

**Steady voice**

For the first time in recent memory, we have a qualified student, Bobby Lee, seeking to fill the Ward 3 seat in our City Council, which is currently held by Kevin Hornbuckle. It is time to bring a steady voice with progressive ideas to Eugene city government.

Being a past ASUO student body president and a current graduate student, Bobby Lee is concerned about student issues. Bobby has consistently taken a positive stance on environmental responsibility, affordable housing, women's issues and student rights. He is the one who will take the steady voice to our City Council. Please join me in support of Bobby Lee and take your vote to the polls on May 21.

Kristin Iverson  
Chemistry

**Lewis for Senate**

As a volunteer in Republican Jeff Lewis' campaign for U.S. Senate, I've enjoyed seeing the positive response Jeff has received throughout Oregon. Lewis' platform supporting equal rights for all and keeping government out of citizens' private choices has been well received by Republicans who understand the great harm done to our party and community over social and community issues. Lewis believes the abortion issue must be removed from the Republican platform.

Newspapers and television and radio reporters statewide understand that Lewis' views deserve to be given to voters. Sadly, readers of *The Register-Guard* have been denied in-depth coverage of Jeff Lewis. Editors told me it was because Jeff doesn't have "the name familiarity of either Lon Mabon or Gordon Smith" and thus was not considered "viable."

I hope *The Register-Guard* will recognize soon that it's up to voters to decide who is "viable." It is a gross misuse of power for the *Register-Guard* to

unilaterally make that decision for voters. Many mainstream, moderate Republicans very much share Lewis' support of environmental protections, civil rights for all, abortion rights and maintaining separation of church and state. These are not values of either Lon Mabon or Gordon Smith, though Smith is trying to portray himself as "moderate." His record in the Oregon Senate speaks otherwise.

Voters deserve to read more about Jeff Lewis. I hope our hometown paper will give us more information about our hometown candidate.

Carol Berg  
Eugene

**Many endorse Lee**

Now that the ASUO elections are over, it is time to concentrate on a race just as important to the students at the University — the Eugene City Council. For the first time in recent memory, we have one of our own running a serious campaign for Ward 3, the student area of Eugene. Bobby Lee, a past ASUO President, has declared himself a candidate.

Bobby has already received the endorsement of many Eugene businesses and environmental groups. He is supported by many other public officials who recognize his solid beliefs and strong stances on positions that affect all of us. Current ASUO President Jennifer Williamson, State Board of Higher Education member Mark Rhinard and others have lent their support to his campaign. State Representatives Kitty Piercy, Floyd Prozanski and Cynthia Wooten have all endorsed the Bobby Lee campaign.

But endorsements aren't everything. Bobby has consistently taken a strong, positive stance on women's issues, environmental responsibility, low-income housing and AIDS awareness programs. It's time to bring a steady voice with progressive ideas to the Eugene City

**Tobacco industry fighting health plan**

The tobacco industry is at it again. They want it both ways. The industry is complaining about being treated unfairly. At the same time, it is criticizing those who want to see the Oregon Health Plan remain healthy.

Supporters of the Oregon Health Plan are gathering signatures for a ballot measure that will authorize a 30-cent-per-pack increase on cigarettes and a 35 to 65 percent increase on the wholesale price of other tobacco products. The \$75 million raised will do two things:

- It will support the plan, providing much needed basic health insurance to Oregonians who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid.
- It will provide money for tobacco use prevention efforts, especially among young people.

More than 130,000 Oregonians are enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan. Already, emergency room visits (often the last resort of the poor when it comes to health care) are down, and the number of people who depend on welfare to get medical benefits has also decreased. The proposed tobacco tax would allow another 130,000 people to become eligible for basic health services.

Yet, the tobacco industry says it is patently unfair to single them out and make them pay for a health care program. Such claims are ridiculous and simply the latest attempt by the tobacco industry to deceive the public.

Let's talk about fairness. The tobacco industry's products cause a disproportionate share of health care costs. Every day, our organizations see the damage caused by tobacco — heart attacks, strokes, emphysema and lung cancer, among other illnesses. With that product record, it's unrealistic to claim that the tobacco industry is being asked to pay for more than its fair share of health care costs.

## COMMENTARY

Shane McDermott

Statistics from 1993 on the estimated economic cost of tobacco to Oregon paint a painful picture of the true impact of tobacco products. In Oregon, the direct costs of tobacco use exceed \$260 million. In Lane County, the direct economic costs were more than \$23 million, and Benton County's costs were \$4 million.

The tobacco industry has denied for years that cigarettes are addictive. It's time for the tobacco industry to take responsibility by paying for part of the health care costs created by its product.

In addition, money from the tobacco tax will be used to discourage more people, especially children, from tobacco addiction and tobacco-caused disease. A recent study indicated that more 6-year-olds recognized Camel Cigarettes' Joe Camel than any other child-oriented product, except the Disney Channel logo. This is outrageous. Something needs to change!

Will an increase in tobacco taxes mean a decrease in smokers? Yes. Will this ultimately mean less tobacco tax money for the Oregon Health Plan? Perhaps. But if fewer people smoke, there should be a corresponding reduction in health care needs and costs. That's a win-win situation all of us can hope for: a savings of thousands of lives and potential savings of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Tobacco Tax will bring health care to more Oregonians and keep more children from smoking. This is one tax we can all live with. We urge Oregonians to vote yes.

Shane McDermott is the Executive Director of the American Lung Association of Oregon

## Council.

Students will determine the outcome of this election. Don't forget to vote for Bobby on May 21.

Thomas M. Huckaba  
Tigard

**Osanka Understands**

Jeff Osanka deserves your support for Lane County Commissioner because he is involved in the important issues.

Osanka understands the need for adequate education funding. As a teacher at Lane Community

College and at the University, he has experienced the budget cuts — not just heard about them. Osanka sees education as economic development and is ready to lobby the legislature to increase funding for Oregon schools.

As an EWEB Commissioner, Osanka believes that environmental policies can exist with successful businesses. He is active in the McKenzie Watershed Council, which is responsible for the protection of water quality, fish habitat and riparian

analysis. He is a representative of the Wyoming Wind Project as well.

Osanka, a University graduate, works with the people of Lane County. He is the President of Fairmount Neighbors and is the Co-chairman of the Neighborhood Leaders Council. Above all, Osanka cares about people's concerns. I hope you decide to give Jeff Osanka your important vote May 21.

Erik Carlson  
Public Policy Planning  
and Management

# Summer Duck Call Is Here



Register now for  
UO Summer classes.  
Pick up a free  
summer bulletin with  
schedule of classes in  
333 Oregon Hall.



## NEW FOR FALL!

# B-Sharp

with

# A-Minor

in

## Business Administration

From the Lundquist College of Business

- No Prerequisites
- Open to All UO Students
- Acquire Skills to Complement Any Career

Call Dave Dusseau for more information at 346-3398,  
or sign up now in Room 271 Gilbert Hall — the Lundquist College  
of Business Undergraduate Programs office.