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Pettigrew seeks bi-partisan approach to political pandering, ass-kissing

By Lee Cruce, Partisan Staff Reporter

Rep. Wayne Pettigrew accused his fellow Republicans this week of actively trying to undermine his political career in retaliation for his support of all Democratic proposals that attract media attention.

"This mean-spirited attack simply reduces Republican chances of gaining control of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and illustrates the need for the type of non-partisan leadership I provide in front of cameras each and every day," Pettigrew said.

The Edmond Republican first suspected his popularity in the Republican caucus had ebbed when he was reassigned to a new office that he later learned doubled as a public bathroom/leper colony.

He said those suspicions were further confirmed when he was given cleanup duty in the office.

Republicans said the relocation was strategic.

"He's pretty much full of shit, so craphole seemed like the perfect office," said sixty-five representatives who agreed to speak only on the promise of anonymity.

Pettigrew said tensions worsened this week when all 47 of his Republican colleagues signed an endorsement letter mass-mailed throughout his district urging voters to support "anyone but Pettigrew."

Fundraising woes have also plagued Pettigrew's re-election efforts since he learned the Chickasaw Nation's pledge of contributions in return for a vote to legalize Las Vegas gambling in elementary schools would be paid in "smart cards" for tribal slot machines.

Pettigrew said his requests for financial contributions from other Republicans have been met with stony silence at best and maniacal laughter in other cases.

"I think the Republicans may not be happy with me," he said.



Rep. Wayne Pettigrew, R-Edmond and D-Edmond, when it's to his advantage

In response, the House Republican caucus issued a press packet titled: "No Shit Sherlock: The case against braking for Wayne Pettigrew in the Parking Lot."

The packet included papers and instructions that would allow Pettigrew to change political parties.

Democrats countered with their own release titled: For the love of God, stay Republican.

Pettigrew said Republican hostility appeared to coincide with his string of 3,471 consecutive votes with the Democratic majority, a feat not matched since former state Rep. Fred Brooks, R-Tulsa, was indicted for bribery and kickbacks in the 1970s.

Democratic leaders openly acknowledge that Pettigrew has become a more dependable vote for their positions than Rep. Roy McClain, D-Tulsa and approximately 30 other members of the 52-member Democratic caucus.

Prior to becoming the Democrats' favorite Republican, Pettigrew was best known for legislation calling for Oklahoma to secede from the Union. That bill would have also replaced the current state flag with a Confederate Battle Flag that incorporated the image of "the finger" being flown at passers-by. Pettigrew's other notable legislative contribution is a bill to mandate the use of 1940s-era civics books in public schools that refer to the civil rights struggle as "trouble ahead."

In spite of receiving the cold shoulder from many Republicans in recent days, Pettigrew said he believes the "silent majority" still admire his "no nonsense" approach to pandering.

"I really think I could be speaker of the House someday," he said.

His colleagues appear bewildered by that optimism.

"How can a man with such bizarre hair be so oblivious to consistent criticism, ridicule and hurling of feces?" asked Rep. Lance Cargill, R-Harrah.

Others phrased their views in theological terms, with Catholic members seeing Pettigrew as punishment for their sins and Protestants viewing him as a sign of the impending Apocalypse.

"Wayne Pettigrew has an ego of Biblical proportions," said Rep. Forrest Claunch, R-Midwest City and noted Biblical scholar, "and there can be little doubt that he is the anti-Christ."

Sen. Riley busted for passing notes during session

Sen. Nancy Riley, R-Tulsa, was busted last week for passing notes to Sen. Kathleen Wilcoxson, R-Oklahoma City.

Senate President Pro Tempore Cal Hobson, D-Lexington, observed Riley passing the note during debate for the governor's cigarette tax proposal. Following acknowledgement of her action, Riley was asked to read the note before the entire Senate.

"Oh my God," read Riley's note, "Jim (Reynolds, R-Oklahoma City), is so hot. I think I'm going to ask him to go to the pro-family rally this weekend, or maybe to the mall."

Following the praise of Reynolds, the note turned to inquiries about Wilcoxson's weekend plans, specifically whether or not she was going to get her hair done. The message closed with a brief criticism of the dress worn by Sen. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa.

Riley said she was "totally embarrassed" by the public reading and vowed to criticize Hobson's hair in future notes.

Panel recommends feeding Carroll Fisher to shoeless orphans

The committee investigating embattled insurance commissioner Carroll Fisher has wrapped up their investigation.

Rep. Opio Toure, D-Oklahoma City chaired the commission, and said that, rather than calling for Fisher's impeachment, they will simply feed him to a collection of shoeless orphans.

Fisher is facing accusations that he stole money from a charity he operated. The charity was supposed to provide shoes to poor kids

Republicans say Fisher collected money, but spent it on booze and hookers. Democrats merely assume he spent it on booze and hookers.