

Forum addresses legislative impact of women

By Katy Moeller
Oregon Daily Emerald

"Right now, I consider the legislature to be almost dysfunctional," Gov. Barbara Roberts said Tuesday night at a forum titled "Women and the 1993 Oregon Legislature: What's next?"

More than 400 people turned out at the Eugene Conference Center to hear Gov. Roberts, Sens. Tricia Smith and Catherine Webber and Reps. Cynthia Wooten and Avel Gordly discuss issues in the legislature that concern women.

The first of the panelists to address the audience was Gov. Roberts, who was critical of the legislature in general and the House of Representatives in particular.

"The 1993 legislature is 3 months old and I have yet to receive even the smallest, teeny, tiny budget on my desk," she said.

"I have signed only a total of 28 bills in 3 months. And most of those quite frankly have been housekeeping bills," Roberts said.

By this time last session, the governor had signed 46 budget bills and 112 other bills.

Despite her general criticism of the legislature, the governor did credit the efforts of women legislators.

"Overall, even in this difficult and not-so-productive legislature at this point, the women in the legislature have already begun to distinguish themselves in this session by understanding the value and technicalities that



Gov. Barbara Roberts

are part of investing in children, investing in health care, investing in work force development and in economic development," Roberts said.

"They know those issues and they are leading the way of what needs to happen," she said.

She talked about the proposed mandated, mandated plus and recommended budgets and why she deemed it necessary to propose three budgets.

"I'm giving the legislature lots and lots of time to understand the problem. I'm giving them three budgets so they have lots of choices. And I will probably win the Ms. Congeniality award," Roberts said.

"Or I probably would have, if I could have gone through the whole session doing that. But I'm real close to losing my Ms. Congeniality award," Roberts added.

Roberts said she wanted to demonstrate clearly to both the legislature and to Oregonians, what the choices are.

"The mandated budget is the budget that says we will live with exactly the revenues we have and no more. Even in this most restrictive budget, I worked very hard to provide for children, for prevention and for long-term investment," she said.

"It was very difficult to do because we're talking about a \$1.2 billion whole in the budget," Roberts said.

Because she knew this would not be sufficient, especially in the area of human services, she drafted the mandated plus budget, which added some small components to the mandated budget that would help deal with the severity of the mandated budget.

"The mandated plus budget adds a 5 cent beer and wine tax increase. What it did was fund programs for alcohol and drug treatment and drug prevention in our schools and communities and correction centers," she said.

She also added a \$.10 cigarette tax increase to provide funding for programs for senior citizens, people with disabilities, critical mental health facilities for families and

for children.

The third added component was the medical provider tax. This funds the Oregon Health Plan.

"By January of next year, 120,000 people who are below the poverty line and have no health care now, will be covered," Roberts said.

She then drafted the recommended budget, which she said provides tax reform program for funding education.

Sen. Tricia Smith, district 16, echoed Roberts call to action on the issue of the budget, arguing that the mandated budget would not provide Oregonians with necessary services and funding.

"Please don't tolerate a mandated budget. Please don't tolerate budgets that don't have any money in them, that decimate education, that kill our elderly, that leave our children in the hands of their abusers, that put criminals on the street without treatment and the access to the kinds of things that will help them lead different lives. Don't let us do it to you," Smith said.

Smith said that the only good news this session may be The Women's Health and Wellness Act, which consists of 19 separate bills that she is sponsoring.

"I submit to you that if men were not safe in their homes, if they were not safe in the work place, if they were not safe on the streets and not only that, if they were violated or abused or killed, no one would say, 'What was he wearing?'" Smith said.

Smith cited statistics that say one out of every four families in Oregon will experience domestic violence this year. She said domestic violence is the single greatest cause of injury to women in this country and the single greatest cause of birth defects.

"Did you know that you can be beaten every day of your life" Smith said, "and your batterer can be arrested each time and likely won't be charged with a misdemeanor — ever?"

Saferide buys new cars, changes routes

By Jen Ellison
Oregon Daily Emerald

The addition of two new cars will enable Saferide to expand its services to women.

After renting a car for an off-campus route last term, Saferide recently bought two new Ford Escorts. One will replace the old Dodge van, and the other will be the permanent third car, said Shoshanah Oppenheim, volunteer coordinator of Saferide.

The third car will provide 16 additional off-campus rides each night. One ride constitutes picking up and dropping off one or more women at the same place, depending on space.

The Incidental Fee Committee gave Saferide \$15,000, which enabled it to purchase the new cars. The committee donated an additional \$3,000 from a \$100,000 student fee surplus account, said Amy Neel, the co-director of Saferide.

Saferide will also buy new bike racks and child seats for all of the cars and a new wheelchair lift for the van within the next two weeks.

May 9, Saferide will have a five-kilometer run and two-kilometer walk to help raise funds

for the equipment. Sponsored by Powerbar, the event will cost each participant \$15.

