



● July giveth and July taketh away. This particular July tooketh away the Clintons' last shreds of credibility. It may not be the beginning of the end, but it is the end of the beginning—though the conventional press remains mum. The drama began with congressional Waco and Whitewater hearings. Then on July 22 independent counsel Mr. Kenneth Starr queried former President Bill Clinton about Whitewater. The interview took place in the White House, because Mr. Clinton does not have any place else to live. It lasted three and one-half hours and Mr. Clinton was under oath. The concept "under oath" fascinated the former president, who wanted to know all about its meaning and origins. Is the term binding if one crosses one's fingers? How about second chances? Did Mr. Starr have his secretary out in the other room, the one with the terrific legs? Mr. Starr also took a separate two-hour deposition from the lovely Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Mrs. Clinton, having actually practiced law and related misdemeanors, knew exactly what the term "under oath" means. When she answered Mr. Starr's questions, her eyes moved but her face did not.

● As for the congressional hearings, an ominous prefix crept into news accounts of them within hours, leading thoughtful observers to conclude that something horrible must have happened to the Clinton administration a year or so ago. The conventional press has reported nothing unusual about the administration, but in its accounts of the Whitewater hearings beginning July 18, an alarming number of witnesses had *then* preceding their titles. Thus when the press reported the appearance of Mr. Bernard Nussbaum before Senator Alfonse D'Amato's panel, he was identified as *then*-White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum. Other morose appearances were put in by *then*-Associate Attorney General Webster Hubbell and *then*-Assistant to the President David Watkins. All were asked about *then*-Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster. A disturbing quotation was read from the diary of *then*-deputy

Attorney General Philip B. Heymann. Apparently, right after Mr. Foster's death, while *then*-White House Counsel Nussbaum was hornswoggling investigators, *then*-Deputy Attorney General Heymann asked him, "Do you have anything to hide?"

● Meanwhile, over at the Waco hearings *then*-Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen testified, as did *then*-Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman and *then*-Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Steve Higgins. What is the cause of all these *thens*? What ghastly fate befalls the friends and associates of the smartest, most progressive, and best connected presidential couple in American history? Is there a virus at work, or a hex? Former White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers is booked for driving under the influence of Demon Rum. Arkansas Governor Jim Tucker is indicted and on July 8 pleads with U.S. District Judge Henry Woods for a dismissal of his case. Just before that Commerce Secretary Ron Brown becomes the seventh administration figure to come under investigation by an independent counsel, as Mr. Daniel S. Pearson is appointed. Half a dozen of the First Couple's associates have been indicted or are plea-bargaining. Even White House aide Mr. George Stephanopoulos is not immune. In July he began appearing publicly with what looked like a small black furry animal affixed to his jaw. No one from the animal rights movement has yet complained, and Mr. Stephanopoulos insists that it is a beard made necessary by an outbreak of skin irritation. But the thing is too shabby to be a beard, and from its tattered condition it must have suffered horribly before its death.

● Conservative talk show hosts spent much of the month guffawing at Minority Leader Richard Gephardt for referring to the free market and those who prosper from it as "those who have prospered and profited from life's lottery and thus have a moral obligation to share their good fortune." The Hon. Gephardt had no snappy riposte, but a

judicial decision in Portland, Maine, may shed light on what he meant by "life's lottery." The Maine supreme court ruled that Mrs. Jeannine Pelletier, a golfer who hit herself in the face with her own golf ball, can collect the \$40,000 awarded her in damages by a jury. Possibly the Hon. Gephardt's economic theorists are tort lawyers and the felicitous judges of Maine's supreme court. The United States recognized Vietnam, and Mrs. Clinton's changes in hair styles continued to keep pace with her husband's changes in policy towards Bosnia. Mr. Rodney G. King was again arrested in Los Angeles, apparently after a spousal dispute; and Mr. Roger Dale Stafford became the nation's 288th person to be executed since the 1976 Supreme Court ruling favoring the death penalty. The felicitous event took place at Oklahoma State Penitentiary. No information is available on Mr. Stafford's last meal, but he did announce, "I'd like to tell the world that you're seeing an innocent man murdered." Whom he might have had in mind is unclear, as he was found guilty of executing an Air Force couple and their 12-year-old son in 1978, and thereupon gunning down six employees of an Oklahoma City steak house after herding them into a meat locker.

