

GOERING ON REHAB BOARD:

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Hamilton County Treasurer Robert A. Goering has been elected president of the Tri-State Drug Rehabilitation and Counseling Program (Kids Helping Kids). The program offers drug and alcohol rehabilitation for youths, ages 13 to 21. Goering, who begins his one-year term today, has been a former vice president and board member of the agency.

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Appointments

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Incentives for small business to fight drugs

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Tuck Krehbiel was unaware of the extent of Cincinnati's drug problem until he was encouraged to attend a program at **Kids Helping Kids**, a local rehabilitation center, where "13-year-olds described their drugs of abuse, including alcohol, marijuana, uppers and cocaine." The chief operating officer of the C.J. Krehbiel Co. was so moved that he began implementing a new substance abuse policy at his printing firm, a policy that included random drug testing and an employee assistance program.

The program, Krehbiel told members of the House Subcommittee on Empowerment, has been well received by company employees. He urged lawmakers on Thursday to support a bill sponsored by Rep. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, of Terrace Park, that would provide incentives to small businesses to institute similar programs.

"The children at **Kids Helping Kids** represented a cross section of our community," said Krehbiel. "They all looked like nice kids, the type of young people with which my two teenage sons would associate."

Lawmakers are beginning work on a series of measures promoted by the House Republican leadership intended to attack the problem from various angles.

One is the Drug-Free Workplace Act, which offers incentives to companies to begin programs similar to Krehbiel's. "The private sector knows that drug-free workplace policies are good for business," Portman told the panel. "Ninety-eight percent of Fortune 200 companies have drug-free workplace policies. Only three percent of small businesses have drug-free workplace policies. This is certainly not due to any failure of small businesses to recognize the importance of these programs."

Small business, he said, has a problem because, lacking large human resource staffs capable of writing and implementing large scale plans, many firms find the process too expensive. Portman has sponsored legislation to amend the Small Business Act by creating a demonstration program offering grants totaling \$10 million to small business seeking to start a drug-free workplace program.

Controversy likely will center on testing. Supporters said companies enter the program voluntarily and testing can be done several ways, including "for cause" if there's a reason to suspect an employee.

But an American Civil Liberties Union representative told the subcommittee indiscriminate drug testing is both unfair and unnecessary in forcing workers not suspected of using drugs to prove their innocence.

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JIM BUNNING

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Profile

It was the game that helped define his baseball career. The sort of sports moment that grown men who know nothing about Jim Bunning's second career as a politician still nod and recall.

Father's Day, 1964. Playing for the Philadelphia Phillies, Jim Bunning pitched a perfect game against the New York Mets.

As it was unfolding, he also broke one of the sport's cardinal rules:

He talked about it.

"You don't talk when you have a no-hitter going, right?" Johnny Callison, the Phillies right fielder that day, says in a new biography of Bunning. Baseball, after all, is a superstitious game; its players generally don't tempt fate.

"But he was going up and down (the bench) and telling everybody what was going on," Callison recalled. "Everybody tried to get away from him, but he was so wired that he followed us around."

More than 30 years later, that same sharp intensity still follows Jim Bunning. In many ways, it has since childhood.

He grew up wanting to be a major league pitcher. With an unorthodox, sidearm throw and a father who insisted that college come first, he didn't always seem a likely candidate.

But Bunning persisted. Juggling school, odd jobs and a young family, he worked his way through the minors and reached The Show in 1955. By the time he left the mound in 1971, he had won 224 games, thrown 40 shut-outs and pitched no-hitters in both leagues, including that perfect game on Father's Day.

In 1996, he was inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame.

A postcard triumph

When three friends asked Bunning to run for Fort Thomas City Council in 1977, he again seemed an unlikely candidate.

In baseball, Bunning had helped form the player's association and been a shrewd negotiator on pension issues. But he was equally known for his unsmiling, unyielding personality. As a player, he snapped at dumb questions in post-game interviews. As a minor-league manager, he once banned Max Patkin, the Clown Prince of Baseball, from the park.

Bunning might have seemed an odd entry in politics, but he went at it in characteristic style. As one of six slated candidates for the council, he was asked to send pre-printed campaign postcards to voters he knew.

