



• With February came the presidential primaries, and with the primaries came a tortured press corps and an absolutely frolicsome challenge to President George Herbert Walker Bush, whose only alibi is that for three years he has been asleep. What pains the press corps as it trundles across America in the wake of all these would-be Messiahs is that its consensus journalists sense that a fast-talking Snopes from Arkansas could be as much fun as JFK, namely, Boy Clinton. Yet is it politically correct to be JFK today, and how is one to respond to Boy Clinton's evasion of the draft? Then there is the Republican race. Mr. Pat Buchanan is having a ball. Is that proper? And what about President Bush? The entire press corps loathes him, but it needs someone to love.

• On the campaign trail this past month everyone felt a little empty except for Boy Clinton and Pat Buchanan. Is that right? And how will both of these men respond to the dynamic politics of Mr. Fernando Quispe? He is the leader of Peru's Constitutional Integrationist Movement, which calls upon the United States to annex Peru. "We will have the privilege to taste different brands of soft drinks, paying no more than a dollar for each two-liter bottle," declaims Mr. Quispe. "Our sons will immediately learn English for free, and they will have the opportunity to marry beautiful young American girls." There is the politics of hope!

• At the United Nations, where once Third World animalia growled and Lenin's heirs inveighed, President Boris Yeltsin orated on behalf of more drastic nuclear disarmament and the commingling of American and Russian strategic defense technologies into a "Star Wars" system surpassing even the optimistic visions of President Ronald Reagan. No one laughed. The infallible *Washington Times* revealed on February 3 still more improprieties being perpetrated on Capitol Hill. Apparently employees of the House of Representatives' post office

have been selling cocaine to Capitol Hill staffers with the full knowledge of some of their postal supervisors. What is more, House Postmaster Mr. Robert V. Rota asserts that he was ordered by the powerful wife of House Speaker Thomas Foley to "hush up" recent investigations into this and such other questionable activities as embezzlement, check kiting, and interest-free loans, to say nothing of a 98.6 percent incumbency rate.

• After weeks of mounting tension over the legality of silicone breast implants, the FDA decided to allow their continued use, though only under the most rigorous scrutiny. The decision may have gotten the marplots at the FDA off the hot seat on silicone, but how are they going to handle that alternative bosom enhancer devised by Mr. Peter Brown? Mr. Brown is the retired mechanic from London, England, who would obviate the dangers of silicone with his beautifully designed water-filled brassière. Mr. Brown foresees no problems with our federal bureaucrats, but wait until Mr. Ralph Nader's trial lawyers hear that these bras are being sold to nonswimmers. In idyllic Nanimō, British Columbia, a thousand sports fans turned out to watch 106 nude bungee jumpers—nineteen of them members of the fair sex—yo-yo-jump from a bridge over treacherous rocks and waters made even more treacherous by pollution from butterfly droppings, lichen runoff, and the disgusting habits of corpulent German tourists. Unhappily for the crowd, all jumpers survived. The 1992 Miss USA pageant was won in Wichita, Kansas, by the calypsonian Miss Shannon La Rhea Marketic, 21, after she responded so artfully to the query, "What kind of man would you like to marry?" Chirped Miss La Rhea Marketic: one who has "mastered the art of monogamy." Mahogany is a very dark wood grown in forbidden forests and highly favored in Victorian furniture.

• Julia Child, the laughing TV cook, and her fellow directors at the American Institute of Wine and Food are being sued

by Mr. Daniel Coulter, who charges that he was passed over for the post of executive director of the venerable AIWF because he is an avowed poofter and consumer of pillows. Mr. Daryl Malone, 29, the happily married father of four, ignited controversy in the Liberal camp—setting consumerists against civil libertarians—when he responded to his recent firing by Northwest Nevada Telco by going right to Nevada's Equal Rights Commission and filing a stinging protest. The honey-voiced Mr. Malone had been passing himself off as a woman on Northwest Nevada Telco's widely-respected telephone sex line, and he alleges that he got the boot because of sex discrimination. On February 10, Mr. Mike Tyson, formerly heavyweight champion of the world, was convicted of rape in Indianapolis, and the African tour of pop artiste Mr. Michael Jackson hit a snag when he was spotted holding his nose in the Ivory Coast. Sensitive Ivorians believed that the gesture was meant to indicate the prodigy's displeasure with the Ivory Coast's general stench. Editorialists from the fragrant offices of the daily newspaper *Fraternité Matin* struck back, remarking of Mr. Jackson that "his communication talents are lacking." To which Mr. Jackson's long-time aide, Mr. Bob Jones, replied "Under no circumstance would we be here if we thought your country smelled. . . . You are our roots." On February 14 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, riot police clubbed, whipped, and tear-gassed the singer's screaming fans. Later, members of the country's main opposition rioted, provoking mass arrests and the juggling of chief opposition leader Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, a Jackson supporter and strong advocate of deodorant.

