

Roberts' selection makes good sense

Last Tuesday, it was announced that Jack Roberts, a local attorney, had been unanimously selected to fill the empty seat on the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

Followers of local politics should be familiar with Roberts. Twice he has run for the state legislature; first for the Senate, then last year for the District 44 seat in the House. After a hard-fought contest, he lost to incumbent David Dix, who is now the House Majority Leader.

We're familiar with Roberts too. Though we gave our support to Dix in the election, we were very impressed with Roberts, and liked several of his ideas. He knew a lot about the community and the University, and had several suggestions on how to improve both.

Roberts will replace the departed John Ball, who left in early August to head the state Children and Youth Services Commission. After he is officially sworn in Nov. 6, he will represent North Eugene and the River Road-Santa Clara area.

Roberts was not a shoo-in for his new job. He was selected over four qualified candidates, including former seven-term state Rep. Mary McCauley Burrows and Eugene City Councilman Bobby Green. The selection process was long, and personal interviews played a big part. Lobbying efforts on behalf of the five candidates were intense.

During the first round of initial voting by the commissioners, Roberts had the support of two of the current four panel members. But when Commissioner Jerry Rust threw his support behind Roberts, Chairman Steve Cornacchia made the vote unanimous.

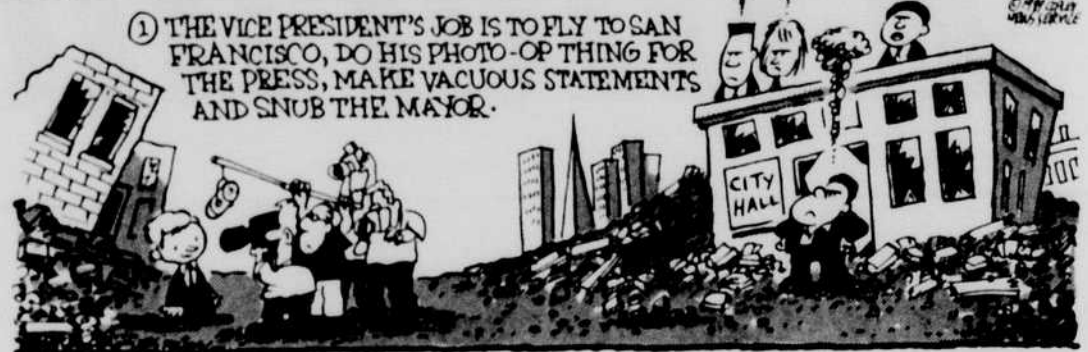
Rust's support was surprising. He is usually considered the most liberal member on the board, while Roberts ran for the legislature on the Republican ticket. That Rust could put ideology aside and vote for who he thought would be the best commissioner speaks a lot for Roberts' ability.

Fighting off his conservative image will not be easy for Roberts. While the commission is non-partisan, political slants play a major role in the decision process. Roberts has said he doesn't want to be cast into a conservative mold, but it may not be his choice. It will be interesting to see if he can fit into the commission. We think he can.

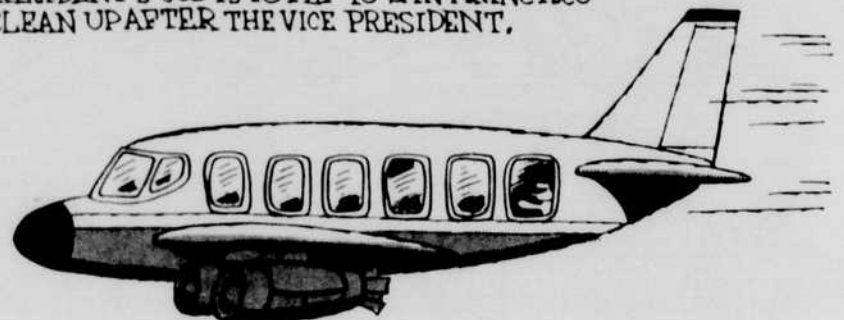
We have no doubt Roberts will make a fine addition to the board. He is a well-respected lawyer, with a sound background in finance and tax matters. His knowledge of the county and the problems it faces is commendable.

His election is not a permanent one. He faces a May primary next year, and former Eugene City Councilwoman Cynthia Wooten has already announced her candidacy.

THE FEDERAL DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM



② THE PRESIDENT'S JOB IS TO FLY TO SAN FRANCISCO AND CLEAN UP AFTER THE VICE PRESIDENT.



Forums put Brand, students on even terms

It's good to see that University students and administrators are still talking to each other after all the ruckus over the demonstrations and disruptions of the Oct. 15 science complex dedication. During the squabble, there was a lot of earnest discussion on free speech, rational discourse and the availability and accountability of public figures — wonderful ideas that unfortunately, for several reasons, aren't part of our everyday world.

