



Bill finally enlists! But beware the suicide potato

What a month May proved to be for the political genius in the White House! Just a month after the death of Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, President Bill Clinton scored another political coup when chief of naval operations Admiral Jeremy Boorda committed suicide, thus enabling our youthful president to kick off another brilliant string of funereal appearances. He visited the bereaved family and sobbed. Shoulders shaking and lips quivering, he appeared before network paraphernalia to call for the lowering of flags. He bawled about how very much the admiral meant to the whole Clinton family. Then the forty-second president lumbered over to the National Cathedral to pump out his most spectacular spate of tears yet. Mrs. Clinton, too, sniffled a bit, though she was again somewhat menacing, much as a bullwhip hung on the wall of one's powder room is somewhat menacing. Appearing on the Larry King show in vaguely military garb, she insinuated that the deceased was actually a victim of the same press cabal that knocked off Vince Foster—what's this about "conspiracy theorists on the right," Hillary? At any rate, Mr. Clinton's public bawling was more successful. He is the first politician in modern times to radiate charisma while acting the crybaby. Moreover, this time the network cameras did not catch him joshing and larfing with his cronies between charnel gigs, a gaffe that marred his performance during the Brown requiems.

In an attempt to improve his dismal ratings against the First Bawler, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole ended his thirty-five-year congressional career to campaign as "just a Kansan, just an American." His ratings remained platy, and so confident did the Bawler become that late in the month he and his clever lawyer, Mr. Robert S. Bennett, sought to delay Mrs. Paula Corbin Jones's sexual harassment (read: indecent exposure) suit by claiming that as commander-in-chief of the armed forces Mr. Clinton is insulated from prosecution by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940. Thus Mr. Clinton becomes the first president in history to claim both the dispensations of a World War II soldier and those of a 1960's Vietnam draft dodger. The First Soldier did get some competition in the chutzpah sweepstakes when Mr. O.J. Simpson spoke at England's Oxford University. Mr. Simpson, whom the astounding Rev. Jesse Jackson



Which one's the big fat idiot?



Don't compare him to Nixon

has recommended as an expert on marital strife, presented himself to the assembled students as a Gandhi-like defender of the rights of the fuliginous, though he spared his audience the late Mr. Gandhi's gibberish about the salutary consequences of bird food and enemas. When told by an exceptionally imbecilic student that the last great American to speak at the Oxford Union was former president Richard Nixon, the Butcher of Hollywood Boulevard expressed resentment at being put "in the same bracket as Nixon." No one laughed, and unlike during Mr. Nixon's appearance no moral paragons were demonstrating nearby.

An early species of man recently discovered in Chad has been given a name by the French Academy of Science. The rather ornate *Australopithecus bahrelghazali* is to be applied to this unusual species, which combines the features of apes with those of more recently evolved forms, creating a creature amazingly similar in appearance to Mr. James Carville. In Russia the presidential race seemed to be tightening between Mr. Gennady Zyuganov, the candidate of the newly perfumed Communist party, and the charismatic and often agreeably drunk President Boris Yeltsin. Mr. Yeltsin is pulling out all the stops. Though he has yet to appear in public in a swimsuit, or to discuss

his underwear on teen television *à la* President Clinton, he is adopting Mr. Clinton's tactic of crying in public, though with proper adjustments for the flinty Russian sensibility. Mr. Yeltsin is doing a lot of public sneering.

An exceptionally witty issue of Science magazine has published an article by David Archibald of San Diego State University revealing that mammals date twenty million years further back into the past than his colleagues had hitherto thought. The professor believes they can now be traced back eighty-five million years to Asia, where they were "rat-sized," perhaps not surprisingly. As the Cold War fades into history more shocking details stand exposed. Along with proof from the Russian archives that Mr. Alger Hiss had indeed spied for Soviet intelligence and incidentally been rather ungallant in so inveterately duping his liberal apologists, now comes a report in the magazine *New Scientist* that at the height of the Cold War tiny Switzerland contemplated developing its own nuclear device.

According to the Swiss military historian Mr. Jurg Stussi-Lauterburg, beginning in 1969 his countrymen began planning their bomb and acquiring the necessary fissionable material. Surprisingly they envisaged the threat facing them as coming from Germany rather than from Russia or—as Democratic presidential candidates Senator George McGovern and student protester Bill Clinton thought—the United States.

Swiss apprehensions over Germany may not have been far-fetched. According to another report in *New Scientist*, a hitherto unknown German scientist, Professor Wolfgang Rhode of Cologne's Max Plant Breeding Institute, has developed a "suicide potato." It is the kind of development American peace activists ought to keep an eye on—easy on those French fries, eh, fellows? Animal-rights activists were rudely rebuffed by Hawaii's Governor Ben Cayetano after they attempted to enlist his support in banning a local alligator-wrestling match. Governor Cayetano snickered that the protesters should worry more about "people than animals." Well, maybe not Governor Know-It-All. According to a report read to the 1996 Bird Strike Committee of Europe meeting in London, "bird strikes" against airplanes increased 24 percent last year, suggesting a gratifying rise in bird consciousness worldwide and maybe even another militant wing for the animal-rights movement.



