ and how it has affected students' lives.

"There have been a lot of other 'issues days' on campus," Allen said. "This is not a controversial issue but it means a lot to all of us."

A rally featuring former all-American pro football player Ken Hutcherson will be held on the EMU east lawn at 11:30 a.m. Friday. Hutcherson, now a church pastor in Kirkland, Wash., will speak on Christianity and racism.

"This will be a time that students can see that although people might discriminate due to your race or your background, Christ does not," Yonemoto said. "That's why Ken relates so well; he has had to deal with the discrimination of being black and growing up in the South in the early 1950s."

Hutcherson will also speak at a breakfast to be held Friday morning for



Photo by Steve Card

Molly McGrath (left), Lynn Yonemoto and Kevin Allen discuss plans for the University's first annual Jesus Day.

athletes, members of the greek system and other invited guests.

A local gospel choir will perform at the rally and several students will give accounts of their own conversions to Christianity.

More than 400 people are expected to attend the rally, Allen said.

Later Friday, musician Steve Camp will perform at a concert on the east lawn. Aside from recording Christian music, Camp has organized several groups that act on social issues such as AIDS and famine relief.

In 1989 Camp co-founded AIDS Crisis and Christians Today, which encourages churches to reach out to local AIDS patients and also promotes education about the disease.

Camp also coordinated Christians Artists United to Save the Earth — "a Christian version of 'We Are the World,'" Allen said — in 1985 to raise money for famine relief.

Tickets for Camp's concert are \$5.

Friday's events are designed to attract students who may have misconceptions about Christianity or who may see the religion as being out of touch with social concerns, said Molly McGrath, University volleyball team member and co-spokeswoman for Jesus Day.

Hutcherson and Camp are proof that Christians address crucial issues such as AIDS and racism, she said. "These are things that are relevant, that people can relate to," McGrath said.

Jesus Day 1990 is sponsored by the Baptist Student Union, Collegiate Christian Fellowship, Campus Crusade for Christ and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, House of His Presence, International Students Inc., Intervarsity, Morningstar Christian Fellowship, Navigators and Restoration Campus Ministries are also sponsoring Friday's events.