

COMMENTARY

Newsroom: (541) 346-5511
Room 300, Erb Memorial Union
P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403
E-mail: editor@dailyemerald.com
Online Edition:
www.dailyemerald.com

Editor in Chief:
Jessica Blanchard
Managing Editor:
Jeremy Lang
Editorial Editor:
Julie Lauderbaugh
Assistant Editorial Editor:
Jacquelyn Lewis

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Editorial

Jim Hill, Jack Roberts have essential skills, goals to be governor

Two gubernatorial candidates stood out from the rest of their party's nominations this year for a plethora of reasons. Jim Hill, a Democrat, and Jack Roberts, a Republican, are both qualified candidates with enough vision and political sway to present ideas that can win the primary election May 21.

On the left: Jim Hill

Hill appealed to us as the front-runner of the three Democratic candidates because of his dedication to education. The other two governor hopefuls also have a rich history in public office, but we believe Hill's financial experience, coupled with his political experience, make him the best choice. Hill has two decades of public office skills to offer Oregonians — he has served as a state representative in the Legislature, in the Oregon Senate and most recently as our state treasurer.

As treasurer, Hill proved his dedication to preserving quality public schools. He created the Common School Fund for K-12 schools and the School Bond Guarantee Act. Hill also implemented the College Savings Program to help parents save for their children's higher education.

We were impressed by Hill's practical "sin tax" idea to help stabilize K-12 school funding by raising taxes on tobacco and alcohol. Hill has the insight to know that the state will not allocate sufficient funding to public schools during budget crunches. His proposed "Rainy Day Fund" will help combat education cuts and ensure public schools don't get caught in a budget crisis as they were earlier this year.

If elected, we think Hill would be the best champion of higher education. We liked his proposal to reinstate college scholarships that were cut during the budget crunch. He said restoring the scholarships was one of his top priorities if elected, and we hope Hill can fulfill his promise.

He also impressed us with his ideas to issue bonds for infrastructure projects on campus. Long-term bond sales would give universities more cash on hand and allow freedom for the schools to allocate where we need it.

We believe Hill has the political sway and connection with the needs of Oregonians to make an effective candidate for governor in November. As an advocate for higher education needs, we believe he would be the most successful candidate, and we advise students to vote for Hill as the Democratic candidate for governor.

From the right: Jack Roberts

Roberts caught our eye because he appears to be the most moderate of the three Republican candidates, and his experience in state government is extensive. Roberts is currently serving his second term as state labor commissioner and served as a Lane County Commissioner for five years. Because the state has such a diverse group of voters, with pockets of both conservative and liberal voices sprinkled throughout, we believe Roberts would appeal to most Oregonians as the Republican gubernatorial candidate.

Roberts is not only honest about possible tax jumps, but he's also frank about likely tuition increases across the state. He knows both Oregon residents and students coming from out of state won't attend a school that isn't affordable, and he seems committed to keeping tuition economical.

As a University of Oregon graduate for both of his undergraduate and law degrees, Roberts has a unique understanding of our school's needs. If elected governor, we believe Roberts' affiliation with groups such as the College Republicans — as well as the fact that he is a Eugene resident — would keep him accessible and connected to students locally.

Roberts has a proven track record of fighting for the University during budget crises. He also supports Ballot Measure 10, which would allow the University to receive equity from private companies to compensate for publicly created technology.

Overall, Roberts is an excellent Republican candidate. If elected governor, he would serve Oregon well. We support Roberts' ideas and tenacity, and we urge students to vote for him in the primary.

Editorial Policy

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses can be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com. Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Please include contact information. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.

Editorial Board Members

Jessica Blanchard
editor in chief
Jeremy Lang
managing editor
Julie Lauderbaugh
editorial editor

Jacquelyn Lewis
assistant editorial editor
Peter Hockaday
newsroom representative
Jerad Nicholson
community representative

Steve Baggs Emerald



Letters to the editor

Stein cares about the environment

This state is at a crossroads. Our current governor is term-limited, and we have three Democrats from whom we must choose to replace him. All three are good candidates, but Bev Stein stands out as the person who will bring our environment back to its former health.

Oregon has some of the most polluted waterways in the country, and they are getting worse every day. Bev Stein is committed to cleaning up our state's water and putting the bill on the biggest polluters.

Stein won endorsements from the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters for her record as Multnomah County CEO and for her plan for our state. She intends to reduce our dependence on polluting energy sources as well. Under her leadership, Oregon will buy more "green" power, which is electricity generated from wind, solar and geothermal resources. She will also require state agencies to reduce their use of raw materials by 25 percent and reduce waste by 50 percent.

Stein knows that the use of hybrid electric cars will reduce pollution, and as such, her plan includes replacing the state's cars with hybrid cars as the older cars rotate out of service. She will also eliminate the double registration cost for these cleaner cars.

The next governor of this state needs to fix our economy, but not at the expense of our environment. Despite what many people think, we can, in fact, have a stable economy with a clean environment, and Bev Stein will prove this.

Samantha Bouton
sophomore
political science and Japanese

Tympanic cut a rug; article didn't

I am writing concerning the article published in the May 9 issue about the local band Tympanic ("Tympanic skips between towns — and musical styles"). I saw Tympanic for the first time during fall term, and I have been hooked since my first experience.

I was disappointed in this article because it was blatantly obvious that the reporter, Jen West, had never seen Tympanic play. If she had, there likely would have been reference to the numerous people, many of them University students,

who come out to cut a rug on the dance floor at every show.

Or maybe West would have delved more into what exactly makes this foursome have such a blast on stage. All in all, after going to a Tympanic excitement that was not at all shown in her article.

Maybe next time the Emerald will plan ahead and actually send a reporter to a show. That way, they can come back with the full story and a huge smile.

Eric M. Wilson
junior
business

Editor's note: Emerald reporter Jen West attended Tympanic's show at the EMU Amphitheater on April 19.

"Beer Bellies" are a myth

In John Muir O'Brien's letter ("Fraternities offer framework for obesity, depression," ODE, May 7) on the subject of alcohol consumption in fraternities, he implied that by allowing alcohol consumption, fraternities are "encouraging a framework for obesity and depression later in life."

O'Brien is, in this matter, misinformed. Beer is not really an obesity-causing substance. The "beer belly" is actually a myth. Beer is relatively low in calories but does stimulate the appetite, which often leads to what marijuana enthusiasts refer to as "munchies" — from which one acquires the calories that lead to unsightly "beer bellies."

If one eats healthy and moderately and — after one too many beers — thinks twice before having a large pizza delivered, one can enjoy quite a bit of beer without putting on those extra pounds.

In regard to his argument against alcohol in fraternities, I would add that banning alcohol completely seems to me rather childish. Could one not simply make a pledge against extreme binge drinking, beer bongs and the like?

William Moglia
senior
German and international studies

CORRECTION

LGBTQA office manager Kristina Armenakis was named in a photo caption in Monday's paper ("Chalk it up to Pride," ODE, May 13), but she was not pictured. The Emerald regrets the error.