• The Winter Olympics began and ended in Albertville, France, with Germany heading the list of medal-winners. At Huntsville State Penitentiary on February 11, Mr. Johnny Frank Garret, 28, the lank-haired, gap-toothed murderer of a 76-year-old Roman Catholic nun on Hal-

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THE Public Interest

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EDITORS: IRVING KRISTOL • NATHAN GLAZER

MEMORANDUM

To: Irving Kristol and Nathan Glazer
From: Staff
Re: Ideas for upcoming **PUBLIC INTEREST** ad campaign

Here are some possible advertising themes. The only problem will be deciding what to focus on—we really have an embarrassment of riches to work with.

Press mentions

We continue to receive a tremendous amount of press coverage. In just the past year or so, articles from **THE PUBLIC INTEREST** have been repeatedly cited or excerpted in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. In fact, the provocative piece we ran last spring on the WIC food program was featured in all three papers within a one-week period.

Add to this the attention we've received in such diverse venues as the *New Republic*, *New York* magazine, *Science* magazine, the Capitol Hill newspaper *Roll Call*, and major metropolitan newspapers around the country, and our impact on America's public-policy debate should be obvious to potential readers.

Contributors

Probably our strongest suit. An ad should stress that we publish informative, readable articles by leading thinkers on the key issues of the day.

A very partial list of some notable contributors to **THE PUBLIC INTEREST** might include: Fred Barnes, Daniel Bell, Walter Berns, Gordon Crovitz, Terry Eastland, James Fallows, Martin Feldstein, Chester Finn, Jr., Suzanne Garment, Donald Kagan, Charles Krauthammer, Nicholas Lemann, Seymour Martin Lipset, Lawrence Mead, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Charles Murray, Richard John Neuhaus, Norman Ornstein, Isabel Sawhill, Thomas Sowell, Herbert Stein, Andrew Sullivan, George Will, and James Q. Wilson. (Not to mention both of you, of course.)

Readers and testimonials

Our ad should probably point out that **THE PUBLIC INTEREST** is required reading in political science departments and public-policy schools around the country. Then again, we don't want to give the false impression that our readers are all academics. We could explain that top policymakers, journalists, and plain old concerned citizens turn to **THE PUBLIC INTEREST** when they want clear-headed analysis of issues like health care, education, housing, and inner-city crime.

It might be worth underlining our reputation for shattering conventional wisdom. Maybe we could use that quote from *INC.* magazine saying **THE PUBLIC INTEREST** "has published the most levelheaded and myth-piercing articles to be found anywhere on subjects ranging from welfare reform to government inefficiency."

Ahead of the curve

Finally, we should explain that reading **THE PUBLIC INTEREST** is the ideal way to keep abreast both of enduring social-policy debates and of what the new issues will be.

Any ideas on what to use? It seems a shame to waste any of this material. Too bad we can't put it all in one ad!

loween night in 1981, died by lethal injection despite protests from animal rights activists and related humanitarians. Since the Supreme Court adjudged capital punishment constitutional in 1976, 158 individuals of Mr. Garrett's distinction have been officially dispatched to hell, forty-four in progressive Texas. None, however, laid down more eloquent last words. "I'd like to thank my family for loving me," asseverated the latest *cause célèbre* of the anti-capital punishment cabal, "and taking care of me. And the rest of the world can kiss my ass." That's the spirit, jackass. Advocates of term limitation can look to Yarrow Point, Washington, for hope. There the remarkable Mayor Al Erickson, professor of wildlife and public servant, offered to resign when his research ship became stuck in an Antarctic ice sheet, delaying his return to his 975 constituents.

