

# ***Alaska Dispatch***

## Sarah Palin in 2012? What about Don Young?

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Sure, Sarah Palin has the Paris-Hilton celebrity and the train-wreck gift for attracting attention at the moment. But what about U.S. Rep. Don Young, the man with real populist chops?

Let's consider ...

### **Malapropisms**

Palin has attracted international attention, the one thing she does best, for coining the word "refudiate."

Congressman Young long ago coined the word "bladderdash."

Refudiate? You don't even know whether to pronounce that re-FUDD-e-ate or re-FEUD-e-ate unless you [watch Palin mouth it](#) on Sean Hannity's show on Fox News. But what does it mean? Let's re-feud? Let's have another argument? Could Palin just have been having a re-Freudian moment?

Bladderdash! Now that's a word. Is anyone having any trouble pronouncing or figuring out what bladderdash means?

### **Toughness**

Palin staged a cyberwar of words with late-night talk show host David Letterman for making a joke about one of the Palin daughters. There weren't even any blows exchanged.

Rep. Young stuck his hand in a leghold trap to show fellow Congressmen and everyone else that traps don't kill people, they trap animals and members of Congress.

### **Fiscal responsibility**

Palin was for a bridge to nowhere before she was against a bridge to nowhere. She robbed from the rich oil companies to give poor Alaskans (and those with money, too) a \$1,200 energy rebate check. Venezuela's Hugo Chavez was proud. As governor she grew state government while saying she wanted to shrink state government. Her fiscal views are hard to discern, but she calls them "common sense conservatism."

Young has backed a lot of bridges to nowhere. He's a big fan of all bridges, all roads and most hydropower projects. He thinks they are important infrastructure for all of America and has suggested paying for their construction with a tax on gasoline. Granted, Republicans don't like any tax, but they do like roads on which to drive their cars. And if Americans have to have taxes, isn't a gas tax better than an income tax? Doesn't pumping \$10 per gallon gas into the tank of that Hummer make the ultimate statement about success? "I'm driving this Hummer because I've made it and I can!"

### **Environment**

Palin has fought the Endangered Species Act, told Alaska state biologists to shoot wolves from airplanes, and called global warming studies "snake oil science" after she called global warming a threat to coastal Alaska.

Young has fought environmentalists themselves, pulled the trigger on wolves and just about everything else, called global warming a "scam" from the start, and said the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is "not an environmental disaster, and I will say that again and again because it is a natural phenomenon." He was talking about the oil there, by the way, not the way it was spilled, because Young has always been a closet environmentalist. He started his career by fighting the proposed Rampart Dam across the Yukon River, and his plan to improve America's road and bridge infrastructure was aimed at making transportation more efficient, which would mean less CO2 pumped into the air. Not to mention that his proposed gas tax (opposed even by environmentalists) would have cut U.S. gasoline consumption because, to date, the only thing that has been shown to reduce American gas consumption is a big spike in the price of fuel.

### **Political experience**

Palin served on the Wasilla city council before getting elected mayor of that Anchorage suburb former state Sen. Ben Stevens, R-Anchorage, once wrongly called the home of all of Alaska's "trailer trash." She then failed in a bid for lieutenant governor before getting elected governor with less than 50 percent of the vote in a three-way race. Then she ran for vice president, while still governor, and lost. She took the loss so hard she came home and quit the governor's job only halfway through her term.

Young was elected mayor of Fort Yukon, which for those who don't know is in Alaska, not Canada. He left the mayor's job for a seat in the state House. He was twice elected to the House, and then won a seat in the state Senate. Then he got elected to the U.S. House in 1974, and he has steadfastly refused to quit. He has served 18 terms, and it looks now like he'll be elected to another. He is not a quitter.

### **Electability**

Palin is one for three in running for anything bigger than mayor of Podunk. She lost a bid for Alaska lite gov, won the governor's job with 48.3 percent of the vote, and lost the bid for VP. She has proved a master at angering liberals.

Young is 18 for 19 in races for offices bigger than mayor of Podunk. He lost his first bid for the House to Rep. Nick Begich, who was at the time missing and believed dead in a plane crash. The plane was never found. Begich, the father of sitting U.S. Sen. Mark Begich, was later declared legally deceased, and Young was named to fill his seat. Young has been an Alaska powerhouse ever since. Though counted down and out in several elections since 1974, Young has come back from the dead more times than Dracula. And he established himself a master at angering liberals when Palin was still in grade school.

### **Appearance**

Palin, once named "America's Hottest Governor" by Alaska Magazine, is a sexy, smiling, premature grandmother in hot, red pumps.

Young is a bearish, sometimes cranky grampa in a gray flannel suit.

Who would you want dealing with Russia's Vladimir Putin if he, as Palin [warned on national television](#), "rears his head and comes into the air space of the United States of America, where do they go? It's Alaska. It's just right over the border. It is from Alaska that we send those out to make sure that an eye is being kept on this very powerful nation, Russia, because they are right there, they are right next to our state."

## **Hair**

Palin's is spectacular.

Young's? OK, Palin has better hair.

## **First Amendment**

Palin believes everyone, but especially what she calls the "lamestream media", should "stop making things up," which sounds, when you think about it, like some sort of attack on freedom of speech.

Young thinks everyone should speak their piece, preferably loudly. Over the years, just about everything imaginable has been said and written about Young in Alaska and out. He's told plenty of reporters and editors they were full of s\*\*\*, but he's never suggested the media -- even the virtual sort -- shut up. He's all for free speech.

## **Second Amendment**

Palin claims to be a hunter and shooter, but [doesn't exactly look comfortable with firearms](#).

Young handles a rifle, shotgun or assault weapon as comfortably as most Americans do a spoon.

## **Sex appeal**

OK, never mind.

## **Real-world Experience**

Palin won the Miss Wasilla competition, attended four colleges in five years, tried her luck briefly as a sportscaster, got married, got pregnant, got elected to the Wasilla City Council and then spent the rest of her life in various forms of government.

Young served in the military, then moved to the Alaska Bush in 1959 before the territory became a state, when making a living was almost as hard as it was for young Abraham Lincoln in Illinois. Young lived north of Arctic Circle in the frozen Interior. He was a carpenter, a fisherman, a trapper, a gold miner, a school teacher and a licensed tugboat captain. He still holds the mariner's license.

Palin has a driver's license.

Now, who looks like the better presidential timber?

**Source: *Alaska Dispatch***