But "there were a whole lot left over," Bunning recalled, and a lot of voters he didn't know. "So I ... just put a little note on each one of them - 'We'd appreciate your vote' - and signed my name. I got the most votes of anybody."

Two years later, when the Republican state senator Bunning had supported four times switched parties, Bunning challenged him, and won.

He has lost only one political race - for governor in 1983. He returned to campaigning in 1986, running for Congress in Kentucky's 4th District. He won and has been re-elected five times.

When the Republicans took control of the House in 1995, Bunning was elevated to chairman of the Ways and Means subcommittee on Social Security.

He has worked to raise earnings limits for seniors, one piece of the GOP's Contract with America. He has pushed for tax credits for adoptive parents.

He has voted against increasing the minimum wage and supported repealing bans on certain automatic weapons. But Bunning has not

always voted the party line. Although he is generally supportive of free-trade policies, he voted against the North American Free Trade Agreement.

"I started on one side. Listened, listened, listened. And finally when I got to the end of the line on that, I decided this bill is going to be bad for Kentucky," he said.

Bunning spent his first four terms in Washington in the minority. He learned to work within the system and to build bipartisan coalitions, said his former top aide Rick Robinson.

"Jim is a very practical person," Robinson said recently. "I think he realized that you have to work together."

Not that the fireball-throwing right-hander eased up much on his stuff. Bunning has consistently ranked as one of the most conservative members in the House. And he remains inclined to say what's on his mind.

In 1993, Bunning called Bill Clinton "the most corrupt, the most amoral, the most despicable person I've ever seen in the presidency."

Three years later, Bunning berated Rick Pitino after Pitino introduced Clinton at an election-eve rally on the University of Kentucky campus. "You might as well have cost Bob Dole the election in Kentucky," Bunning steamed in a mailgram that Pitino made public five months later.

'He knows what he thinks'

"Jim is very forthright, very honest; there's not much duplicity there," said U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, a Louisville Republican who encouraged Bunning to run for Senate.

"He knows what he thinks, and I like that," McConnell said. "I think it's a quality voters appreciate and don't get in their candidates as often as they deserve."

Since he began campaigning for the Senate, Bunning has been more tempered.

He has largely reserved judgment on the current White House scandal. Never a bricks-and-mortar politician, Bunning is highlighting issues such as protecting funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission in the race.

Democrats complain Bunning has run as a more moderate politician than his career reflects.

"I'm campaigning exactly who I am," Bunning said. True to form, he's also campaigning to win.

"I haven't thought about that," he says when asked what would come next if he isn't elected.

"If it turns out that I don't win, then I'll think about what I'm going to do after the fact. But my total focus is on winning this race right now."

Resume

Name: James Paul David Bunning

Birthdate: Oct. 23, 1931

Residence: Southgate

Education: Bachelor's degree in economics, Xavier University, 1953

Work experience: Professional baseball player, 1950-1971; minor league manager, 1971-1975; investment broker and player agent, 1960-1986

Public offices: U.S. House of Representatives, 1987-present; Kentucky Senate, 1980-1983; Fort Thomas City Council, 1977-1979; Republican nominee for governor, 1983

Personal: Wife, Mary Catherine Theis Bunning; nine children: Barb Stevens, 45; Joan Blinn, 43; Jim Bunning Jr., 43; Cathy Sparks, 41; Bill Bunning, 40; Bridget Bunning, 39; Mark Bunning, 37; Amy Towles, 32; David Bunning, 32.

Why he wants the job

"I had nine kids ... I saw the federal government getting in the way of their ability to have as good a life as I've had"

The Opposing View

What his opponent, Scotty Baesler, says about him:

"Nothing."

Finances

So far, Bunning is winning the money race for the U.S. Senate.

An easy primary left him with roughly three times the money Baesler had as the fall campaign began.

As of Sept. 30, he had \$1.4 million in the bank.

Top givers have included the insurance industry, health professionals, lawyers and political action committees of current senators. The leadership PACs of Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell and Sen. Connie Mack, R-Fla., have given \$10,000 each.

Individuals and political committees with ties to Louisville whiskey-maker Brown-Forman Inc. had given more than \$20,000 as of June 30. Other top contributors include Star Banc Corp., Vencor Corp. and Ashland Oil, which also has given heavily to Baesler.

Bunning's own finances appear as secure as his campaign's, according to a federal financial disclosure statement filed in May.

