

Clarno visits campus, speaks on higher ed

■ **ELECTION:** The candidate for state treasurer discussed her experience and past budgeting success on Friday

By **Angie Suchy**
Student Activities Reporter

Bev Clarno said she views higher education as "a top priority."

And if elected Oregon State Treasurer, she said she plans to continue to secure more state funding and unite the bipartisan state government to push for consensus on key issues.

In a discussion largely highlighting the status of education, Oregon's Speaker of the House and eight-year Republican lawmaker discussed her continuing role in politics during a visit to the University on Friday.

Though Clarno, R-Deschutes County, is opposing Democratic incumbent Treasurer Jim Hill in the elections this November, she talked little of him. Instead, she spoke about how the role of state treasurer can be improved in general.

"I don't think voters realize that

the treasurer operates on a \$24 billion budget," Clarno said. "I want to use this money frugally and efficiently - the way the taxpayers would want."

Clarno's political budget history mirrors her philosophy. She said she reduced her staff from three to five and cut \$30 million by discouraging expenses such as costly out-of-state travel. Clarno said she is also tapping into campaign dollars carried over from her past House races to finance her campaign.

Clarno said she sees her experience in budget reduction and her ability to establish a sound rapport between parties in the House as key in her qualification for state treasurer.

Republican leaders kept their promise of reducing bureaucratic rules and cutting waste last year, with \$100 million more in state funding for education than the proposed budget, she said.

"Education is still recovering from hard-hitting Ballot Measure Five," Clarno said. "I feel that the allocation of funds needs to be reviewed in order to aid education."

One example she cites is the "weak" Oregon Baccalaureate Bonds Program, designed to help parents save for their children's education.

"I want to make it easier and more profitable for parents to plan for their children's education," she said.

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