

Packwood, AuCoin run empty race

The U.S. Senate race between Bob Packwood and Les AuCoin is getting ugly and more than just a little boring.

If voters have been watching television lately, they've probably seen one of Packwood's attack commercials. If they've looked closely, they may have actually seen an attack response by AuCoin. But they don't have to look hard to realize what has been missing in the whole campaign — issues.

This shouldn't be a surprise. Political campaigns are very rarely issue-oriented, relying instead on image and character portrayals.

But this campaign seems worse than usual. AuCoin and Packwood have yet to discuss the economy, the Spotted Owl or any other important Oregon concerns. Their issue calendar has been completely blank.

Perhaps it's time both candidates take a step back and look at the campaign as it stands now. What they would see is a shameful display of low blows, lame complaints and crass accusations.

Packwood is intent on trumpeting AuCoin's attendance record, his involvement with the House checking scandal and his vote on the pay raise for the U.S. Congress. Packwood's "Hypocrisy" commercial, parodying the game show *Jeopardy*, used these wisecracks to paint AuCoin as a small-time sleaze.

AuCoin fought right back. He ran a commercial calling Packwood's "Hypocrisy" commercial hypocritical (imagine the irony), claiming that Packwood's attendance record is nearly as bad and that the other complaints are irrelevant.

Packwood has continued the battle by stating AuCoin was "wrong on the issues" without including any reasons why. He just is.

Intelligent voters will see right through both candidates and their petty whining. Unfortunately, voters aren't always intelligent and don't always do their own research, as they should before casting their votes.

Instead they often rely on campaign commercials to make character evaluations. AuCoin is a liar. Packwood is a jerk.

It's shameful that in an election year as important as this one, in which the country is defining itself economically and socially for the next several years, Oregon's senatorial candidates are unable to debate anything deeper than attendance records.

There's no shortage of issues. AuCoin has repeatedly said he wants to talk about the economy, but there hasn't been a whole lot of talking yet. Packwood refused to talk about Ballot Measure 9 until Al Mobley declined to race against him, thereby reducing the risk of alienating the religious right. And that's not counting the less publicized issues.

AuCoin and Packwood have a long way to go before they make this a legitimate campaign. Nobody wants to choose between Baby Les and Whiny Bob. They'd rather focus on Candidate AuCoin and Senator Packwood.



LETTERS

Dog power

The reason I am writing is to express my disappointment that a progressive paper like the *Emerald* would print something as blatantly sexist as the *Doonesbury* cartoon in the Wednesday, Sept. 30 edition.

(In the cartoon) B.D. tells Sid he will "hunt him down like a dog." For too long, sexist idiots like (*Doonesbury* creator Garry) Trudeau have been referring to person's best friend with the gender specific word "dog."

Only through the healing process of raising our collective awareness will bytches become empowered to a state of equality with dogs. I look forward to the day when Canine Americans, as well as Feline Americans, are treated with the unprejudiced respect due to all people of fur.

Fred O. Roellig
Peace Studies

Speak Up

Do you believe that your voice should be heard when determining tuition policy?

Do you believe that your voice should be heard in the discussion surrounding financial aid eligibility? Do you believe that your voice should be part of the discussion surrounding state law and public policy? If you answered yes to any of the above, then yours is a voice that must be heard during the Nov. 3 election.

However, exercising your right to cast an educated vote is not always a simple proposition. If you have not registered to vote at your current address by Oct. 13, you will be ineligible to vote in the upcoming General Election. In other words, you will have lost the opportunity to vote on candidates and issues that directly impact your life.

If you need to register at your current address, please stop by the ASUO office in Suite 4 of the EMU, and we will provide a card for you. We encourage you to complete the card in our office, and we will turn it in to the elections office for you.

We believe that your voice is

one that must be heard. Exercise your right to vote by registering at your current address by Oct. 13 and voting in the General Election.

Bobby Lee
ASUO president
Karmen Fore
ASUO vice president

Register now

Talk about it! Think about it! Vote about it! The upcoming Nov. 3 election will determine out school tuition, academic freedom, environmental issues and much more.

If you have a new address, you need to re-register to be able to vote. Remember, the last to day to register is Oct. 13.

The ASUO is doing an excellent job by going door-to-door on weekends to off-campus students (they are also reaching out to dorms and greeks). All in-state domestic students should have received a letter with a voter registration card, but ultimately it is up to you to take two minutes to fill out the registration card and make your vote felt in the up-coming election.

Please register now and get your friends to do the same.

Chun Boey
Business

Cards

Many students, campus programs and local organizations have been working together recently to give students as many possibilities as the can to register to vote. There are monumental decisions to be made this November on both the national and local levels. The only way that your opinion can be heard is if you vote. And the only way you can vote is if you register.

If you have moved since you

last registered, you need to re-register (even if it's only across the hall!). If you have changed political parties, you need to re-register. If your name has changed, you need to re-register.

There are voter registration cards and drop boxes scattered around campus at Carson Dining Hall, Hamilton Dining Hall, the Knight Library, PLC and in front of the ASUO office in the EMU breezeway. Also, additional cards can be picked up at the ASUO office (Suite 4, EMU) for friends, roommates, etc. The Voter Registration Card only takes a minute to fill out, so pick one up between classes, complete it, and drop it in the box.

Thomas Huckaba
ASUO Executive

Elect Dobson

I want to urge support for Eben Dobson, a candidate for the position of City Council Representative for Ward 3, which includes the University.

A primary focus of Dobson's concern has been on the issue of Ballot Measure 5's impact on the University, and how tuition increases will deny access to higher education to many people, not only now, but also for future generations of Oregonians. He wants to see the Eugene City Council take a pro-active stance toward the state legislature regarding Measure 5's impact.

I urge University students to vote for Dobson for City Council Representative for Ward 3. He is a candidate capable of providing support not only to the University but for all members of this diverse ward.

Mary Massa
Eugene

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