

Packwood schedule guarded

NORTHWEST
PORTLAND (AP) — Although 717,455 Oregonians voted to reelect Sen. Bob Packwood last November, only a few of them knew where to find him during his visit to the state during the last few days.

The Oregon Republican guarded his schedule closely, releasing it sparingly to local media in an attempt to avoid the noisy protests that marked his two visits earlier this year.

Packwood's opponents have pressured him to return to Oregon and answer questions about allegations by more than 20 women that he made unwanted advances to them.

The Senate Ethics Committee is investigating those allegations, and Packwood has said he will not discuss them during the investigation.

Packwood's opponents say the senator has gone only where he's welcome since arriving in Oregon a week ago.

"The events that he's shown up at are either male-oriented or Republican-oriented, a comfortable, protected environment," said Jana Doerr, chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Oregon.

Packwood said he didn't release his schedule to avoid rowdy protests such as one in which a supporter suffered broken ribs in Corvallis earlier this year.

But one political expert says Packwood's concerns extend beyond public safety.

"It's really a fairly sophisticated attempt to control the local press coverage," said Russ Dondero, chairman of the department of politics and government at Pacific University in Forest Grove.

"I think it's a very calculated, very strategic and very smart



Bob Packwood

attempt by him to make it appear that everything is normal."

Packwood spokeswoman Julia Brim-Edwards said the senator hasn't changed the way he travels in his home state.

Brim-Edwards said Packwood normally speaks to service clubs and business groups and occasionally attends a community gathering such as this year's Fourth of July picnic in Brookings.

But he never has had town meetings in which constituents are allowed to ask him whatever they want, Brim-Edwards said.

Packwood's schedule for last Friday wasn't released to the media at all because a visit to King City Thursday was broadcast on a radio show, Brim-Edwards said.

Margie Boule, a columnist for *The Oregonian*, publicized the appearance while she was sitting in for a talk show host on KXL-AM.

Packwood accused Boule and the station of inciting people to riot outside as he spoke to the King City-Tigard Republican

Women. Boule said she encouraged both Packwood supporters and detractors to attend the King City event.

"This man is a public official, he works for us, and this was a public appearance," Boule said.

"It's laughable that he should be blaming it on me when he hasn't been releasing his schedule for months. He's just making excuses."

No protesters showed up in King City Thursday. Earlier in the day, a handful of picketers showed up outside of a Newport appearance and carried signs demanding Packwood's resignation.

Randy Miller, the chairman of the Oregon Republican Party, defended Packwood's closely guarded schedule and said his schedule earlier this year had been heavily publicized.

"During his last trip, I don't believe I had ever seen a senator's schedule as detailed in the media as the last one," Miller said.

Packwood's scheduling secrecy was primarily aimed at *The Oregonian*. But the newspaper said the secrecy proved more an annoyance than a hindrance.

"We were able to figure out where he was going and get him at his major appearances," said Steve Carter, an assistant metro editor who coordinates coverage of Oregon's congressional delegation.

Packwood spoke Friday morning to members of Oregon Tax Research, a non-profit tax policy watchdog group. The event was not announced, but reporters attended after John Gram, the executive director of the group, told them that Packwood would be there.

Nike ad just doing it in Spanish

NEW YORK (AP) — Some baseball fans may have trouble understanding the dialogue, but Nike Inc. expects they will get the message in a Spanish-language commercial set to run during tonight's All-Star game.

The advertisement was shot in May near San Pedro in the Dominican Republic, which Nike said has produced more than 70 big league shortstops, including current stars Tony Fernandez, Manny Lee, Mariano Duncan and Rafael Beliard.

The ad, called "La Tierra de Mediocampistas," or "Land of Centerfielders," features glimpses of Dominican youngsters playing baseball on makeshift playing fields.

Scott Bedbury, director of advertising for Nike, said the commercial was designed to celebrate the game by showing how much fun and grace some youngsters still display playing baseball.

The youngsters have battered equipment and play on dusty fields bordered by buses and trailer homes, but seem to relish the game.

"I tend to think they are enjoying baseball more than some of the Little Leaguers in the United

States are," Bedbury said.

In the ad, a narrator notes in Spanish that many major league shortstops have come from the Dominican Republic. He advises listeners that they will know how far the players really had to go when they hear an American announcer say a shortstop "had to go far in the hole for that one."

The American announcer's words are the only English heard in the commercial, which is to run twice during the CBS telecast of the game. The Spanish narration is captioned in English.

Bedbury said Nike feels professional sports are becoming detached from the reality of average people who play and watch them.

"Nike is in a position to promote the games we play. No one else is. The entire sports marketing industry seems fascinated with putting athletes on pedestals and is losing sight of the importance of passing on the value of sports to the next generation," he said.

The commercial ends with Nike's trademark slogan, "Just do it."

Book billboards outrage residents

MEDFORD (AP) — Residents are outraged over two billboard ads that depict a cartoon figure wearing a papal miter and urging passers-by to "Unmask the Man of Sin."

The ads were purchased by a splinter group of Seventh-day Adventists called SDA Remnant Ministry.

Larry Weathers of the SDA Remnant Ministry said the ads follow the original purpose of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is to name the "beast." He said the beast is the administration of the Roman Catholic Church.

"This is not an anti-Catholic people campaign," Weathers said. "This has to do with the corrupt institution."

But officials of the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Portland say the ads don't represent the views of the church.

The billboards advertise a book *The Great Controversy*, which is an official book of the church. Church leaders described it as a global history from a theological perspective, but not about the Roman Catholic Church.

The Jackson County Human

Rights Coalition denounced the billboards.

"We see it as one more statement of bigotry," said the coalition's president, Donna Taylor. "And that is a threat to true human rights."

Jeff Herson of Outdoor Media Dimensions, which owns the billboards, has fielded calls from angry residents, but he says it's not his job to make decisions based on the content of the message.

"I don't endorse anything that goes on the billboard, I just produce a service to the public," Herson said.

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