Worried she might be a "cousin" too

No charges will be filed against that elderly English couple that had to be chased down by a police helicopter after they inadvertently drove off in the wrong car. The Ford Motor Company, however, may not get off so easily. The company had apparently issued identical keys to the oldsters and to the owner of the car they drove off in. Mr. Timothy McVeigh's credentials as a he-man conservative were badly tattered when it was reported that the alleged bomber of the Oklahoma City federal building has sought the services of a prison psychiatrist. "There is no other way to vent," the wimp explained. And he went on to whine that "I've never had my hand on one [a bomb]. I used to watch others do it," which does bring to mind

the lawyerly lies of another American famed for his prissy caveat, "but I never inhaled." Finally, the First Soldier and the First Bawler may have added another First to his repertoire. Speaking in Stamford, Connecticut, at the end of the month, President Clinton reminded his audience of the 500-year-old mummy that the National Geographic Society has put on display in Washington and demonstrated marked tendencies towards necrophilia. "That's a good-looking mummy," the First Libido enthused. "You know if I were a single man, I might ask that mummy out." Soon after his 48-year-old wife spoke of her yearning to have another child. Some crisis.

—RET



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Question Time

Re Robert Novak's review of James Fal-lows's *Breaking the News* (TAS, April 1996): Why is it that every time I'm reading the bio of some elitist liberal twit, he turns out to be a "Rhodes Scholar"?

— GENE HOPP
Bellevue, Washington

North by Southwest

I just can't take it any longer. As much as I love Ben Stein's *Diary*, I am growing weary of his monthly complaints about the poor service he gets on Alaska Airlines. I have a very simple solution for Mr. Stein: try another carrier!! As an airline pilot myself and frequent traveler, I can certainly sympathize with his premise that quality has taken a back seat lately.

My suggestion is he try the number one most efficient domestic carrier today, and it is not as he wrote in the May issue, American, it is Southwest. For four years running now we have been number one in on time performance, customer satisfaction, and baggage handling, the triple crown of airline awards. We also have the lowest unrestricted fares in the nation. I hate to sound like a commercial, but forget the chicken kiev lunch you might get on American or Alaska and try us already....

If the next time he and "little Mr. Perfect" want to fly to their own private Idaho with the least amount of hassle, with friendly wonderful people who still know what customer service is all about, they should fly Southwest. If Mr. Stein is at all unhappy with his flight I will personally reimburse him.

— MARK BELFORD
San Diego, California

Warm Turkey

I read with great interest M. D. Carnegie's recent article "Between East and West" (TAS, May 1996) and certainly noted his perceptive, balanced, and insightful observations.

I do not believe, however, that Mr. Carnegie's assessment of Turkey as a nation caught between East and West—with an "identity crisis," as it were—is quite accurate. The Republic of Turkey has been, is,

and will remain a Western country, not so much in terms of geography but rather in terms of mentality. Indeed, the Turkish Republic is Western because it freely chose those ideals and values long associated with the West and subsequently universalized them. Turkey's mindset is fundamentally predicated on the principles of democracy, secularism, the rule of law, human rights and economic liberalization.

Turkey in no way views its strong commitment to these ideals as a bargaining chip for certain concessions or rewards from the West. Rather, Turkey voluntarily and independently decided to pursue this path because it serves the best interests of each of its citizens, safeguarding and guaranteeing their liberties and freedoms as well as social welfare. Regardless and totally irrespective of how the West may view or treat Turkey, our dedication to the ideals of freedom and democratic liberty remains unswerving.

It is within this framework of respect and equal partnership, based on commonly held and mutually beneficial values and ideals, that Turkey and the U.S. have enjoyed a healthy and dynamic alliance for nearly half a century. As our predominantly defense-oriented relationship increasingly diversifies into economic, business, trade, cultural, and social dimensions, the bonds of cooperation between our two nations will naturally intensify.

— LEVENT GUMRUKCU
Third Secretary
Embassy Spokesperson
Turkish Embassy
Washington, D.C.

"Whither Turkey?" is a question asked with increasing frequency by Western observers concerned about the influence of forces tugging at Turkish society. M. D. Carnegie has captured the Turkish zeitgeist as very few others have, but the better question is "What direction will the West go?"

The events occurring in Turkey are the direct result of Turkey's commitment to Western principles. Whatever success that Refah, the fundamentalist party, enjoys has come by way of the ballot box in freely held democratic elections. (Ironically,

Refah is credited with using decidedly Western tactics in its campaign strategy.)

The West must remain equally committed to the 73-year-old Republic of Turkey. As Atatürk once told an American visitor, "America is an old democracy in a new land. Ours is a new democracy in an old land." It is also the only secular democracy in the Moslem world, and gateway to the vast economic potential of Central Asia.

Turkey's devotion to Western principles will ultimately see the nation through its current challenges, and it will do so even faster with the continued support and cooperation of its American and European allies.

— SELIM BINGOL
Vienna, Virginia

The Keyes to New York

For over a year now, I have waited patiently for *The American Spectator* to write a substantive article on the historic candidacy of Alan Keyes. Surely, I thought, these brainy, cutting-edge journalists would reject the media mantra of "He's unknown, he doesn't have any money, any organization, any endorsements..." and write a thoughtful piece on, if nothing else, his very intelligent platform on every single issue of the day.

Well, I was correct that you would not recycle the media myths, but I was indeed disappointed when all your readers got was a back-handed attempt to insult a godly man ("Bum of the Month," TAS, April 1996). Byron York picks from Michael Lewis's campaign account only the worst comments on Dr. Keyes, and leaves out Lewis's often complimentary assessment of Keyes, as in the following:

What he says, however, is overwhelmed by how he says it. Even after that first time... I was struck dumb by the force of his eloquence. After the first 20 minutes I looked up at Joel (Achenbach) and found that he was looking up at me with the same stunned expression. "I don't know about you," he said, "but I'm about to go to work for the guy."

And this from two liberal reporters! With "friends" like Mr. York at *The Amer-*