



Lost wallets and last names; Arlen, Marlin, and Moran

Though achieved at considerable cost to someone close to him, November was Our President's best month since April and the Oklahoma City bombing. The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin returned him to the world stage, Democrats didn't lose as badly as expected in the off-year elections (not that he campaigned for any of them), Colin Powell said he wouldn't run, the budget standoff showed him to be a real tough guy, and not missing a beat he moved to send American boys (not a draft dodger among them) to enforce the partition of Bosnia. What fueled this amazing new confidence? Experts say it was state-of-the-art monitoring of opinion polls. Culture-watchers, however, saw something else: the new Clintonite movie *The American President*, in which Michael Douglas plays a charming, caring liberal with all the appropriate Bill props, including a young daughter and an environmentalist mistress who in real life is Warren Beatty's wife. Except this Bill-clone happens to be a widower—so just like that, Hillary's a goner. Myself, I expected Bill to use divorce to improve his '96 chances.

All of a sudden Big Bill's become the dominant figure on the world scene, emulated in style and substance by every major politician worthy of a sideshow. The presidential runoff in Poland featured two Clinton types, one saying anything to stay alive, the other smooth-talking his way over his checkered past, even as his wife was revealed to be profiting from sweetheart insider dealings. Now Mr. Walesa is accusing Mr. Kwasniewski of voter fraud. In Korea, the Arkansas of Asia, the prototypical new democrat Roh Tae Woo has been charged with carrying on an all-too-cozy relationship with his state's business moguls; he accumulated a slush fund worth about \$650 million. Roh has since apologized: "I would like to express my bottomless regrets again to the people," he said on Korean TV, in Korean I hope. In Lyon, France, the former communications minister Alain Carignon was sentenced to three years for accepting gifts from a major utility in return for a water privatization contract. "They're trying to set an example among politicians and they've picked on me," the incorrigible M. Carignon said, sounding more like Jim Guy Tucker, come to think of it. As for those who like their Clinton dark, in Rome the already deeply-in-trouble former prime minister, Giulio Andreotti, is to be prosecuted for complicity in the 1979 murder of an investigative journalist.



Bob's still Strange:
honky-Tonkin in Hanoi



Poland's president-elect:
a Hillary problem?

Former Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara lived up to his middle name once again, traveling to Hanoi and choosing the Marine Corps' birthday and 1995's Veterans Day, November 10, to apologize for the Johnson administration's response to the Gulf of Tonkin incident. The target of Mr. Mike Wallace's latest obscenity-driven tantrum was the genial Marlin Fitzwater, the former White House press secretary who in his recent memoir calls Wallace's "60 Minutes" show "liberal." Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter, who never quite recovered from the one honest job he did questioning Dr. Anita Hill, withdrew from presidential contention. No longer will we hear Pat Buchanan say on the campaign trail, "The last poll had Arlen at 1 percent, and that was with a 3 percent margin of error." Paleo Pat could be cheered by other news. The *New York Times* reported that "fewer foreigners are choosing U.S. colleges." In Bratislava, Slovakia, parliament passed new restrictions on the use of Hungarian. At a city council meeting in Fullerton, California, government reform activist Mr. Snow Hume, questioning the residency status of Mayor Julie Sa, spoke to her thus: "To put it in English that you will understand, especially you, Ms. Sa—You no sleep here, you no be on council." Ms. Sa is of Korean and Chinese descent. In Congress, Rep. James P. Moran, the biggest jerk in a dwindling Democratic delegation, shoved Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham against a wall during a debate over Bosnia. Keep it up, Jim, and we'll have you declared an honorary Bosnian Serb.

Scientists at a Society of Vertebrate Paleontology conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, pondered how 20-foot, 6-to-8-ton *Tyrannosaurus rex* defended himself with arms that were only three feet long. Haven't they ever watched a kangaroo box? In Joliet, Illinois, 47-year-old child killer and rapist George Del Vecchio was executed on November 22, less than three weeks after undergoing an angioplasty in the wake of a heart attack. There are new grounds for Mr. O. J. Simpson's low standing in the public eye. According to Sgt. Bob Belair, his former jailer, "I believe he went like seven days without a shower." Lucky for O.J. that his jailer wasn't Joe Arpaio, the sheriff at Arizona's Maricopa County Jail who sees to it that inmates are now issued shocking pink underwear and socks upon checking in. The idea is to cut down on theft when they check out. That doubtless wouldn't be a problem in Seattle, Washington, which currently leads the nation in returned lost wallets.

Any concern that Mr. Michael Kinsley's new Internet magazine might not find a niche was allayed when Ms.'s Antonia Allegra and Sally Bernstein were introduced as co-hosts of Wine Valley Radio, the first Internet wine radio station. Beginning January 1 it will be coming at you from Napa Valley, California. In even better news of this sort, with the decline of smoking Detroit is moving to make the "ash receiver" optional equipment, kind of like what air-conditioning used to be. What next? Smokeless interstates? According to Penn State historian Gary Cross, American parents are giving their children more toys than the latter ever wish for. Yes, and there's no Santa Claus. Although it's not clear how this will play on the Internet, a study conducted by Dr. J. Michael Gaziano of the Harvard Medical School has found that beer drinking is as effective as wine drinking in preventing heart disease. The National Basketball Association season is in full swing, and league doormat the Washington "Bullets" announced they are looking for a new name, one with less violent connotations. "Blanks" might be a good choice.

