

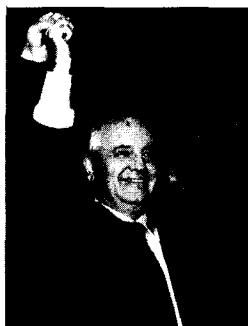


The Big Sleep; Soho dog show; Gorby fails detector test

April ends, and the curtain comes down on the first hundred days of the Clintons' second administration. The audience is asleep. There is no applause, not even a Bronx cheer. Hillary Milhous is consulting with her lawyers. The Boy President is on the road. Of the thirteen major promises intoned in his soporific Inaugural Address, he has not made good on one. Could there be any more reassuring evidence that this great man has truly moved to the political center? And apparently so has Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott. At the very end of the month the infallible *Washington Times* reported that both men have been brought together by their former political adviser, Mr. Dick Morris, whose sad demise at the feet of a Washington bawd has given new meaning to the term political footwork. Mr. Morris's mission is to assist his former clients in balancing the budget while enduring gruesome therapy to rid himself of his tragic foot fetish. Who might his therapist be, Dr. Scholl?



Soccer to me ...
is very unhealthy



Come fly with
me—nyet!

Out on the road the Boy President is heroically exhorting the American people to great deeds. While Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr inches ever closer, and congressional committees demand ever more documents, the Boy President calls for Education Standards, Early Child Development, Volunteerism. Grumbles, however, emanate from both ends of the political spectrum as Clinton retreats from the left's socialism with a multicultural face and Senator Lott retreats from the shocking Contract With America. Still, in the House of Representatives the Spirit of 1994 lives! The Hon. Joe Knollenberg, Michigan Republican, is moving to repeal the hateful toilet law passed before the Revolution of 1994 that limits toilets to using 1.6 gallons of water, about half the amount used previously. The Hon. Knollenberg has noted that the new toilets are becoming feculent swamps, while at the same time denying Americans their Second Amendment rights.

It was bound to happen. Mr. Christopher Bradley, an Emmy Award-winning Walt Disney World graphic artist, has been arrested and charged with 129 counts of possession of child pornography. In Albany, Georgia, Mr. Oran McGlamry, 74, thwarted an armed robber by attacking him with a weed whacker. A six-year-old Tampa, Florida girl was arrested and led

away in handcuffs for disrupting a crime-prevention class by throwing a stuffed animal and shouting militia-like epithets at her terrorized teacher. And feminists could take heart when a 53-year-old La Crosse, Wisconsin woman was accused of forcing her husband to live in a cellar. Unfortunately she has been charged with spousal abuse. Mr. Rush Limbaugh has launched a campaign of moral uplift after reading a report from Helsinki that soccer playing leaves its victims with lesions on the brain. He has founded a group to warn parents of the sport's dangers to our youth: Keep Our Own Kids Safe (KOOKS). It is only a matter of time before the Clintons (and Gores) try to join.

Weird Russian stories, as well as weird American university professor stories, continue to enliven the news. As for the latter, a Florida Atlantic University professor was arrested on April 11 in Miami on charges of "alien smuggling." Professor Marvin Hersh allegedly purchased a Honduran boy while on a philatelist expedition to Latin America. It is unclear whether the professor, an admitted pedophile, had sexual congress with the boy or just wanted him around to wash his car, but the head of his department, Prof. Robert Cervený, is uncomfortable with the whole situation. It "comes as a complete shock," he says. For those professors

who would like to write to express their solidarity, colleague Hersh is being held at the Palm Beach County Jail. Yet back to the weird Russian stories. Security at the American embassy in Moscow had to be strengthened in April after a naked Russian male successfully made his way into the heavily policed compound, partook of the prodigious liquor cabinet of the chargé d'affaires, and then refreshed himself with a shower in the residence. The chargé's wife discovered the singing Russian in her bathroom. "We don't want to make it into a bigger thing than it already is," said an anonymous American diplomat. "It's not like there was a document breach."

In a weird Russian story closer to home, Mr. Oleg "Dog Man" Kulik is attracting throngs of New Yorkers to a posh art gallery in the trendy SoHo district of Manhattan. Mr. Kulik, a Russian performance artist, has moved into a barren, locked room at the Deitch Gallery. Through barred windows SoHo art lovers watch the Russian genius barking savagely as he

aces on all fours. He is completely naked except for a leather dog-collar and will remain in the room peeing on a dog bed and eating dog chow until his masterpiece is completed. Visitors have been warned that, as Miss Sarah Watson, a gallery spokeswoman, put it, "He is not a nice house dog. And he seems to be getting increasingly vicious." Mrs. Kulik is viewing her husband's performance with plumb. "It is just as if he had gone on a business trip," she confided.

Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, who single-handedly lost the Cold War, went into what Mr. Venyamin Shirshov of aviation security called "total hysterics" when stopped at Moscow's international airport after refusing to go through a metal detector. He threw his coat on the floor and threatened never to return to Moscow again. This is the third time we've had trouble with him," Mr. Shirshov explained. In Italy, prison officials shut down the high-security Pianosa prison, home to 150 major Mafia inmates, apparently because of the deplorable condition of the facility's pasta cookers. Unrest has grown at Pianosa, thirty-two miles off the Tuscan coast, as unreliable power supplies and outmoded equipment have made it increasingly difficult for the assorted assassins and drug traffickers to cook their pastas *al dente*, the referred Mob style. Sr. Antonino Imerti, a Calabrian hit man,



Not every mushroom cloud is poisonous

captured the spirit of the protest when he averred that making pasta is a "basic human right." How different from Arkansas, where the hoosergow in historic Bentonville will no longer serve hot meals. According to Benton County Sheriff Andy Lee, research indicates that baloney-and-cheese sandwiches conform perfectly with federal calorie guidelines, and they happen to be a gourmet favorite of the President of the United States. In Painesville, Ohio, high school principal Mr. Walter Conte, 51, pleaded no contest to videotaping cheerleaders as they changed for a beach party at his home.

