

Roberts refreshing change in politics

It is not often that a candidate comes along who has remained relatively untouched by hard-ball politics. Barbara Roberts is that rare exception.

Roberts' grass-roots campaign has recently taken off to catch front-runner Dave Frohnmayer because of her ability to speak for the people. Roberts is far from the typical career politician. She began her political career because she wanted to change something that she believed was wrong. She did not get into politics as a career move. Her non-politician's attitude could prove to be her greatest asset in the governor's office.

The willingness to put forward a plan that she believes in, even if it is politically unpopular, has already become apparent. She caught a lot of heat when she came out in favor of Ballot Measure 4's proposal to close Trojan nuclear power plant early in her campaign.



Her willingness to come out with new ideas and worry about the political fallout later will make her a dynamic governor who gets things done.

Frohnmayer, Roberts' main opponent, is a hard-working, bright individual. But he suffers from the dilemma that afflicts most consummate politicians. He is a "thinker" rather than a "doer." Before making any decisions he carefully weighs what the public's response will be, and how that will effect his career.

Frohnmayer's cautious, personal-career-saving attitude will prevent him from making the strong and controversial steps necessary to reform public school and higher education funding, property tax relief or timber crisis solutions.

Roberts' atypical political attitude also means she is more accountable and willing to take responsibility for herself and her subordinates. When mistakes her office had made almost forced most of the ballot measures from this year's election, Roberts admitted responsibility and said she would do whatever it took to reinstate the measures, no matter what the political reaction.

Rather than worrying how each decision she makes will effect her re-election bid in four years, Roberts will do what she thinks is right for Oregon. This kind of refreshing freedom from poll-reaction politics is what Oregon will need to make the tough decisions necessary to mend our current problems.



Space needed for 'none of the above'

The anti-incumbent hysteria has not spread to the Lane County Commissioners races this year.

Three of the four races consist of incumbents running unopposed. Elli Dumdi, Steve Cornacchia and Jack Roberts will all be elected because they have no opposition on the ballot.

This presents a dilemma of what voters can do in a single candidate race in which they don't like the candidate.

All races, even those with more than one candidate, should have an extra punch-hole at the bottom of the voting card — one that says "none of the above."

Voters should feel confident about voting for a candidate. But currently voters can only show disgust by leaving a certain race blank. This implies that voters don't care.

But a no-vote would distinctively imply displeasure for one candidate or a whole slate. If candidates running for office unop-

posed received more no-votes than yes-votes, than it's time for new candidates.

No-votes are listed on ballots in European government systems. Also, heads of state can be removed by elected bodies with a simple vote of no confidence.

While we have recall initiatives in Oregon for elected officials, it takes questionable or illegal acts to rile people enough to recall such representatives. We have no recourse to deal with basic incompetency of representatives.

And it takes a really major screw-up for elected officials to impeach or censor a fellow legislator. The voters need a better method of supporting candidates' positions and agenda once elected.

If enough elected liars, cheaters and pork-barreling swindlers received no votes on the ballot, it would encourage more honest candidates to run. And get elected.

LETTERS

Take the class

I'm beginning to believe that no woman should leave this campus without taking Women Studies 101. It is imperative that women understand what forces in our culture create a climate in which rape is permitted to happen.

In a letter (ODE, Oct. 22), a woman's advice to other women regarding catcalls was "ignore it. If you can't, you're weak."

Women themselves must understand that catcalling is a social practice that treats women like objects. It allows men to view women as an object and it makes women feel unsafe and vulnerable. Catcalling is a brick in the foundation of a rape environment.

Victim-blaming, making women feel as if they're at fault for feeling unsafe in a country where one out of three women gets raped, is another brick in that foundation.

Please women, let's educate ourselves about our situation. We need to help each other, not call each other weaklings. It's a

matter of survival.

Jo Triglio
Graduate philosophy

Satan's behind it

Here's a response to Jim McKeever's letter (ODE, Oct. 22), regarding Mike Russell's "Hudson Van Curen" comic.

Next term, why not try a new class: English 305 — "Satire." A thermonuclear pocket pistol designed to burn fields? Yeah, that sounds like a frightening new trend to me. I think I smell Satan behind this one.

No doubt Jesse Helms, that glorious bastion of freedom and decency, will be doing something to stop this evil soon — unless, that is, Hudson plans to use the pistol to light up cigarettes.

McEver, please find a genuine problem to address, a deserving person to insult. I would further request that you find out what it is like to be gratuitously ridiculed and insulted before you start doing so to others.

Russell, keep up the good work. I really enjoy your strip

and I hope you won't let this petty carping faze you.

Finn John
English

Vote to recycle

As national environmental leaders, we are writing to express our strong support for the Oregon Recycling Act — Measure 6 on the Oregon ballot this November. Passage of Measure 6 would represent a major environmental breakthrough that might well have national implications for recycling policy in the 1990s.

Measure 6 is a path-breaking initiative because it will reduce packaging waste — one of our most serious problems today — at the same time it will create new markets for recycled materials.

With curbside programs increasingly constrained by the lack of markets for collected materials, the key recycling challenge of the '90s will be to increase industry to use more recycled material in packaging. The Oregon Recycling Act

meets that challenge.

We understand from campaign finance filings that 90 percent of the money raised to oppose Measure 6 has come from national companies, primarily in the chemical and plastics industries, and that money is being used for television ads that claim Measure 6 will ban thousands of products and damage public health.

The only function of false claims like these is to mislead and confuse people about a reasonable recycling law. We know because we face the same tactics from the same companies in their efforts to block environmental progress at the national level. We encourage Oregonians to separate fact from fiction and vote yes on 6.

Members of Clean Water Action, Environmental Action and eight other environmental groups

Misinformed

Regarding your no on 8 and

10 editorial (ODE, Oct. 23):

It's obvious the editorial writers attend classes here at the University — they're grossly misinformed.

I have included some reading materials to try to rectify this sad situation, but knowing that ignorance fails to see itself, I doubt it will get read.

You want voters to "leave the decision-making to the person who is going to be affected by those decisions." That's hardly possible when unborn children are unable to vote. The only "choice" they get is to die by an unspeakably horrible mutilation or acid-like solution burning and poisoning them.

But I suppose that's OK since you never actually see what happens.

How does it feel to regurgitate whatever you have been told instead of searching for the truth.

Deborah Martin
Student