

Bain seeks to 'regain economic momentum'

By Shawn Wirtz
Of the Emerald

Republican candidate to state House District 41 Bill Bain said higher education is already providing an outstanding service to the business community and will be one of his two top priorities.

Continued and increased funding of higher education and a solution to the liability-insurance crisis are "key to regaining our economic momentum," Bain said.

"Strengthening of the interface between the universities, the community colleges and the business community" is essential, Bain said. The Legislature should work with these groups to target "the right kinds of programs for funding," he said.

The Legislature also should consider bringing the community colleges into the Oregon State System of Higher Education, Bain said.

The Centers of Excellence and the masters' business administration program should receive special attention, Bain said.

"It's important that we stop exporting our graduates from this state," Bain said. This can't be accomplished until Oregon has a favorable business climate, he insisted.

One way to improve Oregon's economy is to reconnect Oregon's tax code with the reformed federal tax code, Bain suggested.

"What we will wind up with is a whole group of tax-payers who are not presently paying much who will now be paying taxes to the state of Oregon," Bain said. Reconnecting may increase state revenues by \$200 to \$400 million, he said.

However, "the Legislature is going to have to be careful not



Bill Bain

to take the windfall and turn it all back (as a refund) nor take the windfall and spend it all," Bain said.

Bain will take "a comprehensive look at the liability insurance system," which in-

cludes considering the arguments of litigants, attorneys, doctors and insurance companies, he said.

High court costs and contingent lawyers' fees need to be stemmed, Bain said. "At the same time we have to make sure we don't take away the right of an injured person," he said.

Bain will support divestment of state funds from South Africa, but the Legislature will have to make an exception to the "prudent-man" rule, which requires the state treasurer to invest funds where they will earn the most interest, he said.

"We've made exceptions to the prudent-man rule and we can do it again," he said. While a loud message against apartheid is necessary, "the unfortunate side effect is that we will undoubtedly hurt the economics of many black workers," Bain said.

Concerning other issues, "I think all 14, 15, and 16 should be voted down," Bain said. Ballot Measure 14 would force the temporary closure of the Trojan nuclear power plant and Ballot Measure 15 would force Teledyne Wah Chang of Albany to move its wastes. Ballot Measure 16 would force producers of nuclear weapons and their components to cease production.

Bain called the measures "defective" and while "the message may be appropriate to say, hey, we have a serious problem," the economic impacts would be devastating, he said.

Bain has served as Lane County's tax assessor since 1979. His experience will help the Legislature recover funds if any of the tax measures pass, which he opposes, he said. Additionally, Bain plans to work on "solving the problem of local financing," he said.

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help to keep the number of drinks consumed down. Jenne said reducing the alcohol intake is the only way to keep the blood alcohol level low.

Jenne added a person's moods may change once they become dependent on alcohol.

"The moods may range from a high, a feeling of euphoria, to a low, depressed feeling," Jenne said.

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Comrada remembers the Scolla incident but does not remember advising her either way, she said.

"It's not appropriate to either encourage or discourage," Comrada said. "What we really do is give people a chance to talk about their concerns. Our role is to point out the entire range of options."

When Scolla read the Emerald article last week and saw that Comrada had denied knowledge of Reynolds' activities, she said she "saw red." Scolla went to the affirmative action office Oct. 17 and asked to see the file that contained her complaint against Reynolds.

The office staff was unable to help her because they said they didn't know where the files were kept, and Comrada was not in at the time, Scolla said. Comrada happened to call while Scolla was there, told her that "it was a secret file" and that she would have to come back and see it later, Scolla said.

Comrada also told Scolla that no one else in the office knew of the file or where it was kept, Scolla said.

Comrada, however, said although the file is for her eyes only, the other staff does know about it — they just don't have access to it. She is directed to maintain a secret file by Oregon Administrative Rule 571-03-025, she said.

The rule states: "The Director of Affirmative Action shall maintain an indexed record apart from personal, evaluative files traditionally kept... for a period of three years..."

Diana Sheridan, a graduate student in the speech department, also is dissatisfied with the performance of the OAA. She went to the OAA with a harassment complaint several years ago and believes her complaint was not taken seriously.

"The feeling I had with the OAA was that my complaint was trivialized," Sheridan said. "While my conversation with them was at the first, informal stage, I felt that it was not taken seriously. Granted, this was only a 'feeling,' but such 'feelings' are a legitimate emotion when an individual is taking a complaint of such a serious nature to an office that is designed to provide support and reassurance."

The harassment did stop, but Sheridan questions whether the problem really was solved.

Verbal evidence by other women indicate that "perhaps the office lacks a certain consisten-

cy in how complaints are handled," Sheridan said.

"The guidelines are written out and are somewhat explicit, but once we move away from the guidelines into the realm of practice another dimension of response emerges," Sheridan said. "The feeling that I and others have is that the office will pursue a complaint, perhaps reluctantly, and during that pursuit the intent is to diffuse the situation rather than truly resolve it."

Comrada believes her office has demonstrated "no lack of consistency in handling complaints." The office does what is agreed upon with the complainant, Comrada said.

"I am reluctant to take action unless the complainant knows and agrees to the course of action," she said. "Many people just want the incident known but don't want any action taken."

Ann Bunnberg, a graduate student in leisure studies and a local attorney, believes the University should toughen its stance on sexual harassment, she said. Bunnberg, who has taught equal employment opportunity classes for the U.S. Navy, said the Navy's policy on sexual harassment makes the University's policy look tentative in comparison.

Navy policy makes sexual harassment grounds for extreme disciplinary action, Bunnberg said, while the University's policy seems to "belittle the circumstances."

There are several things the University can do that would send out a clear message against harassment, Bunnberg said. First, University President Paul Olum could send out a stronger message that harassment won't be tolerated, she said.

Second, the University should implement in-house training for faculty and staff on what constitutes sexual harassment, Bunnberg said. In-house training is very effective in alerting people to the kinds of conduct that can be considered sexual harassment, she said.

Finally, there should be a more effective means of processing complaints at the University, Bunnberg said. Her impression is that the current process is ineffective — students don't feel safe using it, she said.

There's a tendency for people with administrative responsibility — such as department heads and deans — to be given the message by the institution "to keep us out of trouble," Bunnberg said. "I wouldn't be surprised if that were the case here."

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Correction
A story published in Friday's Emerald misspelled the name of Kelvyanne Teoh, ASUO publicity coordinator. It also incorrectly reported that Teoh said she didn't plan to fast in protest of U.S. policies toward Nicaragua because "it's a senseless waste of life." It should have said that Teoh said she didn't plan to fast to death because "it's a senseless waste of life."

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