

UNIVERSITY



Photo by Sean Poston

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Barbara Roberts attracted a crowd of 700 to 800 people at her noontime rally in the EMU Courtyard.

Roberts draws grass-roots support

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Associate Editor

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Barbara Roberts came to campus Wednesday to rally support for the final days of her campaign.

Roberts, who spoke at a noontime rally in the EMU Courtyard, praised the support she has received from students, union members and other working-class groups.

"More than dollars, I have the support of grass-roots organizations willing to give something of themselves," she told an enthusiastic crowd.

The rally, sponsored by Students for Roberts, drew about 700 to 800 people, according to unofficial estimates from the Office of Public Safety.

Roberts said Oregonians have responded favorably to her "straightforward" positions on

issues and appreciate a candidate who is willing to make politically unpopular decisions.

"They want someone who will not be afraid of the criticism of taking a tough stand," she said.

For example, Roberts recalled the criticism leveled at her campaign after she announced her support for Measure 4, which would shut down the Trojan nuclear power plant near Rainier until more stringent safety standards are met.

"Everyone said the race was over the day that happened," she said. "But ever since then, Oregonians around the state have said, 'thanks for speaking out for our safety.'"

Roberts reiterated her stance on other state issues, including affordable housing and job skills training for people on welfare, which she called a "human investment not an ex-

pense.

"Teaching young women to grow, learn and educate their families is an investment. It's only when you want to put them to work as a waitress at 90 percent of the minimum wage that it becomes an expense," Roberts said, taking a jab at Measure 6. The measure would establish a pilot "workfare" program in six counties.

Roberts said she pledged at the beginning of her campaign to "talk about problems, offer solutions and put price tags on those solutions."

Before Roberts' speech, ASUO co-President Sheila Stickel stressed the importance of students' votes in the upcoming election.

With about 50,000 students registered to vote in Oregon, students can have "a huge impact" on what happens in state elections, Stickel said.

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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON

"Barbara, you just have to come over and see all my eggs. The address is: Doris Griswold, 5 feet 4 inches, 160 pounds, brown eyes — I'm in her hair."

Home-school advocates hold rally

SALEM (AP) - More than 700 advocates of home-schooling held a rally Wednesday in Salem to protest changes that would give the state more control over private schools and home-schooling.

Dick Karman, president of the Oregon Christian Home Educators Association Network, said new rules proposed by the state Board of Education would hold home-schoolers to a stricter standard than public school students.

"They're making standards higher for home-schoolers than they are for public schools," said Debbie Cowart of Lebanon, who has four children in home schools.

State statistics indicate about 5,000 children are taught at home in Oregon.

Some of the most controversial changes would require that private educators file written philosophies with the state and that those philosophies be "congruent" with those of public schools.

The rules also would require that teachers be state-certified.

Advocates for private and home schools have accused the state of acting hastily for fear that voters will pass a school-choice initiative Nov. 6.

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