

black males was best expressed by Alissa Cave, a 17-year-old high school senior, who reported that the members of her "class on government" agreed that under Giuliani, "their chances of going to jail are greater than of their being successful." Gee: wonder why? ■

## That Brady Bunch

by M.N.R.

So—after years of stumping the country displaying the open sores of his Victimhood, Jim Brady and his harridan wife have managed to guilt-trip the nation into passing that moronic bill, to the wild applause of the corrupt media who triumphantly announce a victory over the National Rifle Association, of all the lobbying groups the only

one whose very mention is supposed to evoke hisses and boos from the deluded public. So what's next: the maimed Reginald Denny stumping the country calling for all of us to "fight crime" by outlawing bricks? The Republicans continue their gutless caving in, and the left-liberal goal of gun despotism goes up several notches.

The ultimate liberal goal, is to disarm the public, leaving the U.S. government with the monopoly of arms, a monopoly it will have to share, of course with the criminal classes (or rather, the *non*-governmental wing of the criminal classes). Leaving innocent citizens helpless before the armed might of government and criminals. "Humanitarianism" strikes again!

Far, far better was the old slogan of the Marxist revolutionaries, the direct opposite of left-liberalism: "Arm the people, disarm the State!" ■

a new high military position to be in charge of global war-making ("peacekeeping") to impose democracy throughout the globe. Not only should Congress turn the bum down, but it should abolish this new post altogether. ■

## Korean War Redux?

by M.N.R.

Sometime last summer, I was talking to my old friend and libertarian colleague, the historian Joe Peden, about where, against what "Hitler," would the crazed William Jefferson Clinton strike next? Which of dozens of possible Bad Guys, "aggressors," or "non-democrats," would be next on the receiving end of American sanctions, bombs, missiles, or troops? I went down the list: would it be Bosnia, Somalia, Colonel Khaddafy, Saddam, the Iranian mullahs, etc? "Nah," said Joe, who is very perceptive in these matters. "It's going to be North Korea."

I was startled, but as I mulled it over, the prospect became ever more likely. And so I was not totally bewildered when I turned on the tube and had the bad luck to catch that beefy face and that hoarse Arkansas voice I detest so much: "North Korea will cease to exist as a nation." Ye gods! What better way for Willie to put together the pieces of his shattered and incoherent foreign policy: the image of weakness, the Bosnian, Somalian, Haitian disasters? North Korea! The very name reeks of

## The Halperin Case

by M.N.R.

As a veteran anti-foreign interventionist, I must admit to a slightly different view from the rest of the Right on the Halperin question. There's a certain amount of amusement attached to the idea of appointing an anti-war and anti-secret intelligence activist into the heart of the Pentagon, sort of like appointing a veteran tax rebel to be head of the IRS.

But still I am strongly opposed to the Halperin nomination, not for his past sins, but for his current ones. For like most of the rest of the Left, Morton Halperin's anti-war principles suddenly collapsed with the end of the Cold War. He now favors all the post-Cold War interventions, including those of Bush and his current master, Clinton, whom he has apparently secretly served in a military advisory capacity. His prospective post is typically Clintonian-Orwellian: Assistant Secretary of Defense for Democracy and Peacekeeping, a new post which he would be the first one to grace. That's all we need to make our cup of gall complete:

the Golden Age of the Cold War. The "last good war" that united both liberals and conservatives was not World War II, but Korea, in which the U.S. got the United Nations to mobilize "the free world" against the Commie aggression by the North. And here was a war that was never really *finished*, was it? By harping on Korea, Slick Willie might sucker conservatives into reviving Cold War memories and rallying behind his foreign policy. North Korea, after all, is indisputably Commie as well as indisputably a dictatorship. And they're supposedly working on a possible nuclear weapon. Ye gods! Time for the U.S.A., which only has nuclear weapons strong enough to destroy the old Soviet Union many times over, to go into its old fear-and-trembling act. We cannot allow it! Nuclear strike!

The hope is, that this is largely hot air and hype. On the part of the U.S., that is. For the new "North Korean threat is, as usual, totally bogus. I refer the reader to a man who is probably the foremost expert on the Korean War, author of the massive two-volume *The Origins of the Korean War* (Princeton, U. Press.) This man, University of Chicago historian Bruce Cumings, is admittedly a leftist, but his analysis of the current phony "crisis" makes a great deal of sense (Bruce Cumings, "Crazy Kim", *The Nation*; Nov. 29).

Cumings points out that the latest "crisis" began with stories on the weekend of November 5-7, coinciding with the visit of our Defense Secretary, the klutz Les Aspin, to Seoul. Suddenly a spate of U.S. stories descended

upon us: crazed North Koreans were readying a nuclear bomb, they were forbidding access to international inspectors, and they were massing a full 70 percent of their troops on the South Korean border. All this, of course, was heavy with the implication that North Korea was imminently going to attack our beloved South; hence Clinton's "cease to exist as a nation," supposedly a warning that the U.S. would retaliate massively against a North Korean attack on the South, presumed to be coming at any moment. Major source of these stories: Pentagon officials flying home from Seoul along with Aspin.

The truth, as Cumings reveals, present us with a very different picture. First: more than 75 percent of North Korean troops have been "massed" near the South Korean border *ever since* the late 1970s, in response to new and threatening U.S. nuclear strategies! Second: North Korea has allowed numerous international inspections of its nuclear facility at Yongbyon, and is only balking at "special inspections" of a supposed nuclear waste dump for various technical and minor reasons. Aspin himself admitted that there is "no evidence that North Korea is now producing or reprocessing plutonium." A third aspect of this supposed crisis is that the North Korean forces would be led either by the "dying" despot Kim Il Sung or, even worse, by his "unstable" and "possible psychotic" son, Kim Jong Il.

But here again, the story about the younger Kim's alleged psychosis has been put about by South Korean intelligence for

the last quarter century, and the guy has apparently not flipped as yet.

The real story, Cumings shows, is that hysterical alarm about imminent North Korean attacks have been trumped up for the past four decades, usually accompanying one of two periodic events: the annual Congressional debates on defense appropriations; and talks between the Secretary of Defense and South Korean defense officials. This last scare is in the glorious U.S.-S. Korean talk-crisis tradition. The last time a U.S. Defense Secretary visited South Korea was in November 1991, when Secretary Dick Cheney went to Seoul, and an anonymous U.S. defense official rattled the missiles: asserting that if North Korea "missed Desert Storm, this is a chance to catch a rerun."

Professor Cumings concludes his dash of realistic cold water on the latest hysteria on Korea: "No one knows the state of Kim Jong Il's mind, but if I were Kim I'd be a bit paranoid too, since on any given day there is someone in Washington willing to say that we might wipe his country off the face of the earth—and sometimes it's the President himself." ■

## Health Insurance: The Clintons' Phony Populism by M.N.R.

Everyone knows that Co-President Hillary has launched a blistering and demagogic attack