Small doses of radiation are beneficial, according to some American researchers. Among the evidence is the discovery that survivors living at the outer limits of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki blasts are actually living longer than Japanese who received no radiation exposure. Laborers at American shipyards who have been exposed to small amounts of radiation seem to live longer than those Americans with less exposure. One of the researchers, Professor Myron Pollycove, argues, "We have grown up in a world of natural radiation and low doses stimulate our cells to handle mutations." Hence it seems that all the Cold War nuclear disarmament bosh may have been rash and quite ill-advised. The crisis glows on.

—RET

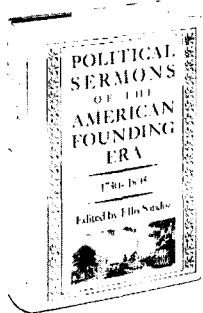
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New Directions

In order to avoid continued mailings encouraging renewal I must let you know why I allowed my subscription to expire....

I have subscribed for many years, and while I cannot point to specifics, the general tone of *TAS* has changed. Just a few years ago, I eagerly awaited the arrival of each issue. I found the selection of articles and features to be diverse and invigorating. Now, however, each issue appears to focus solely on the innumerable Clinton follies. Move the Clinton stories to the side (but keep up the pressure) and add more stories regarding new conservative ideas (or why there are none) or emerging new conservative leaders (or why there are so few apparent). Surely there are plenty of stories to be done beyond Washington and the Clintons and their cohorts.

—KENNETH MOSS
Broad Run, Virginia

For the past several years, I have anxiously awaited the arrival of your magazine so that I could revel in the latest installment of the Clinton chronicles. With few exceptions, I find these articles revealing, refresh-

ing, titillating, inspiring—each a veritable clarion call to action. But alas, the ebullience produced by each excursion into journalistic excellence is short-lived. I find my euphoria evaporating and being replaced by disgust, depression, and finally a sense of utter hopelessness as I come to realize that despite what appears to be rational, detailed, and substantive investigative reporting, the Clinton monarchy remains entrenched, unaffected by scandal. The April issue was especially difficult to handle, with the revelations of mob influence, the real Tony Lake, and the other side of Newt's ethics charge. Against a GOP administration, such reporting would be front-page, mainstream mania, generating a feeding frenzy of immense proportions, with every scribe vying for a Pulitzer. Sadly, in the present climate, one must depend on *TAS* for an exposé, and suffer the emotional roller coaster ride it provides. Let's do it again next month.

—R.G. GOLDSTONE
Dexter, Maine

Playing Coia

Several months ago, the District of Columbia government stopped recycling local trash. Those of us District residents dismayed by that decision were no happier to learn that you had taken it up. Your reputation, as well as those of the men and women you unfairly maligned, would have been far better served if you had left "Mob Rules" curbside (*TAS*, April 1997).

As one who got off rather lightly—you did discover that I wear an earring, on the other hand, you missed my public sworn testimony before the Crime Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee ("Robert Luskin...did not testify.")—I would like to respond. A catalogue of the article's oversights, half-truths, and outright falsehoods would extend for several pages. What matters most, however, is that the basic premise of your story is false and defamatory, and obviously so. Perhaps if you paid less attention to fashion and more attention to facts, you would not have allowed yourselves to be led astray by disgraced mob associates and your own wishful thinking.

These are the facts: Neither political nor political influence played any role whatsoever in the agreement between the Department of Justice and LIUNA. Had you taken the trouble to contact those who negotiated it, read our sworn public testimony to Congress (which you reported falsely that I did not give), or paused for a nanosecond before parroting uncritically the lies of your sources, you could have reached that conclusion yourselves.

But all you really had to do was review the agreement between the government and LIUNA, because the truth also emerges from its plain terms. The agreement gives the government the unilateral right for three years to impose a consent decree similar to the government oversight over the Teamsters if at *any* time and for *any* reason the government concludes that it would be a good idea. Neither Arthur Coia nor any other Laborers' member or employee earned a free pass. To the contrary, Coia remains subject at all times to LIUNA's new internal discipline structure *and* to criminal or civil action by the government.

Understanding why the Justice Department endorsed this agreement is not rocket science. With this agreement, the Justice Department won everything it would have gained had it litigated its RICO case to a successful conclusion, with no cost and no delay. What the Laborers secured was the chance to clean their own house free from direct government control of their day-to-day affairs, with the clear understanding that if they failed, the government would pull the plug.

The results speak for themselves, although you apparently weren't listening. In two years, more than 75 officers, members, and employees of LIUNA with mob ties have been banished; several affiliates subject to organized crime influence have been placed under trusteeship; and, under scrutiny by an Election Officer selected by the government, LIUNA last fall conducted the first contested, democratic elections of International officers in its history.

Had the government instead proceeded with its RICO complaint, that case

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