

OPINION

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Revving up for a Dirty Campaign First they charged Obama with being eloquent

BY DONALD KAUL

First, they charged Barack Obama with being eloquent. Then they called him a celebrity. And now, finally, they're accusing him of being black.

Will these Republicans stop at nothing?

In truth, it would be an exaggeration to call John McCain's campaign tactics thus far "dirty." Tacky, certainly, but they have not yet risen or fallen to the level of "dirty." Although the ad lying about Obama blowing off a visit to wounded troops in Iraq so he could get a photo op comes close.

Right now, it's more at the level of a high school jock yelling insults at the smart kid who's stealing his girl. "Nyah, Nyah, you're an intellectual and your mother dresses you," that sort of thing. Kid stuff.

Dirty, I imagine, is not far away; it depends on the polls. If McCain falls behind in the polls, you are really going to see some nasty ads.

Republicans were going to stress the fact that he didn't look much like the pictures of presidents on our money, the McCain camp was quick to yell "Race card, race card. He's playing the race card."

Oh please. Black candidates--unless they're running for office in a predominantly black city or congressional district--have no advantage in playing the "race card." For every person who votes for them because of their race, two or three will vote against them for the same reason.

If anything, whenever the McCain campaign says "race card," it's playing the race card,

If McCain falls behind in the polls, you are really going to see some nasty ads.

Get on Board with Life Saving Defibrillators

Why not Portland Public Schools?

BY CHRISTEEN JOHNSON

My son Eddie died February 23, 2005 while playing varsity basketball for Grant High School while at Madison High.

Eddie was diagnosed with a heart condition in 2001 called Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy or HCM. He was banned from playing any sports for one year and then his doctor changed his diagnosis to hypertension and released him to play.

After an autopsy it was found that the doctor's first diagnosis was correct and Eddie went into sudden cardiac arrest that

evening in February. Since Eddie's death I found out a lot of information about this disease along with sudden cardiac arrest and how Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been life saving in these cases.

My foundation's mission, since it was established in 2005, has been to raise awareness of undetected heart defects in athletes and youth. To deploy AEDs into the community, mainly schools. I helped with legislation with Rep. Mark Hass and a law was passed to require all school districts to have AEDs in them.

I presented my concerns to City Commissioner Randy Leonard who in turn wrote a resolution asking Portland Public Schools to put AEDs in all its schools.

We presented this resolution to the City Council and it passed unanimously. I attended a PPS board meeting the year my son passed and stated my concerns. I also met with the head of Safety and Risk Management and discussed this issue. To date PPS has refused to put AEDs in all the schools. Donations were offered so money should not be an issue.

I also tried to contact the new Superintendent and was told she

was too busy and someone else would get back to me and I have not yet been contacted. I have worked and continue to work tirelessly to save lives and families the devastation that my family has suffered from this loss especially if it can be prevented.

My concern is that Portland Public Schools seems to be reluctant in putting these units in all of their schools while all the surrounding school districts have done this immediately.

As you may know, just recently a life was saved at Bally Fitness by one of these machines which is one of many stories of survival in our community since my son's death.

I am deeply saddened that after my son's death on one of PPS's courts, and out of all school districts, they are refusing these machines despite donations being offered.

It leads me to believe that not only is PPS not taking the loss of my son's life seriously but also not concerned about the remaining children, teachers and staff that are in these school buildings with the potential to need these machines.

I pray that another life doesn't have to be lost for PPS to get on board. One life was truly enough and three years is more than enough time to realize this.

I am asking that others support me in asking the question "why?" I plead for your help with making the district accountable to citizens of this community their service and that contribute their tax dollars for these schools to continue to operate.

Christeen Johnson is the mother of Eddie Barnett Jr. and the founder of the Eddie Barnett Jr. Foundation, Inc. Visit the foundation website at ebfjfoundation.org.

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Week in The Review

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Election Ballots On Way

People of color find a political fit

By James M. Cox... Ballots in the November General Election will be mailed on Friday and may be returned on any day...

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Portland Observer Established 1970 USPS 959-680 - 4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211. Editor-in-Chief, Publisher: Charles H. Washington. Editor: Michael Leighton. Distribution Manager: Mark Washington. Creative Director: Paul Neufeldt. Advertising: Kathy Linder. Subscriptions are \$60.00 per year. 503-288-0033 FAX 503-288-0015. Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208.

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