



Transformations; Signorina Gina; tuna; crocodiles

June brought an end to one of the most glorious episodes in the Clinton Saga. The Serbs were transformed into refugees. The Kosovars were transformed into Serbs. And NATO, the military wing of CNN, became Kosovo's sanitation department and tourist bureau. Quietly, the Clintons began house-hunting in a Democratic enclave. Not Arkansas—that territory is steadily falling to the Republicans. No, the Clintons are planning to seek asylum in Manhattan or on Long Island. Gangrene is setting into the Clinton administration. Even Vice President Al Gore is noticing the stench. "Inexcusable" is how he described the behavior of Monica's beau. And by the end of the month one of the Boy President's arch enemies emerged in a front-page story in the *Wall Street Journal*. He is Mr. Parker Dozhier. In a story headlined "A Montana Trapper Hangs On" in the June 28 WSJ, Mr. Dozhier, the man who headed the Bait Shop Conspiracy from Dozhier's Bait Shop and Rainbow Landing, noted, "It's such a sad waste of an incredibly valuable resource." Mr. Dozhier, who also writes the fur-market column for the *Trapper and Predator Caller* magazine, was being interviewed on fur trapping. Yet his reemergence on the national scene has got to give the Clintons the willies. Remember from that bait shop he and writers from this magazine staged the closest thing to a coup against the lawfully-constituted government of this country since the days of Benedict Arnold.

In sporting news the San Antonio Spurs vanquished the New York Knicks four games to one to win the National Basketball Association championship. Mr. Payne Stewart won the U.S. Open wearing his traditional knickers. And in West Blamorgan, England, a Royal Mail carrier kicked a two-pound Yorkshire terrier three feet into the air and twelve feet across a garden to break all outstanding Royal Mail records. Prosecution is pending. In Ohio's Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, the Cleveland Browns football team is being sued by former professional football player Mr. Hicharn El-Mashtoub. Mr. El-Mashtoub believes that the Browns' termination of his contract was occasioned by ethnic discrimination. According to him, teammates regularly addressed him with such pungent honorifics as "Towel Head" and "Camel Jockey" though he never brought his camel to practice. Disrespectful teammates



Did your grandpère free France for this?



Reclusive, as ever, in Stockholm

also called him "Bin-Laden," a reference to the Saudi playboy-turned-terrorist, and "Sheik," which Mr. El-Mashtoub took to be a reference to the Arab religious title, although it could also be a reference to a prophylactic of the same name that is huge popular with NFL players on and off the field.

Voter turnout for the European elections was scant even in Italy, where Euromaniacs went to the desperate extreme of running the calypsonian Miss Gina Lollobrigada for the European Parliament. Despite her fame and ample bosom, she lost. In France, Mr. Charles de Gaulle, grandson of the late French president, was elected to the European Parliament on the right-wing National Front ticket. A glass case containing a single hair from the chin of the Prophet Mohammed was stolen from a mosque in Istanbul. The relic was returned shortly thereafter, though skeptics suspect that the returned hair is not the original but rather a hair substituted from the chin of a lesser prophet or perhaps even a Shriner in the hope of setting off another of the periodic theological disputes that have come to characterize the Prophet's uproarious religion. Miss Greta Garbo's ashes were secretly buried in Stockholm, Sweden, lest her followers create a disturbance. And June marked the fourteenth straight month that no mention of the Clintons

cat Socks appeared in the national press. The cat itself has not appeared in public for years, giving rise to rumors that Socks may be yet another victim of the First Lady's spendious wrath.

