

ROBERTS

Continued from Page 1

not want to see those cuts happen any more than anyone else does.

"I have great respect for the difficult job she's undertaken and even greater respect for the leadership she's shown," Brand said. "We at the University of Oregon are highly supportive of her efforts and stand behind her and want to help as much as we possibly can. ... We're doing everything we possibly can to make better use of our resources."

In addition to the cuts that were made last year — the closing of the College of Human Development and Performance, the closure of graduate teacher education programs, 200 layoffs, 1,500 fewer students and 22 programs either altered or closed — 156 more positions will be eliminated by the end of June 1993.

Brand and Roberts agreed that the initial cuts, in both higher education and state government, were done in a way that promoted efficiency and eliminated waste, but the proposed cuts for 1993-95 could be devastating to Oregon's future in many ways.

"This cut of 156 jobs is a painful cut," Brand said. "It pales in comparison, however, with the real threat of a 20 percent cut in the next biennium if the governor is not successful. I cannot emphasize enough what that means in terms of the loss of access for students in this state and the quality of education that we need for the future of the state of Oregon."

"There's no question in my mind that as we move through this decade," Brand said, "education is going to be a critical factor in how well every single person succeeds ... and if Measure 5 is allowed to do its damage, we will be paying for that for a very long time. I wouldn't even hazard a guess of that devastation."

Roberts said the special session and restructured tax system will come about when Oregonians are convinced that excess has been eliminated and additional cuts are unacceptable.

"The people of this state are not ready for a special session yet," Roberts said. "The legislature is still working through some of the changes that are going to be necessary to bring to that special session and until we prove to the people of this state that we are willing to make a change, that we can find those efficiencies and will do them, I don't think we're ready."

"There's no question that there's a great deal of pressure building to do a special session," Roberts said, "but I don't think the time is right and I don't intend to do it until I believe the people of this state are ready to have that happen."

This is not in conflict with what Brand wants to see happen, she said, but timing is the most significant issue when it comes to special sessions.

Brand said that while he is working to make the University more efficient and to make better use

'When you talk about 20 percent cuts ... you cannot get that out of waste and inefficiency. That's when we begin to touch not only programs and faculty and student access, we begin to touch Oregon's future.'

— Barbara Roberts,
Governor

of resources, a 20 percent cut will have serious, lasting effects because there is nowhere near that much waste to cut.

"We can't in any reasonable way think that a 20 percent budget cut can be brought out of efficiencies," Brand said. "What we have to do is find a way through the next few months or the next year in order to protect the state and the University of Oregon from very drastic cuts, so I see us on exactly the same side."

"But the people have to be brought around to realize that we're going to work our darndest to do better, but that won't be enough — we've got to repair the tax structure," Brand said.

Roberts agreed that Oregonians may find the next cuts an unacceptable solution.

"Twenty percent cuts are all the necessities of moving us toward a more efficient government at every level, including higher ed," Roberts said, "but when you talk about 20 percent cuts, remember we're talking about \$1 billion (out of a \$6 billion budget). You cannot get that out of waste and inefficiency."

"That's when we begin to touch not only programs and faculty and student access, we begin to touch Oregon's future," Roberts said.

But the state will meet that budget requirement, she said, until Oregonians are ready for a change.

"I don't know when Oregonians will feel that this is something that doesn't meet the test for the kind of state they want," Roberts said, "but I think as they begin to see what these changes mean, there is going to be a point at which Oregonians are not going to be at a comfort level about the kind of state they want to live in."

"When Oregonians understand that we've done as much as we can do in efficiencies and we've proposed every way we can do that," Roberts said. "When we've done that and we begin to talk about the next step in Measure 5, Oregonians will tell us if the discomfort level is beginning to be reached."

"We could rush to the ballot today, but it wouldn't pass," she said. "We won't go to the ballot before the people of the state of Oregon are ready to go there with us."

come off as a special interest group. I would say that the parents who have put into the system should write in."

But Ways and Means co-chair, Rep. Tony Van Vliet, R-Corvallis, said that writing to legislators isn't necessarily the answer to preventing more higher education cuts.

Although writing to one's legislator could be helpful, he said, the better idea is to write letters to the editor in a local newspaper to voice discontent about budget cuts.

"Legislators are sort of braced for the fact that all the agencies are going to get cut," Van Vliet said, so they are used to seeing a lot of letters.

"They have meaning to every legislator," he said. "But seeing the pressure build in the newspapers is far more effective because the public sees the letter."

It is important for the public to see that universities are suffering, he said, because they often only read letters from people who complain that higher education spends its money frivolously.

However, others are more optimistic about the letter-writing campaign's potential to bring about change.

Lynn Pinckney, Oregon Student Lobby director, said she is

confident that students will write to their legislators, and she thinks it will do some good.

"We think the letter is great," Pinckney said. "It really is an unprecedented action. I don't think students should give up. If we do we've already lost."

Moreover, Carl Hosticka, D-Eugene, and a University professor, said he's received 12 letters.

"Hopefully it's part of a movement that will get things done," he said.

People need to let their legislators know that they want a new tax or a different tax structure, he said.

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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Scorpion school

LETTERS

Continued from Page 1

involved to help promote student involvement in the legislative process. But most legislators contacted this week said the letters won't change their ability to do anything about the problem.

Rep. Marie Bell, R-Eugene, said she has received several letters from people in the last week about higher education. While she supports the campaign, she said students are directing their letters to the wrong people.

The legislative Ways and Means committee that allocates the money to different state agencies and higher education should be the target of students' letters, Bell said.

"Basically, when they write to me they're singing to the choir," Bell said. "I'm not on Ways and Means so I can't set the dollar figure. But I can make sure I advocate for (students)."

Moreover, Bell said because students do not have as much political access to politicians as other groups, it is more important that they make the letter-writing campaign that includes alumni and students' parents.

"Where these letters are going to pay off is in the rural areas," Bell said. "Students