

# RALLY

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Wooten said citizens must demand legislators to deliver a tax reform proposal to vote on if education is to be saved and democracy is to be served.

"Do not let the legislators of this assembly eclipse the democratic process," Wooten said.

Roberts also emphasized the need for long-term tax reform to fund education and state services.

"This is an issue that will only be solved when every citizen of Oregon says this must be done," Roberts said.

"I'm not going to walk away until it's done," she said. "Please be there with me."

Kebo Drew, a Portland Community College student who introduced herself as a "fat, black lesbian," emphasized the need for education to fight for social change and justice.

"If you truly believe in your future, then fight for it," Drew said.

Scott Palmer, a graduate student at Oregon State University, moderated the rally that included nine other speakers.

"We're more than just voters and we're more than just students," Palmer said. "We are the future."

Rallied by the speakers' words, students made their way to legislators' offices to deliver their message personally.

Bobby Lee, ASUO president, accompanied four other University students to Sen. John Lim's office for one of the appointments with state lawmakers. Lim listened to each one express concern over the future of Oregon's education system and economy.

"We've got a big problem here," he said. "That's one of the reasons I ran for the state Senate."

"It's late, but I don't think it's too late," he said.

April Upchurch, a University freshman majoring in political science, visited Sen. Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, to explain how Measure 5 cuts are impacting her education.

"I came here planning on majoring in political science and speech communication and I found out that they'd cut the (speech communication) program," Upchurch said.

Upchurch, who pays out-of-state tuition, said she'll probably transfer to a school in her home state that offers both programs.

Karmen Fore, ASUO vice president, said she hopes the students' visits left an impression upon lawmakers that will inspire them to produce a cohesive tax plan.

"I want them to know students care and they vote and they're listening and watching," Fore said.

Palmer said he was pleased with the turnout of students and with the results of their visits with state legislators.

"We were under the impression a lot of legislators would be available, but we weren't sure if they'd be open," Palmer said. "They were very receptive."

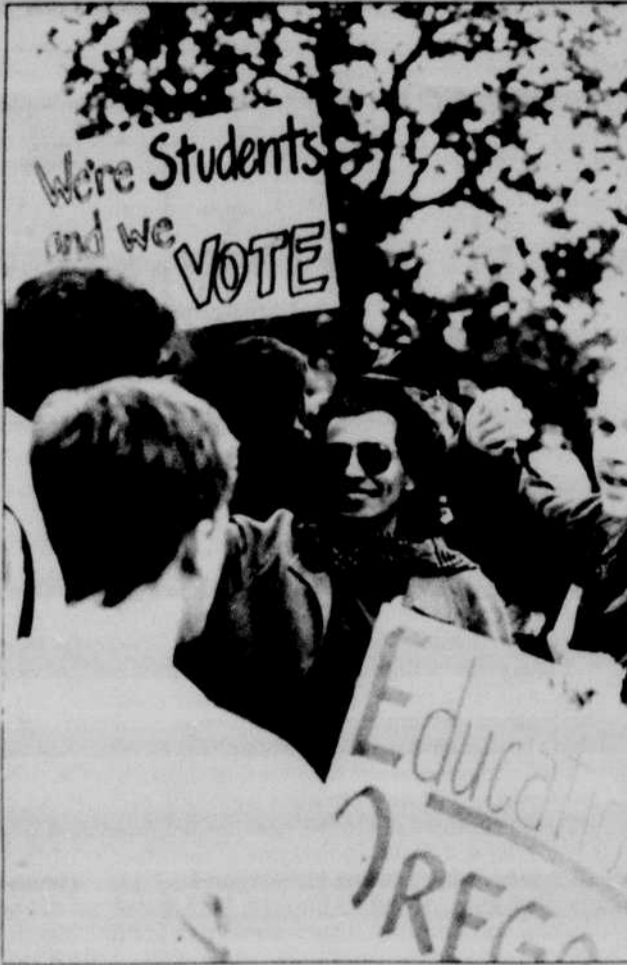


Photo by Anthony Forney  
Khalid Alalif, a student at Portland Community College, was among the 400 students who descended on Salem to demand tax reform.

Sean Sloane, a University senior majoring in Chinese, said he turned out for the rally because he has already feels the effects of Measure 5. His program suffered cuts that he said made him decide to leave the University for a better program.

Sloane said he also wanted to urge others to prevent what his home state is experiencing now.

"I left California to get away from this and it's happening here too," Sloane said.

Lee said he was disappointed with the University turnout. Fewer than 100 University students appeared for the rally although twice as many made a commitment, Lee said.

# HOPE

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West began called H.O.P.E., which stands for Homeless Organization for Peace Everywhere. He said H.O.P.E.'s goal is to improve the quality of life in the homeless community.

"We wanted to make the organization legal, above-board, peace-first and neutral on things like religion," West said.

Although West is a student in the Educational Opportunities Program at the University, his main project is the newsletter.

West said he hopes the newsletter will eventually become a forum for the homeless community to communicate their grievances as well as a way for the non-homeless to communicate with the homeless.

"This is the one chance I feel for Eugene, Springfield and Lane County to link up with the homeless community," West said.

The newsletter contains editorials on homeless rights with poems, stories on homeless issues, and a directory of services available to the homeless in Eugene.

West said he also wants the publication to serve as a forum for work by homeless people.

West said a planned "job bank" section is scheduled to appear later this year, where homeless people can list their marketable skills and training and, through H.O.P.E., be linked with possible employers.

Printing and typesetting for the newsletter are donated by local businesses, West said. He receives no money for his work.

"I never got into it for the glory — I just got into it because it needed to be done," West said.

Despite donations of services, West said the newsletter is "in the red and in trouble."

"We're getting community support from the press, from businesses, but the private sector hasn't been there," West said. "I think they're scared of homeless people and think they're all derelicts, bums or drunks."

"There's been problems with the homeless starting something and taking money for themselves," West said, explaining why he thought donations might be so slow. "People are hesitant; they're asking if we're legit."

West said he is keeping track of H.O.P.E.'s financial records and the organization has a tax number and a board of directors.

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