At times it's best not to ask what's in a name. In Tampa, Florida, a federal judge has ordered Domino's Pizza to pay a former worker \$237,000 in a reverse sexual-discrimination case. The aggressor was a supervisor surnamed Carrier, while her victim was a fellow surnamed Papa. The Hooters restaurant chain



Was he the 22nd or the 24th U.S. President?

announced it will not abide by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's recommendation that it use male waiters alongside its world-famous waitresses. Is that the chain that serves the blowfish? In a study conducted by the *Dartmouth Review*, 79 percent of that college's diversity-driven faculty turned out to be registered Democrats. The future editor of the *Review*, a 16-year-old high school student in Downey, California, was suspended for two days for coming to class on Halloween wearing a condom costume. So much for playground safety. In Würzburg, Germany, 22-year-old U.S. Army specialist Michael G. New of Conroe, Texas, remains in deep trouble for refusing to attach the U.N.

insignia to his uniform before leaving with his unit for a peace-keeping mission in the Balkans. He faces reduction in rank, six months' confinement, loss of pay, and a bad conduct discharge.

Motown legend Junior Walker died in Battle Creek, Michigan, as did cow-punk rocker Daniel McLain in Whistler, British Columbia. He was better known as Country Dick Montana. The actor, producer, and director Francis Grover Cleveland passed on in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. He was 92. His father, the twenty-second and twenty-fourth President of the United States, died in 1908, when Francis was 5. It takes old folks like those to remind us that we're still a very young country.

—WP



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O'Leary's Cow

White House chief of staff **Leon Panetta** could barely contain his glee when Secretary of Energy **Hazel O'Leary** was caught by the *Wall Street Journal* spending \$46,500 in government funds to hire media consultants to monitor and rate reporters. Behind Panetta's quick demand for a full explanation lay a stormy relationship between O'Leary and the Clinton administration, which had deteriorated to the point that O'Leary would no longer consider using personnel sent over by the White House. According to one Energy official, O'Leary has even taken to referring to the president in very off-color terms.

Now she is accusing her former public affairs director **Michael Gauldin** of setting her up. After a bitter feud with O'Leary, Gauldin transferred to the Department of Interior, where he now serves as public affairs director for **Bruce Babbitt**. A long-time member of the Arkansas crowd, Gauldin worked as press secretary to Gov. Bill Clinton for the last six years of his governorship. Even if Gauldin did rat on his former boss, though, it's unlikely he

was the sole reason the monitoring scandal was finally broken in the press. Public affairs staffers in Energy had been bragging about it to other cabinet agencies for months.

Essential Commerce

Department of Commerce workers weren't among the federal workers furloughed during November's budget impasse, which was good news for **Blockbuster**. Sources at the department report that colleagues spent the week cleaning out the shelves of video-rental stores in Northwest Washington and holding group viewings during working hours. "Some offices held marathon showings," one Commerce staffer said. "One office showed the *Godfather* trilogy. Another showed all the *Star Wars* films." Other popular films: *Dumb and Dumber*, *While You Were Sleeping*, and *Batman Forever*. Meanwhile, phones at Commerce went unanswered; as many a reporter, financial analyst, and lobbyist dependent on Commerce data found out, even the fax-on-demand (accessed by the caller's machine) was disconnected.

This, after Secretary **Ron Brown** claimed he couldn't attend the economic summit in Japan because saving his department from the budget axe was more important. Pass the popcorn, Ron!

Boxer's Corner

Three days before Congress and Clinton temporarily settled the government furlough, California Sen.

Dianne Feinstein informed the White House that she could not support the White House position in the budget

debate, and that she was leaning toward backing the Republican proposal. Sources say the White House asked her colleague **Barbara Boxer** to lobby the wayward senator, but Boxer refused, citing a rift between the two. Seems they have not spoken publicly or privately to each other since Feinstein gave a warm farewell speech to outgoing Sen. **Bob Packwood** on the Senate floor.

Indeed, Boxer has been livid at her California colleague for taking relatively moderate stances on a number of issues—supporting securities-litigation reform, favoring tax reform, even backing criticism of the FBI over Ruby Ridge. Word in southern California is that some of Feinstein's campaign-finance people have been telling moderate donors that their candidate might switch to the Republican Party before her run in 2000. They are concerned Feinstein will find it difficult to tap into the traditional Democratic fundraising pool, particularly since the liberal Boxer will be seeking funds at the same time for

what is expected to be a serious challenge in 1998 from Republican Rep. **Christopher Cox** or state attorney general **Dan Lungren**.



Archer Bows

House Ways and Means chairman **Bill Archer** is still wondering why he was not given a

more active role in the budget debate. House leaders failed to invite him to several key negotiations with the White House. Some say Archer needs to be more politically aggressive in the way he uses his Ways and Means bully pulpit, à la **Dan Rostenkowski**, now awaiting trial in Chicago.

Bossie's Boss

A *New York Times Magazine* cover story by "reporter" **Jason DeParle** claimed to reveal the motive behind the mauling of Dole chief of staff **Sheila Burke** by the "conservative attack machine." DeParle crowed at one point that he had uncovered the sources of all the mud slung at Burke—Sen. Lauch Faircloth staffer **David Bossie** and Bossie's former boss, newsletter writer **Floyd Brown**. What DeParle missed is that both Bossie and Brown are former Dole staffers who worked under Burke.

When conservative senators pressed Dole on why he allowed Burke to air her grievances in such a public manner, Dole claimed he

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