"The old wheelchair lift didn't accommodate all types of chairs," Oppenheim said. "We're looking for one that will."

Although the only wheelchair accessible vehicle is used for the on-campus route, accommodations can be made for rides off campus with advance reservations.

Saferide is changing its on-campus route to include the new Knight Library entrance facing the music building. The van will be at this stop 27 minutes and 57 minutes after the hour. This new stop is in addition to the Instructional Media Center stop on Kincaid Street.

New hours for spring term are 7 p.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday, and 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Funded by student fees, donations and fund-raising, Saferide is available for all women on campus or within 10 minutes of the University. While the on-campus route runs on a schedule, off-campus reservations are required in advance.

Monkey business

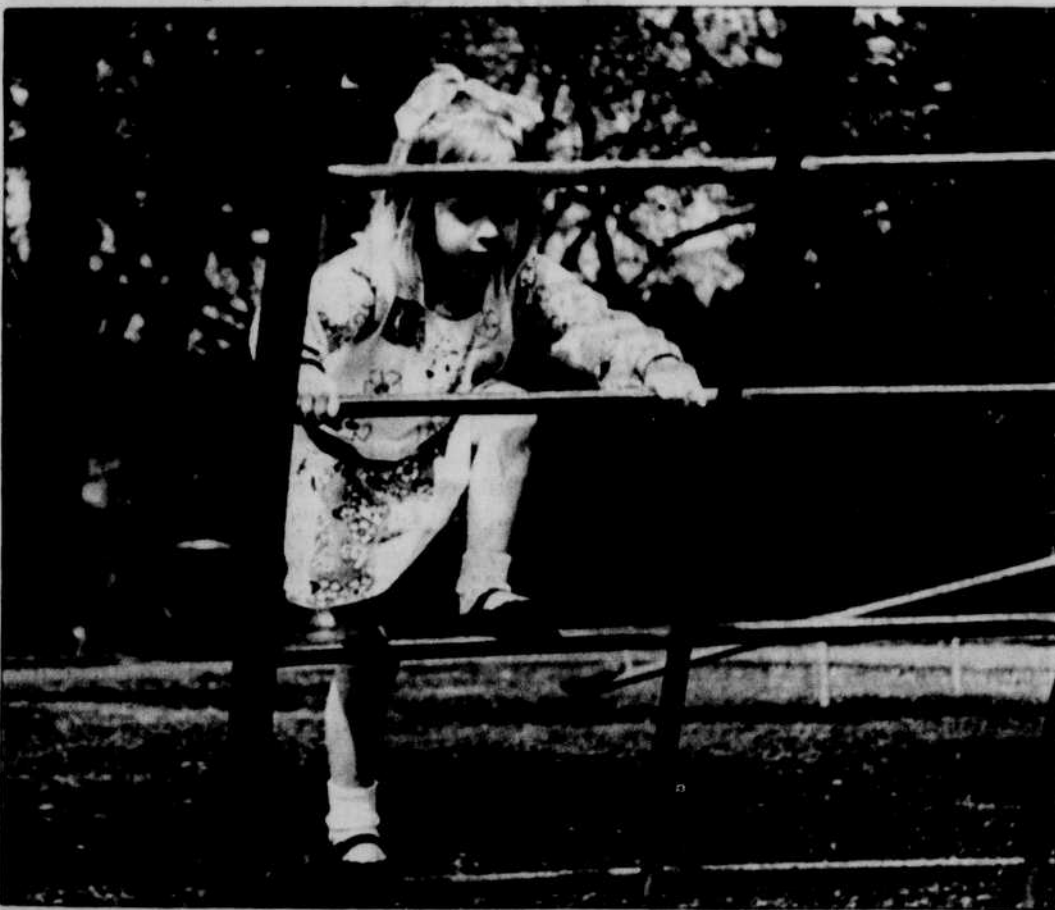


Photo by Anthony Forney

Three-year-old Katie Schratz, visiting with her family from Danville, Calif., plays on the jungle gym in Spencer Butte Park Wednesday afternoon.

SURATA Recipes, cooking tips, & nutritional info. for tofu & tempoh. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Free Recipes Surata Soyfoods Co-op Box 652, Eugene OR 97440

T-Shirt Design Contest To Promote SAFERIDE
The winning entry will win a gift certificate for dinner for two at Chanterelles! Bring your designs to the Women's Center, Suite 3, EMU, by 5pm, April 27th.

Ray Ban Oakley Bolle' Revo' Smith AND MORE...
SHADES
"REFLECTION IS OUR BUSINESS"
One of the Largest Selections in the Northwest
524 Valley River Center 345-9437

Guido's DANCING! SPECIALS!
Open till 2:30 am daily
"You don't have to be 21 to enjoy our food."
Open 11 am to 10 pm to all ages for food service
13th & Alder • On Campus • 343-0681