

Packwood is an embarrassment for Oregonians



ROBBIE REEVES

An open letter to Senator Bob Packwood:

Dear Bob,
 Whew! Quite a rough couple of weeks you've had, Bob! With the FBI serving you with a subpoena from the Justice Department and the Senate voting to give you another subpoena for your diaries, I'd imagine that your week was downright awful.

Well, Bob, I think that you had it coming.

I believe that almost everyone will agree your relations with women over the past few years range anywhere from "boorish" (your description) to brutish.

After all, not just any senator can make improper advances to over two dozen women.

But it didn't end there, did it? In a news conference this winter, you didn't really apologize to either the women in question or to Oregonians in general.

Instead, you tried to blame everything on a drinking problem, and that you needed to go to a clinic for a diagnosis and to get help.

Yes, Bob, you needed help, and it wasn't for a drinking problem.

Couldn't you have been honest and up-front with the people that put you into office? Aren't you supposed to represent us?

No, you hid out in Washington for months this winter. And when you finally did come back to Oregon, you kept your itinerary a secret, ostensibly as a way to prevent confrontations. (In fact, when protesters showed up at one of your secret events, you accused *The Oregonian* columnist that revealed the information

of "inciting a riot." A little paranoid, Bob?)

So what have you done lately, Bob? According to the current rumors on Capitol Hill, absolutely nothing. You (and your lawyers) have waffled all over the place about whether you would quit or not. Other than that, Bob, it's seemed that you have dropped out of sight.

It seems like the only thing that you have done lately has been obstructing the investigation of your alleged sexual misconduct.

You let the Senate Ethics Committee have access to your diaries until someone accused you of criminal activity. It seems that you tried to set up your ex-wife with a job from a lobbyist so that you wouldn't have to pay so much alimony to her.

Granted, it was a creative idea, Bob, but asking for "favors" like this is also called bribery. Not exactly what we would expect from our junior senator from Oregon. Or would we?

You said that your diaries — which you purport to be your innermost thoughts — contained information on other legislators' affairs. You even paid for the transcription over the years with thousands of dollars of taxpayer money.

Wouldn't a trashy romance novel at some grocery store be cheaper, Bob? Or was this a calculated move for some book deal? Either way, telling the rest of the world that you keep track of their sex lives probably wasn't the smartest thing that you could have done.

In two days of debate earlier this month, 94 senators voted to subpoena your diaries, and I doubt that it was for the juicy info on other people's sex lives.

Bob, what will it take for you to see that with each passing day, you are becoming more and more of an embarrassment to Oregon?

Robert Byrd, a senior senator from West Virginia, summed it up by saying, essentially, your

time is up. It's time for you to go, Bob.

Any clout that you might have had is rapidly diminishing, and it fades each time that your lawyer suggests that you might quit. You are little more than a joke to your colleagues, and it seems that there is nothing more that you can do for Oregonians in the Senate.

Actually, Bob, there is one thing that you can do for Oregon. Resign, Bob, and resign quickly.

Oregon needs a senator in Washington that can be taken seriously. You have proven that you are anything but that.

Of course, you could hang around for the next five years until the end of your term in 1998 and collect your six-figure salary. But is that really what you want for Oregon?

The next move is yours, Bob. No pun intended.

Robbie Reeves is a columnist for the Emerald.

LETTERS

Healing

It seems about time for Christians to rally around the president's national health care plan. As biblical people who seek to model our lives after the example of Jesus, it seems only natural for the Christian community to support health, wholeness and healing for all people. After all, healing the sick and restoring people into active participation within the community was one of Jesus' primary ministries during his lifetime.

While Jesus said nothing about the issues of homosexuality, abortion and a variety of other topics that the Christian community continually debates, Jesus did argue publicly for the right to heal people when they

were in need, and personally touched, healed and restored people to health regardless of their social status. Throughout his ministry, Jesus also instructed his followers to do likewise.

For those of us in the Christian community, I ask that we allow the healing ministry of Jesus to be our inspiration and motivation in supporting health care, healing and wholeness for all people.

Rev. Janet Cromwell
 United Methodist
 Campus Minister

Clueless KWVA

I'd just like to point out an extremely serious error in Philip Abraham's letter (*ODE*, Nov. 22). Abraham claims that "(KWVA's)

current listening audience consists of maybe 20 percent of the student population."

Indeed, a careful analysis shows that the current listening audience of KWVA is actually more in the ballpark of 0.2 percent. Put into approximate perspective, that's about 14 people, two Springfield residents and their dog, a couple dozen radio station employees, and a half-dozen high school students from down the street. Despite his error, Abraham's point is still quite valid.

To KWVA, I have only these words: There's nothing wrong with the music you're playing now — it matches my skateboard nicely. But why don't you use the money that we involuntarily forked over to buy a clue?

KWVA should be a station that we can still listen to after the half-pipe closes. You do want a bigger listening audience, don't you? Prove it.

Kevin M. Nakamura
 General Science

No entertainer

Beverlee Patton-miller, who works for the Office of International Education and Exchange, calls my letters boring (*ODE*, Nov. 8). Frankly, I never intended to entertain anybody. My task has been to expose Baha'is' words and deeds.

Furthermore, I find it amusing that their talk about equality is just that. In reality, the Baha'is and their supporters are themselves guilty of suppressing oth-

ers. Baha'i supporters in the United States include persons who have wreaked havoc on the lives of people in the Third World. Individuals such as Alexander Haig Jr., former Secretary of State in the Reagan administration, and Fouad Ajami, a reactionary academic at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, to name a few, are among the Baha'i apologists. These are not characters who have a legacy of supporting human rights and dignity in Bosnia, in Palestine or in Soweto.

If the Baha'is sincerely advocate human rights for everyone, their advocacy should cover everyone!

T.J. Fooladi
 Eugene

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