

# Governor's decision shocks students



By David Brotherton  
For The Oregon Daily Emerald

University students who support former state Sen. John Kitzhaber's bid to become Oregon's chief executive were simultaneously shocked and elated by Gov. Barbara Roberts' announcement Friday that she will not seek reelection to a second term.

Roberts' withdrawal from the 1994 governor's race leaves Kitzhaber, 46, as the sole democratic candidate seeking the post.



John Kitzhaber

"The governor's decision to withdraw from the race will seriously change the face of the election," said Phil Donovan, co-founder and secretary of the University Students for Kitzhaber. "Roberts has always been a fantastic campaigner, and that's what we were preparing ourselves for."

Gov. Roberts cited a combination of personal and professional strains as the reason behind her decision to withdraw. Recent polls had shown Roberts trailing Kitzhaber by a significant margin. Although no other

democrats have announced intentions to run against Kitzhaber in the May 17 primary, candidates have until March 8 to file candidacy with the state elections board.

"While we are sad to see Roberts bow out, we are now in a position to endorse (Kitzhaber) since it appears there will probably be no one else getting into the race," said Rich Bernstein, president of the University Democrats. "This will allow the University Democrats and the Students for Kitzhaber to actually join forces in making the governor's race a top priority."

Yet despite the sudden absence of a primary opponent, Students for Kitzhaber anticipate that its overall role will change very little.

"Our message was one of leadership, and that is something we will continue to emphasize," Donovan said. "At a time when students are concerned about the Oregon Citizen's Alliance and the effects of Measure 5, we need to help define John Kitzhaber as a leader who can and will make a

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— Phil Donovan,  
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difference for Oregon."

"Another important goal will continue to be fund raising, which is especially important early in any campaign," Donovan said. Kitzhaber, who has raised more than \$210,000 thus far, conducted a fund raiser for interested University faculty and administrators at the University last week.

Since its formation in November 1993, the Students for Kitzhaber organization has grown to nearly 30 active members. The group meets once a week and assists Kitzhaber's campaign both at the University and throughout Lane County.



## BERKMAN

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Berkman said he plans to run a straightforward campaign based on the issues people are most interested in, which he said include the economy, crime, public safety and education.

He said he believed many people were tired of the rhetoric surrounding issues like gay rights and abortion but added that he did not believe in discriminating against anyone.

Berkman said the "common thread" through all the issues facing the state is the budget.

"The reality is we're going to have to do less with less," he said. "We're going to have to do some cuts."

Although Berkman said he had no simple answer to Oregon's crime problem, he favors trying juveniles as adults when they commit violent crimes.

"Most people don't want to talk a lot about personal responsibility, but it is," he said.

He said the criminal justice system, as it stands, is a band-aid measure and that to decrease crime, society needs to "invest more in our children at an earlier age."

**'I think a lot of Oregonians would be willing to pay a higher tuition based on their ability to pay.'**

— Craig Berkman  
Governatorial candidate

"I'm absolutely convinced the resolution of most of our problems will be found in voluntary organizations, churches and family," Berkman said.

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