• In education news, Malaysian drug addicts in the northeastern states of Kelantan and Terengganu, who have been experiencing a shortage of heroin and marijuana for months, have found a splendid substitute "high," to wit, inhaling the methane and other natural gases that seep from fresh cow excrement. Without any regard for the privacy of the cows, addicts trail the unfortunate creatures and wait for them to evacuate. Then, according to Deputy Interior Minister Hon. Megat Junid Ayob, these bucolic druggies "quickly put a coconut shell over it [the steaming droppings], and sniff the gas through the hole on top of the shell. . . . You may find the cow dung smelly and awful, but for them it is heaven." Afterwards the coconut shell may be worn as a hat to ward off the strong rays of the sun and preserve happy memories of the good life. Amazingly, Harvard University rejected a request by EuroPacific International to market condoms bearing the school's insignia. The Ku Kluxian mentality has risen up against Mr. Chino Williams, the Pennsylvania State University student who in the campus paper, *Daily Collegian*, told it like it is, calling whites "devils" and "irredeemable racists," and urging fellow fuliginous students to "unite, organize and execute" students who appear threatening. He urged his fellows to carry "three handguns and two rifles, maybe an M-16." The Crisis is Continuing.

—RET

Speech! Speech!

Three cheers for Andrew Ferguson! I believe his wonderful piece "America's New Man" (*TAS*, January 1992) to be the most humorous article to appear in your pages since I began subscribing two years ago. In the fashion of the New Man, I honor him!

—John F. Fielder
Williamstown, Massachusetts

Special thanks to Andrew Ferguson for investing the time and energy to attend a Nerd Man weekend. Just reading about all that thumpin' and whinin' and cryin' by a bunch of goofy girly-men gave me the willies. What those guys need is a weekend of John Wayne movies followed by eight weeks in boot camp at Quantico. If that doesn't cure them, they might as well give it up and go shopping for panty hose. Ho!

—Carl F. Engelhardt
Arlington, Virginia

There are two things wrong with Andrew Ferguson's article. One is that the subject matter is too unimportant for such a lengthy article. That is forgivable.

The other is the incredible amount of obscene words. I have *never* seen anything like it in any publication that has ever been in my house.

Please do not let this happen ever again.

—Dale E. Elliott
Lovington, Illinois

A Public Service Announcement

Your article, "The Real Anita Hill" [by David Brock, *TAS*, March 1992], without any factual basis or justification, defamed a number of innocent people, including our colleague and friend, John Trasviña. From our many years of close association with him, we know him to be scrupulously honest and totally honorable. For your suggestion to the contrary, you owe him and your readers an apology and a retraction.

In one fleeting reference to him in your detailed 15-page [sic] article you imply that John has a poor reputation among Senate staffers and that he could have been responsible for the alleged leaks concerning Anita Hill. Nothing could be further from the truth.

John's reputation on the Hill is excel-

lent and deservedly so. He has worked for more than five years as staff counsel to the Subcommittee on the Constitution of the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate. He is a hard-working, dedicated, and conscientious member of the staff and has the full confidence and respect of his colleagues. In our many years of association with him, we have never known him to be less than fully trustworthy and we have never heard a critical word from anyone about his integrity, honesty, or discretion.

We also know that John, like every other member of the subcommittee staff, never saw or had any access to either Anita Hill's statement or the FBI report prior to the publication of the press accounts on October 6, 1991. There is absolutely no way that he could have played any part in the release to the press of these documents or the contents of them.

As a young lawyer who has devoted his career to public service, John deserves better than to be the target of a cheap and false shot from the press. If your publication and reporter are as concerned about ethical behavior as the article suggests, you should print an apology for the totally unwarranted aspersion to the character and integrity of an honorable person.

—Floyd Fithian, Chief of Staff
Senator Paul Simon

—Susan Kaplan, Chief Counsel
Constitution Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Coming Home

Congratulations on Joshua Muravchik's thorough dissection of the MacArthur Foundation and their programs, which seem to be based on the principle that leftists are the only geniuses around ("MacArthur's Millions," *TAS*, January 1992).

A footnote to the story may be appreciated by your readers. Muravchik mentions that one recipient of MacArthur largesse has been the Sandinista figure Alejandro Bendaña, a Harvard Ph.D. and former head of the Nicaraguan government's foreign ministry. Bendaña was a

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