In curious court news, accused murderer Mr. Scot Falater has failed in his historic "sleep-walking defense." A jury in Phoenix, Arizona, apparently did not find persuasive Mr. Falater's claim that he innocently stabbed his wife 44 times and dragged her into the family swimming pool whilst sleep walking. Mr. Falater was convicted of first-degree murder. In Toronto, Canada, a judge denied the claim of Mr. Rene Joly that he was harassed by a conspiracy led by Citibank, whose members wished to kill him because he is a Martian. Yet in Philadelphia Mrs. Marie Noe, 70, got off with probation for murdering eight of her ten children between 1949 and 1968. Perhaps if she had murdered the other two the judge would have given her an award. The atrocity was explained by Mrs. Noe's lawyer Mr. David Rudenstein, thusly: "This is one of those situations

that makes us human." Well, that is the consequence of watching too much of the "NewsHour With Jim Lehrer," Mr. Rudenstein; the case against unanimism grows. And if there is a National Tuna Association its members had best be on guard. In San Diego, California, alone last month, the tuna was the weapon of choice for assailants. Mr. Anthony Tucker, a 37-year-old fisherman, assaulted a co-worker with a 20-pound tuna, causing his victim a concussion and broken vertebrae. And 24-year-old Mr. Nicholas Vitalich—occupation unknown—was booked for assaulting his girlfriend with an 11-pound tuna. The assault took place in the "No Violence" section of a supermarket, and left Mr. Vitalich's girlfriend with bruises on her right arm and a cut above her eye. Neither fish was registered.

Turkey found Mr. Abdullah Ocalan (pronounced OH'-ah-lahn) guilty of treason and separatism. That Australian swimming coach, Mr. Ross Clarke, who has been training his team composed of boys and girls in the under-11 age class in a crocodile-infested lake, was widely reproached when the *Brisbane Courier Mail* reported that he kept several delicious dogs on hand to feed the hungry reptiles in the event that they attacked is slow-swimming charges. An unusual product displayed at China's Guangzhou trade fair may explain the presence of so many Chinese businessmen at the White House in 1996. The



I go on walkin', after midnight

Zhanjiang Huattan Enterprises Company has just unveiled its "Couple Chair," an office chair in which couples can enjoy sexual congress while at work. Plans for marketing the chair in Washington have not been announced, but certainly Zhanjiang Huattan ought to be able to sell a few to the Clinton Presidential Library, and perhaps upon retirement Our President might become an international "Couple Chair" salesman.

On June 9 Mrs. Christine Rabczynski was fined by an Australian court for smuggling a dozen parakeet eggs into Perth International Airport. The lovely Mrs. Rabczynski had sewn the eggs into her brassiere, but five burst when an uncommonly

handsome customs agent stared intently at her bosom, thus alerting the agents to what antipodeans might call a "sticky wicket." British archaeologists announced the discovery of that country's oldest banana, a 500-year-old beauty found in a Tudor rubbish pit. Another top news story from the United Kingdom in June is that Mrs. Laura-Jane Beardsworth's hamster survived three days in her freezer. And most exciting of all, Mr. Stephen Hill, a lifelong stammerer, declared that he had been cured of his stammer by listening to hours of speeches by Prime Minister Tony Blair. Unfortunately there is also bad news. In Benton, Arkansas, Mrs. Paula Corbin Jones was ticketed for driving on a suspended California driver's license. —RET

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Liberal Compassion

Perhaps when Al Gore speaks of “crumbs of compassion,” he is referring to the \$353 he and Tipper donated to charity in 1997 while earning \$197,729.

—TIM SHUTTERS
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Bombs Away

Just a quick question: In his “Peace Now” editorial last month, Mr. Tyrrell states that Mr. Clinton bombed three countries in April of this year, namely Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Bulgaria. Insofar as an embassy is considered “native soil,” as it were, couldn’t we say that Mr. Clinton also bombed China?

—D.R. REICH
via the Internet

Bush League

June’s lead article by Byron York just turned me off (“George’s Road to Riches”). Why in the world do a hit piece on George W. Bush, when he is the only candidate with a prayer of beating Al Gore? Who gives a care about his past deeds? No one cared about what Bill Clinton had done, and in case you haven’t noticed this corrupt politician is in the process of finishing out his second term.

