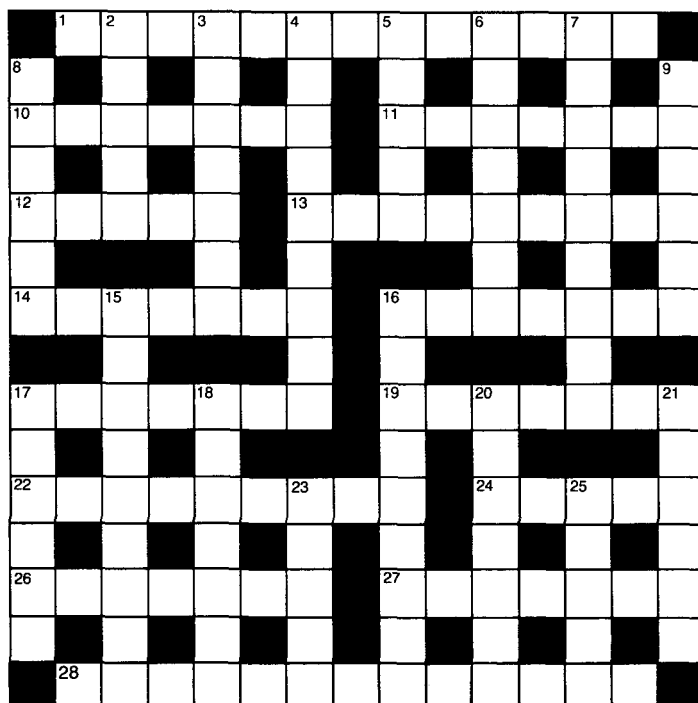


POLITICAL PUZZLE

by John Barclay

The numbers indicate the number of letters and words, e.g., (2, 3) means a two-letter word followed by a three-letter word. Groups of letters, e.g., USA, are treated as one word.



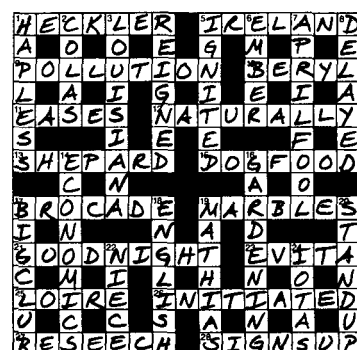
ACROSS

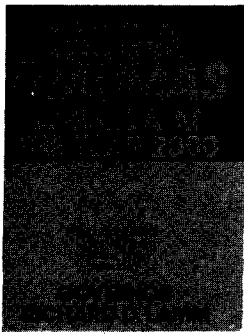
1. Awful device helped clean up one war. (7, 6)
10. Special grit not turning into softness. (7)
11. Atheists set up lodges before September 1. (7)
12. Rice dish served in secondary pupil auditorium. (5)
13. Cured acne under strength. (9)
14. Put down about paper. (7)
16. Disposed of game and set. (7)
17. Hunter is more positive about firm. (7)
19. Formed decal to display. (7)
22. Excesses do serve so oddly. (9)
24. Forced loner to join in. (5)
26. Make it clear constitutional provision. (7)
27. Moves out in order to save cat. (7)
28. Abortion foe share is arms control issue. (13)
4. Messy ogre's rags may start war. (9)
5. Carried on with joker Asner. (5)
6. Conjunction element in fireplace. (7)
7. Stay on top of chess piece, we hear. (9)
8. Correct use of rope in Puerto Rico. (6)
9. Badly stoned in Belgium. (6)
15. Activist upsets troopers about tea. (9)
16. Slum lover carefully reflects. (5, 4)
17. Battle cry lags on confusion. (6)
18. Cad and liar somehow set right. (7)
20. Oarsmen slashed in the head? (4, 3)
21. Turn over silted bar. (6)
23. Book collection in the flesh, perhaps. (5)
25. Proportion in on speech. (5)

DOWN

2. Before pre- '49 nut turned around. (5)
3. Somehow reuse 49 for

Answers to last month's puzzle:





NEOLIBERALISM WITHOUT A HEART

by Nicholas Lemann

Politicians almost never allow us a glimpse into what's really going on in their minds. So when Dick Lamm, Colorado's "Governor Gloom," does, it's hard to resist the urge to perform armchair psychoanalysis. This book* is about the major problems facing the United States today, but it is elaborately set up as a work of quasi-fiction, taking place 15 years in the future—two different futures, actually, featuring two different presidents. For the first two-thirds of the book, the president is Susan J. Hesperus (elected 1996). The blizzard of memos she requests from her cabinet officers gives Lamm a chance to lay out in full the predictions that earned him his nickname. Then, in the last third, Lamm invents an alternative future, without Hesperus but with a Maine senator named Martin Morgenstern, who is elected president in 1992 and heroically averts all the crises that earlier in the book (but later chronologically—it's confusing) faced Hesperus. A history of the Morgenstern administration is Lamm's way of giving his solutions to all the woes he has described. Hesperus, the first woman president, never appears onstage, though it's worth noting that her name means "evening star," as in Lamm's idea that it's evening in America. Morgenstern, on the other hand, is praised lavishly in a way that suggests it's how Lamm sees himself: "Leadership is a matter of asking the big questions... what he was offering was a very sophisticated set of assumptions... his intense and eloquent style could move many people, even when the message was like Cassandra's."

Also, though Lamm doesn't say so, Morgenstern is, judging by his name, the first Jewish president; Lamm himself is a Unitarian. What

can this mean? Either a) that Lamm, knowing where the political money is for a skeptical-of-unions Democrat, is thinking ahead to his next campaign or b) that, while Lamm isn't Jewish, his fantasy-self is, probably because he thinks of Jewishness as meaning super-braininess. What he's most vain about is his tough-minded intelligence.

Indeed, Lamm is what liberals spent last year accusing Gary Hart and neoliberalism of being—very smart but unsentimentally analytical and prone to use the phrase "new ideas" as code for an agenda of dismantling the social welfare state. Some of Lamm's causes will be familiar to readers of this magazine: the overgenerosity of federal pensions and entitlement programs, the poor quality of teaching in public schools, the need to play dirty with Japan on trade, the evils of doctors and lawyers. Within the self-imposed constraints of the form he has chosen, he argues for them eloquently (though there are too many Bartlett's-style quotes, including, inevitably, one from Edward Gibbon).

He is at his very best on the issue that rocketed him to fame a couple of years ago: our overcommitment of resources to prolonging the lives of the terminally ill. The rate of increase in the percentage of the Gross National Product going to health care is amazing, and, though some of this money goes to rich doctors and the rich lawyers who sue them for malpractice, the lion's share is for the noble purpose of providing high-quality medical care for everybody. We are bored by preventive medicine but captivated by the technological razzle-dazzle and soap-opera drama of procedures such as artificial heart implantations, which prolong life for a short time at tremendous expense. (President Reagan, that enemy of government spending, calls up artificial heart patients and proclaims them national heroes.) Lamm says Medicare alone spent \$15 billion last year on people in their last six months of life.

**Megatraumas: America at the Year 2000*. Governor Richard D. Lamm. Houghton Mifflin, \$16.95.

Nicholas Lemann is national correspondent for the Atlantic and a contributing editor of The Washington Monthly.