University President Myles Brand has made a commitment to open student forums that could turn those ideas into a workable reality. Last week, the president began the first of a series of public forums and private open door sessions to let students and administrators speak their minds.

This is easily the best thing Brand has done for students since taking over the job, and he deserves to be handily commended for it. The response from students also seems to be positive so far. Brand called Wednesday's open door sessions "a success" and said most of the offered 15-minute slots were taken.

Brand is offering to meet with students and University personnel for 15-minute intervals between 3 and 5 p.m. every Wednes-

day, provided his presidential duties don't take him out of town. Students should know that Brand is a busy man; offering two hours of his weekly schedule is a big sacrifice on his part.

Hopefully, Brand, philosophy teacher that he is, will find the dialogues gripping and entertaining. We also hope both Brand and the students will listen carefully to each other and arrive at an understanding of each other's positions.

After all, being open to dialogue is not the same thing as being open-minded. We offer this admonition to listen to both Brand and the students.

Students need to look closely at the issues they're fervent over and examine things beyond their own self-interest. They need to look beyond the fun of activism to realize their actions are truly important.

As for Brand, he needs to realize the students have serious concerns that need to be addressed. Addressing those concerns does not mean smoothing them over, either. Perhaps because he is new, the president has so far been vague in a lot of his replies, saying the University is studying this or that problem. A study of a problem is not enough — eventually the students will want replies.

Letters

No apologies

Sen. Mark Hatfield is in no position to complain about protesters interfering with his right to free speech. University staff members don't need to make apologies for rude protesters.

Hatfield has refused almost any sort of public debate on any issue for years, even during his campaigns. Professors who have worthy pride in academic-style debate should be appalled at Hatfield's unwillingness to interact with opposing ideas.

Our Senator is also single-handedly responsible for creating legislation (that is no compromise), which cuts off most judicial review for timber sale suits. This man is stripping our constitutional rights, and at the same time, helping to destroy the last big tree forests in the world. My great-grandchildren have no way to tell senators and governors to leave some big old trees for their lifetime.

Maybe I should have been more rude; Hatfield and Gold-

schmidt don't present many instances in which to be polite.

Mike Medler
Environmental studies

Beagle-type

Sardonic views of the entire legal profession, as distinguished from well-deserved criticism of substandard or fraudulent attorneys are offensive and in poor taste.

I refuse to be labeled as a "BMW-driving pit bull." I am much more your basic Ford Taurus, beagle-type personality.

My dogged perseverance through the rigors of law school has as much to do with changing my "little world" as with earning a living. I'm not amazed, but gratified when my peers get excited over economic problems within the school of law.

What did you expect, Darren Welsh (ODE, Oct. 24), that the law students would roll over

and play dead?

I don't know what choices you've made, but there have always been a lot of lawyers in white hats, leading the pack out there, too. So go kick another dog. I'm not biting.

Lisa Rowley
Law

Rationalism

Myles Brand cautions us officially about the use and misuse of the university forum. The person is central here, and discourse is preferred that can meld with what Jameson calls, "The Realist Floor Plan," which Foucault calls "the episteme of 19th century ratio," the ruling paradigm of truth/power.

Artists and activists alike have long had trouble with the rationalism that is patriotically doled out in education starting in grade school.

Only what can be digested by discursive reason can challenge

authority "responsibility." Emotion is something of a second-class citizen in the Enlightenment interiority. Pleasantness and propriety are valorized above effectiveness in confronting the velvet-tongued politician, in protecting the environment or achieving pay.

As the last ancient fir falls, or the regional war escalates from El Salvador, I'm confident that the paid thinkers of academia will be working hard to digest any new thoughts on the situation in the gullet of their venerable but under funded disciplines.

Incidentally, I note Brand wants the best formulated argument, not the best funded argument, to "win" in this university tradition "established over thousands of years."

Those who innovated the concept of a "pedagogical training machine" and diverged the first schools of normalcy, the first "universities;" those who created the "school" in the 17th century out of newly established prisons and mili-

tary training centers in order to provide a milder and less costly form of discipline; those Enlightenment founders would be startled at Brand's discovery of gradualism and antiquity.

Liam Kellen
Eugene

Support

An open letter to Logan Dhonau (ODE, Oct. 9).

The ASUO Executive accepts your challenge. We support the efforts of Shelley Reecher and Project Safe Run. We are currently in the process of helping Safe Run establish its program at the University.

This letter is to inform you and the student body of this fact. And to request your assistance. Please contact me at the ASUO, 686-3724. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kirk Bailey
ASUO University Affairs
Coordinator
Monday, October 30, 1989