Quayle, Dole, McCain, Alexander, Smith, Kasich, and Buchanan couldn’t attract fifty electoral votes between them. We all would like to have a person who exactly reflects our own views, but in the real world this isn’t possible. I am going to have to re-evaluate my continued support of your publication.

—ALAN A. ARMOUR
Estes Park, Colorado

Great article, now if you can just go dig up some superficial crap on the rest of the GOP presidential candidates you can save the Democrats the trouble. Or why don’t you do a nice little puff piece on how successful Al Gore’s VP career has been?

Between your publication and the *Weekly Standard*, it is no wonder all we have is gutless invertebrates as leaders in the halls of Congress. Is it not enough that the “mainstream media” is merely the propaganda arm of the Democratic

Party? Do you have to utterly obliterate any candidate who might appear to have a chance at winning?

Please don’t mistake me as a homer, trying to defend a local boy against outsiders. If I had my choice I would have Alan Keyes in the Oval Office, and realistically speaking I am leaning toward John McCain. But if you have a problem with G.W. Bush’s ideology, challenge his ideology. Do not scoop up this overly-sifted mud to throw at him.

—JOEL MACKEY
Euless, Texas

Mr. York’s article about G.W. Bush’s business dealings shows the utter business ineptitude of journalists in today’s America—unfortunately, even among conservative journalists! I read the article for the purpose of becoming informed about Bush’s dealings since I’d heard the whining liberals scream about them, and I thought TAS would get the story right. Boy was I disappointed! Bush’s business dealings were all aboveboard. The people who invested with Bush did so at their risk; however, they must have thought the risk worth it because they were investing with a good businessman, a man of character and ability. That wasn’t even hinted at in the article....

—MICHAEL HARLOW
Cedar Park, Texas

Why would you put that caricature of George W. on your cover? How dare you! He is a wonderful person and will make a great president. I do not like the tone of the article inside either, and it sounds like sour grapes. What is the matter? Doesn’t George subscribe to *TAS*? You may lose a lot of Texans as subscribers for this low dig. We think he is GREAT!!!!!!

—Bette Noble
Victoria, Texas

I just finished reading the June 1999 issue and as always the articles did not disappoint me. The stories on the current front-runners for the Republican presidential nomination were particularly appropriate. They cemented in my mind why I

will not vote for George W. Bush or Elizabeth Dole. Faced with a choice of them vs. Gore I will opt for a third party candidate. The Republican “leadership” has again missed a golden opportunity to concentrate on the issues instead of the personalities and will go down to defeat once again. The stakes are getting higher and higher with the foreign policy disaster, treason by current high-ranking administration officials including the president and all the domestic scandals.

All I can say to you is to keep the pressure on and let the truth go wherever it leads. Your magazine is a welcome switch from the spin in many other news sources.

—WAYNE LINGL
Palmyra, Pennsylvania

Byron York replies:

Remove the name “Bush” and consider the following scenarios:

The vice president’s son is in a financial bind; his company is failing and he urgently needs new investors. A close friend of the White House chief of staff comes to the rescue with an unusual \$1 million cash infusion. Under the terms of the investment, the \$1 million buys the chief of staff’s friend a ten percent interest in the company, even though the entire company is worth less than \$500,000. Today both the former chief of staff and the friend refuse to talk about the matter.

A few years later, the vice president’s son gets an opportunity to join a great business deal, a plan to buy a professional sports team. He invests \$500,000 in borrowed money. He then needs to pay back the loan. His biggest asset is stock in an oil company on whose board he serves. But the oil company is facing imminent rough times and falling stock prices, something the son would be expected to know because he serves on a board committee assigned to study the company’s condition. Denying that his decision was based on any inside information, the son sells the stock before it begins to fall. He sells at \$1 a share; six months later, it’s at \$1.25.

Not long after that, the son, whose father is now president, aggressively promotes—and convinces voters to support—