He earns \$136,500 a year as a member of Congress. In 1997, he picked up \$18,000 signing baseballs and earned between \$21,600 and \$69,700 from his baseball pension, deferred compensation from the state Senate and other dividend and interest payments.

Bunning listed assets totaling at least \$736,010. His only debt listed was a loan for between \$15,000 and \$50,000 at Citizens Bank of Campbell County.

The condominium where he and his wife live, near the Highland Country Club golf course, is assessed at \$190,400.

Bunning does not plan to release his tax forms, which would offer precise income figures. Campaign spokesman Kyle Simmons said the disclosure forms give a "clear representation" of members' financial status.

Congressional rules limit members' outside earnings, so Bunning - whose earning power rocketed after his induction into baseball's Hall of Fame - has formed The Jim Bunning Foundation to benefit private charities.

In 1997, the foundation took in \$48,318 and donated \$4,470 to 28 groups, records show.

Most were charities or Catholic schools in Northern Kentucky, including the Kids Helping Kids, Northern Kentucky Right to Life and the United Way.

On the Stump

The man Bunning would replace, longtime Kentucky politician Wendell Ford, never saw a hand he didn't want to shake.

But Bunning, the unsmiling major league pitcher who once hit 19 batters in a single season, had to learn the campaign business of greeting and glad-handing.

"He's just never been that open," Mary Bunning says in a new biography of her husband. "He's a private person. That's all right, except when you're in political life. Then you better stick your hand out there."

Politicking still is not his first calling. Even in front of friendly crowds, he generally keeps note cards close at hand and rarely strays from prepared remarks.

But he is increasingly comfortable in the role. That was evident one August morning as Jim and Mary Bunning shook hands and introduced themselves, over and over, to hundreds of people waiting for the Kentucky Farm Bureau's annual state fair breakfast.

It was 7 a.m., and Bunning looked a little tired. But he kept thrusting out his hand, smiling and saying, "Hi, I'm Jim Bunning."

"I hope you win," a woman said. "I intend to," he responded.

On the Air

Bunning's television ads - thanks to his ample war chest - started early and have run often.

But there have been two distinctly different tones in his spots.

The first two appeared aimed at softening Bunning's blunt, perhaps even abrasive, image.

The first was a 60-second biography featuring shots of a smiling, casually dressed Bunning with many members of his large family. It included footage of him playing catch with his grandson, a nod to his career as a professional baseball player.

The other, a spot on education, also emphasized Bunning's family - nine children and 32 grandchildren.

Since then, his ads have been hard-hitting attacks on Baesler.

They have frequently used footage of Baesler speaking passionately at the Fancy Farm political picnic. Snippets of Baesler's speech have been taken out of context and used to erroneously imply that he's agreeing with assertions in Bunning's ads.

Baesler's aides reacted angrily to one Bunning ad that used jerky footage of Baesler shouting and flailing his arms as *The Ride of the Valkyries* played in the background. They charged that Bunning's campaign was trying to evoke Nazi propaganda films to portray Baesler in a bad light.

Bunning defended the ad and refused to pull it off the air. His campaign noted that the same music has been used in many other ways, such as Kroger commercials and Bugs Bunny cartoons.

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Fifth Third awards \$20,000 in grants

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Fifth Third Bank today gave away \$20,000 in one-time grants to six Greater Cincinnati not-for-profit organizations, the first of \$260,000 in grants it will make in the six states in which it operates to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Fifth Third Foundation.

The recipients, selected by a committee of employees, were: the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Cincinnati, \$4,000; Cincinnati Association for the Blind, \$2,000; Emmanuel Community Center, \$5,000; Fernside, A Center for Grieving Children, \$4,000; Sisters of Mercy H.O.M.E. Project, \$4,000; and, **Kids Helping Kids, \$1,000.**

Employee committees at each of the bank's 11 affiliates have also selected charitable organizations in their areas to receive the special grants.

The Fifth Third Foundation was founded in 1948 by John Rowe, then president of the bank, with \$6,600. Each year the bank makes a contribution to the foundation for its profits and the foundation now has more than \$40 million in assets. In the last 50 years, the foundation has given away \$15 million to not-for-profit organizations, said George A. Schaefer, Jr., Fifth Third president and chief executive officer.

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