

Roberts seeks solution to Oregon budget crunch

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Reporter

If Oregonians want to keep existing state services, they will have to allow a change in the tax structure, Gov. Barbara Roberts told a University crowd Saturday.

Under Measure 5 — the property tax-limiting bill — the state will not be able to fund as many services as it has in the past, Roberts said.

The measure shifted the burden of funding local schools and community colleges from property taxes to the state general fund.

"Even if I cut out all the duplication and all the inefficiency and every bit of waste I can find in state government ... there is no way that I can cut costs far enough to make up for the kind of change (caused by Measure 5)," she said.

Roberts was the keynote speaker at the second annual Oregon Student Lobby Conference for Oregon College and University Students. OSU is an organization promoting student concerns to the state Legislature.

Students from private and public colleges around the state met Friday and Saturday to attend workshops on issues including federal financial aid, campus child care and better access to higher education for

the disabled.

To explain the impact Measure 5 will have on Oregon in the future, Roberts held up a chart illustrating the shrinking budget the state has to fund higher education and other state services.

In 1989-91, local schools and community colleges made up less than half of the state's general fund budget. The rest of the money was used to fund a variety of services, including higher education, law enforcement, fire protection and human services.

Some state services, such as drug treatment and road maintenance are supported out of separate funds, constitutionally marked for those services only.

By 1995-97, local schools and community colleges will take up close to 75 percent of the general fund budget, leaving little for other types of services supported by that fund, she said.

"This is one of the things that's the hardest for people to understand," Roberts said.

Roberts said her first step in looking for a solution to the continued budget crunch is her "Conversations with Oregon" program.

Beginning last week, the governor used the state's interactive ED-NET television network to talk to Oregonians at 29 sites about what services they want



Gov. Barbara Roberts, speaking at the University Saturday, explains Measure 5's impact on Oregon.

from state government in the future.

"This is the largest experiment in participatory democracy probably since this country was formed," Roberts said.

So far, citizens have told her that they would like to maintain existing services, Roberts

said.

Roberts said she hopes by the end of the "conversations" in January, Oregonians will be convinced of the need for a new tax system.

Changes in the state tax structure are long overdue,

Roberts said. She said no tax structure alterations have been made since 1923, when an income tax was added.

"The world has changed pretty dramatically since Babe Ruth won the most valuable player and (Sen.) Mark Hatfield was a year old," she said.

Confidential HIV test can relieve worry

By Hope Nealson
Emerald Reporter

Dave is waiting for the results of his AIDS test. He says he is pretty sure it will be negative, but nevertheless, he is just a little nervous.

Dave Cooper, a University student, decided to take the HIV antibodies test for the AIDS-causing virus, not because he is in a high risk group, but for his peace of mind.

"I'm at low risk, but I've had unprotected sex with people, and how sure are you about people from four years ago?" Cooper said. "I don't know their sexual history, and (the test) gives me something to go by — some type of anchor in rocky waters."

Cooper said he also decided to take the test because of the danger the HIV could cause others if he was an ignorant carrier.

"Any risk is risk enough to find out," he said. "(AIDS) doesn't only affect you. It affects the people around you, especially the person you love the most."

Cooper made an appointment at the Student Health Center with a doctor and said he was surprised at the confidentiality of the process.

You don't have to pour your heart out to the nurse, Cooper said. You don't even have to say "AIDS test." All you need to say is you want to make an appointment with a doctor. And it's free.

Cooper said the first thing the doctor does is ask your reason for getting the test. They want to get a feel of where you are coming from, he said.

"It's a time for them to talk about prevention and you to talk about your questions," Cooper said. "It's a time to clear up any misconceptions."

Cooper said there was a natural progression from the counseling session to the personal questions of the actual test. "You've already had some pretty frank discussions on it. So it's not like it's a shock when they say 'Are you a prostitute?'" he said.

The list of questions the doctor asks are extremely personal, and include questions such as "Any male to male sexual contact in the last six months?" or "Any history of intravenous drugs needle sharing?"



Dave Cooper, who was tested for the HIV virus at the Student Health Center, said it is the responsible thing to do.

Cooper said the questions were not easy. "You really have to sit down and evaluate your sexual history," he said. "And you have to be honest because if you're not honest, you are only cheating yourself."

During the counseling and questioning the person getting the test must also decide if he or she wants the test results to be confidential or modified anonymous.

The director of the Student Health Center, Dr. Gerald Fleischli, said with modified anonymous results, the doctor will know you, but the records won't.

If you choose a confidential test, the results stay in your medical record, but are in a part of the record that is kept separate, Fleischli said. Many people who take the confidential test are those who are required to, such as for an employer or life insurance company, he said.

After the questioning, Cooper said he made another appointment for two weeks later when the results of his test will come back from Portland. In that appointment, the doctor and patient go over the results together.

The actual needle procedure is not too painful,

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Tuition may rise for non residents

By Colleen Pohlig
Emerald Reporter

Non-resident students may watch tuition creep higher each year as state universities and colleges across the nation look to increased revenue from out-of-state tuition to make ends meet.

"Where we're heading is the time when non-resident students pay the full cost of their education," said Norm Wessells, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"It is not going to happen in one or two years, but I suspect in the next four or five years, the cost of their education will rise faster than inflation, and certainly faster than resident's tuition," he said.

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Thievery and the need for an accurate population count are just two of the problems produced by recent yew tree harvesting.

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Another loss

The Oregon football team looked vastly improved Saturday night, but the result remained the same — a 24-21 squeaker of a loss to Arizona State.

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