

OCA politicians use tricks to get power

The scourge of terrorism is everywhere. Just when all the Western hostages in the Middle East have been released, terrorists are again using extortion for political gain.

The most frightening thing about this new terrorist effort is that it's taking place right here in Oregon, and the name of the hostage-taking organization is the OCA.

While the hostages may have changed forms, the devastation of the immoral act remains the same. The hostage taken by the OCA is not a journalist, professor or businessman — it is an election.

The OCA held the U.S. Senate race for incumbent Republican Bob Packwood's seat hostage by threatening to pull Al Mobley out of the closet, dust him off, and have him ready to play spoiler in the next election.

Mobley is credited with handing Gov. Barbara Roberts the election in 1990 by drawing just enough conservative votes away from Republican Dave Frohnmayer, leading to a Democratic victory.

The Republicans learned their lesson in 1990, and two years later when Mobley threatened to run again, this time for the Senate, the party threw itself into its high-gear appeasement mode.

Enter the Lane County Republican Party Central Committee elections. Guess who (or what group) came out dominating the leadership. If you guessed the OCA you're a big winner.

Amid calls for party unity, the OCA pushed Mobley and his spoiler stench in the noses of moderate Republicans, and the smell of another Democratic win was too strong to tolerate.

So the OCA takes over the party, and quite miraculously, the next day Mobley announces he will not challenge Packwood and Democrat Les AuCoin.

In the end, this is a good-news-bad-news situation for Democrats. The bad news is that Mobley won't be running. Splitting the conservative vote would have been a great chance to finally get rid of pork-barrel Packwood.

The good news is that with a Republican party having to shack up with Lon Mabon and the rest of his Hitler Youth, it shouldn't take long for the semi-sane political fence-sitters to fall into Democratic pastures.

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OPINION

Bush finds sleaze goes both ways



THE FINE PRINT
By Pat Malach

It seems like it's been a long time coming, but George Bush has finally been pelted with the same grime that Republican dirty-tricks campaign teams have been using against opponents for more than a decade.

Gorgeous George (as we shall now refer to him in order to create a "level playing field" with Slick Willie) has fallen into the abyss of "did-he-do-it" rumors. Gorgeous is being accused of having an affair with one of his aides seven years ago.

Just like with Bill Clinton, no "major" media are reporting that George slept around, but they are reporting that *The New York Post* (New York's local *National Enquirer*) is reporting the story. The infidelity scoop is taking the backdoor route to the front page.

The Post is not the first publication to run stories about Gorgeous' playful side. *SPY* magazine recently ran the story, and others have reported it as well. But this seems to be the week that the rest of the country's journalists decided to pick up on it. The rumors have been there for years, but until now, nobody has been able to prove anything. Oops, well, write about it anyway.

So after taking a few moments to mourn the current state of our electoral processes, everyone should stand up and

let out a hearty "YeeHaww!"

If there has ever been anyone impossible to feel sorry for, it is Gorgeous George Herbert Walker Bush. And while Clinton laid out his obligatory denouncement of the press' handling of the rumor, you know he went back to his hotel room, uncorked the bubbly, and had one hell of a party. (With Hillary by his side, hopefully).

Gorgeous has laid into the press for asking him about the *Post's* story. He told the CNN reporter who first asked him about it that he would not answer "sleaze questions," and then denied the accusation. Later in the day, he told NBC's Stone Phillips that he ought to be ashamed of himself for denigrating the integrity of the oval office by asking him the question there.

Gee, those words sound so familiar. "Sleaze," "ashamed." Those were my exact thoughts when Mary Matalin, the political director of the Bush-Quayle campaign, issued a fax referring to the possibility of "bimbo eruptions" if Clinton were elected. Now that was a sleazy, dirty-handed, low-down-rotten bit of campaigning.

But just like the 1988 "Willie Horton" ad that dragged the campaign through the muck of racism, Bush was quick to denounce Matalin's references to Clinton's unproven infidelity as the work of a renegade staffer acting without approval. And what punishment was Matalin forced to endure for her sleazy tactics. Well, Bush has since referred to Matalin as his "bulldog." And she still has her high-paying, high-power job.

It's a better deal than the CNN reporter who asked Bush

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about his infidelity is getting. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater furiously told reporters that the CNN newswoman will "never work around the White House again."

For those of you keeping score at home: It's OK to imply and allude to candidates' sex lives behind their backs in a memo, but Bush folks say it's not kosher to ask candidates about such questions to their faces. So that's what family values are all about.

In fact, it has been Gorgeous' continuous preaching about returning to family values that has given the press justification for swimming through the muck. George and his family-value cronies set the table, and now the media and their viewers are sitting down to gobble it up.

As slimy and internationally embarrassing as this campaign is turning out to be, doesn't it seem that this is the poetically just way for all of this code-word, accusation-filled, issue-avoiding election to end up.

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