● After ninety-two days of testimony and fifty-eight witnesses, the prosecution rested its case in the O.J. Simpson trial, but that does not mean America is free of the ludicrous image of Judge Lance Ito. He will now alternately scowl and josh, solemnize and pratfall, through the next six weeks while the defense makes its case. Wags on both sides of the Atlantic had another month of laughs at the expense of Mr. Hugh Grant, the British actor. Last month Los Angeles vice squad officer Miss Cory Palka and a colleague introduced themselves at the window of his car upon noticing that he was being fellated by Miss Devine Brown, a local prostitute of unwholesome reputation. They charged him with "lewd conduct," notwithstanding Officer Palka's admission that he was "very embarrassed." In New York City Mr.

Kenneth D. Cotton, a high-school teacher fully in touch with Clintonian moral philosophy, was arrested for allegedly demanding a bribe from a student seeking a passing grade. But all the news does not waft of decline and decadence. In Topeka, Kansas, several men pounced on a suspected purse snatcher and pummeled him almost unto death. Said Donna Ortega, the killjoy who performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the cad, "He was wrong to steal the purse, but he didn't deserve to be beaten almost to death." Says who?

● One of Washington's premier Power Couples is splitsky. According to the *New York Post's* authoritative "Page Six," the Hon. Bob Torricelli of New Jersey's 9th Congressional District is letting his much-ballyhooed relationship with Miss Bianca Jagger lapse owing to repeated scheduling difficulties. His life is fraught with multitudinous do-good campaigns, as is hers. Since her celebrated divorce sixteen years ago, Miss Jagger has championed human rights, nude sun bathing, and low-fat diets. She has also diligently pursued powerful men, a previous one being the Hon. Christopher Dodd. Unfortunately her hunt has left an aura of tackiness to

her reputation, and the joke around Capitol Hill is that she has been picked up by so many powerful men that she has developed handles. The boring and very liberal *New York Newsday* has been killed off, prompting Mr. Murray Kempton, its tiresome lead columnist, to lament, "I don't know what to say." It is an admission that was long overdue.

● In sporting news Mr. Pete Sampras won his third straight Wimbledon, and Mr. John Daly won the British Open. In an unrelated incident, Mr. Lorenzo Neal, the highly regarded New Orleans Saints fullback, was stabbed in an altercation at a party. Later in the month he was charged with drunken driving after ramming an off-duty police officer's car in Fresno, California. Mr. Joey Buttafuoco, who the newspapers report is still on probation for statutory rape, was fined \$1,715 for soliciting sex from a Los Angeles undercover policewoman. The papers did not report what professional athletic team he plays for. From Moscow comes word that Mrs. Viktoriya Brezhnev has passed on to her reward. The wife of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, Mrs. Brezhnev usually remained remote from the spotlight and was known for her borscht.

● Intelligence documents released on July 11 revealed conclusively that all those 1950s American folk songs were wrong: the Rosenbergs did spy for the Soviets and assist Uncle Joe Stalin in acquiring atomic secrets. The trial of a rising member of the Black Caucus on charges of criminal sexual assault began at the end of July in Chicago. The proceedings against the Hon. Mel Reynolds, an Illinois Democrat, began with the prosecution's readings of taped telephone conversations between the defendant and an underage girl, but Mr. Reynolds' lawyer explained that his client "does like to talk sex on the telephone. It is a turn-on to him." Maybe Abraham Lincoln and Daniel Webster would have done the same thing if they had telephones. The Hon. Reynolds is another Rhodes Scholar. His wife and three children were not in the courtroom. Yet the Crisis does not always worsen. White House spokesman Mr. Mike McCurry announced that Mr. Clinton was sorry if he and Vice President Al Gore had inconvenienced travelers at the Portland, Oregon, airport when their motorcade was delayed as the boys stopped for a "brief shopping spree."

—RET



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## Kara Hultgreen's Times

As a reporter for an independent weekly newspaper that closely follows the Navy, I was so disappointed to find a glaring inaccuracy in John Corry's article "The Death of Kara Hultgreen" (TAS, June 1995).

Mr. Corry notes that the Navy's Mishap Report was leaked to several news organizations, which took little notice. To the contrary, *Navy Times* received a copy of the MIR and reported its conclusions quickly and responsibly. Unlike most media reports on the MIR, our story noted the similarities between its conclusions and those included earlier in the "JAGMAN" report. We also put the full text of the MIR on line.

Military City Online, a part of America Online, is operated by the Army Times Publishing Company, which owns *Navy Times*. It was the decision of the editors at *Navy Times* to put the MIR online, not "whoever leaked it to the news organizations," as stated in the article.

Since publishing the MIR, we have received many letters and commentaries condemning us for this "irresponsible," "contemptible," and "unprofessional" decision. We stand by the decision, however, as both responsible journalism and a responsible use of on-line technology.

—Becky Garrison  
Staff writer, *Navy Times*  
Springfield, Virginia

Thanks to you and John Corry for bringing out the truth about "The Death of Kara Hultgreen." I can assure you that thousands of old fighter pilots, those who know a hammerhead stall from a falling leaf, saw right through that 4-second video the Navy let out before the media smoke screen was in place. We saw pilot error from beginning to end.

We saw an LSO desperately waving off a pilot who was frozen at the controls. The pilot finally did respond, by jamming on full throttle and killing the left engine. (Rudder didn't kill the engine; throttle did. You can replicate that in the family car.) The right engine assumed full thrust, pulling the right wing forward and causing the aircraft to yaw and roll to the left. The rest was inevitable.

Women may or may not be qualified to serve as carrier-based fighter pilots.

Kara Hultgreen was not. Responsibility for her fate rests at least in part on such feminists as Pat Schroeder and their femininny followers.

—T.E. Altgilbers  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

I believe John Corry made several errors when he continually stated the engine "stalled." I believe the Navy's version is the correct one: the engine "failed." Trying to maintain a "nose up" or "level" altitude when there is a loss of power causes an aircraft, or more specifically, the wing, to stall (more drag than lift was created), which in turn causes the aircraft to pitch nose down. Adding rudder would cause a normal aircraft to "yaw"; however, in stalled flight, this could cause a roll or (given enough altitude) a spin. This condition can't be changed unless opposite rudder is applied and the nose is forced down, allowing the plane to actually fly again. Obviously Lt. Hultgreen didn't have enough altitude to complete this maneuver.

This version, simplistic as it may sound as I am not aware of the entire details, explains what a "stalled" aircraft is as opposed to a stalled engine. A "stalled" aircraft can't fly, it drops like a rock. Although his Hultgreen column was a good piece of writing, Mr. Corry should have been aware that many aviators would be reading his article and he should be "aviationally correct" when the use of terms unfamiliar to him are involved.

—R. Winczura  
Chilliwack, British Columbia

## John Corry replies:

I regret that I did not give the *Navy Times* credit for putting the MIR online, but the rest of Ms. Garrison's complaint leaves me baffled. I wrote that the MIR attracted little attention in the press, which was true. And if a *Navy Times* story noted the similarities between the MIR and the public "JAGMAN" report, I don't think Ms. Garrison should boast about it. My story was about the discrepancies between the two. Meanwhile, I have no intention of arguing with R. Winczura, except to point out that the Navy pilots I spoke to all said the engine stalled.

## You're Gonna Make It After All

Kudos to James Bovard ("The Lame Game," TAS, July 1995) for showing just how big a monstrosity the Americans With Disabilities Act really is! While the listing of ludicrous court cases is enough to make one gag, Mr. Bovard only scratches the surface by not reporting on the *threatened* law suits that haven't made it to court, but nonetheless may have an incredible chilling effect on businesses. Allow me a personal example.

While working as the distribution supervisor for MTM Enterprises, I received a call from an activist claiming to represent an organization for the hearing-impaired. He demanded to know why "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" was not closed-captioned when seen on cable television. I explained that the hearing impaired were important viewers to us, which is why all of our *current* shows are in fact closed-captioned. However, "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" was produced in the 1970s, before captioning was an industry standard. To put closed-captioning on the entire series now would cost us over \$50,000 as well as the cable broadcaster \$100,000 to reformat their tapes.

Apparently, this was no excuse. The caller cited a passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act, which supposedly requires all prime time television programming to be closed-captioned. I responded that I was unfamiliar with this passage, but that it seemed rather silly. If true, then the adult cable channels would have to close-caption all of their shows from 8 to 11 p.m. To my astonishment, rather than agreeing with me on the silliness of the passage, the caller said he would investigate possible legal action against those cable broadcasters as well!

I guess I was one of the lucky ones, since I did not receive a follow-up call from this self-appointed compassion crusader. I was also never able to confirm the precise contents of the Americans With Disabilities Act (I don't have a free month to spare in order to read it). Should special interests pursue such flapdoodle with legal consent, however, the hearing-impaired may sleep well at night knowing that they will be able to read "Oooh!", "Aaah!", and

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