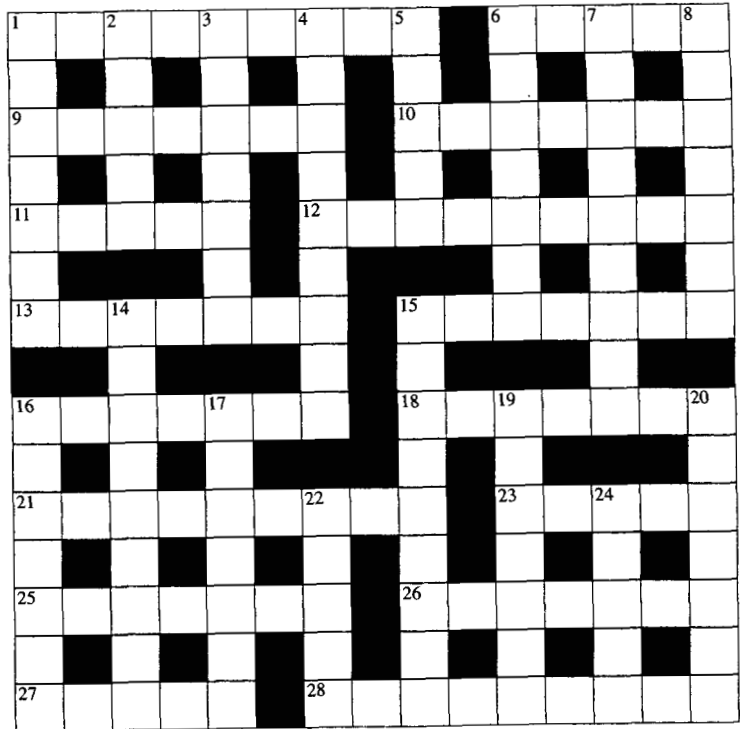


POLITICAL PUZZLE

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. This President was determined vote loser. (7)
6. Fleece-seeker appears in this manner in start of first month. (5)
9. Trouble term not troubled. (7)
10. That is five in pain to win. (7)
11. Joint member returns for singing group. (5)
12. Persistent technicians make steer rest uncomfortably. (9)
13. Loosely ratable prairie country. (7)
15. Fiscal authority who adjusted Japanese currency? (7)
16. United Nations loser improperly makes decision. (5,2)
18. Clan hut built up for missing official. (2,5)
21. Neat shams set up for Long Island location. (9)
23. Flood management position after first week. (5)
25. Turn left, sir, for spoilsport. (7)
26. Lets flu spread to maximum extent. (7)
27. One thousand in this return makes sense. (5)
28. War log Kennedy edited for Western hawk. (9)

DOWN

1. Spin around the first Capitol feature. (7)
2. Hockey great at office for Senator's first team. (5)
3. Creel to set up for important quadrennial nonentity. (7)
4. Arrange endless tennis rate for harbor. (9)
5. Quality specified in extra italics. (5)
6. President gets first joy over his next six official nominees. (7)
7. Noses vent weirdly for repeat candidates for President. (9)
8. Senile assembly follows November 1 rating. (7)
14. Property for former Senator in existence. (9)
15. Aesthetic rating for tuba flue I made. (9)
16. Carelessly rams set and makes yacht repair. (7)
17. Herb to distribute after first half of show. (7)
19. Barn opening amid cattle sounds is dirty trick. (3,4)
20. Inadvertently met rash rodent. (7)
22. Awkwardly grips segment of plant. (5)
24. Time just before New Testament contest. (5)

Answers to last month's puzzle:



Soundbitten

*How the 1992 campaign turned
the public onto politics and off the media*

by Dan Balz

Strange Bedfellows:

How Television and the Presidential Candidates Changed American Politics

Tom Rosenstiel, *Hyperion*, \$24.95

Last year's presidential campaign seems destined to be remembered as the year Larry King, Phil Donahue, and Tabitha Soren strode across America's television screens and grabbed hold of the political process. In the shorthand by which we often label campaigns, 1992 was the Year of the New Media.

Consider the evidence that the traditional media played second fiddle to the upstarts. After mainstream organizations had passed on the story, the *Star*, a supermarket tabloid, set the pack running after Bill Clinton and Gennifer Flowers in New Hampshire last year. Then came Ross Perot, who played the new media like a virtuoso, winning hours of live television time and still avoiding serious scrutiny. Clinton used everything from town meetings to Arsenio Hall to CompuServe. This spring, the new president himself, at a black-tie dinner honoring radio and television correspondents, thumbed his nose at the traditional media and pointed out how clever he had been to ignore them. "You know why I can stiff you on the press conferences? Because Larry King liberated me from you by giving me the American people directly," Clinton said.

In the Hundred Years War between press and politicians, each campaign shapes the next, and perhaps none more so than 1988. That campaign, remembered now for the Pledge of Allegiance, Willie Horton, and "Read my lips," left the media in a sour and surly mood—not because George Bush defeated Michael Dukakis,

but because politicians had assumed the upper hand in the combat. They were using smart bombs while the media were still armed with muskets. The politicians knew how to bait the media into talking about what they wanted to talk about, and little else. In newsrooms across the country, editors and reporters vowed to do things differently in 1992.

One of the news organizations that struggled with that question throughout 1992 was ABC News. But unlike most other networks and newspapers, ABC did not struggle in private. Tom Rosenstiel, the astute media critic of the *Los Angeles Times*, was given an inside seat to watch the evolution of network television in this transitional year. Rosenstiel's perch could not have been more ideal, and his fine book is the latest in the genre of behind-the-scenes examinations of American politics (from *The Making of the President* series to *The Selling of the President*). His searching and occasionally searing criticism of the media in the campaign year is a welcome tonic. Coming at a time when the press has given itself good reviews for attempting to refocus its campaign coverage, Rosenstiel's book is a reminder of how short we fell and some of the reasons it will be hard to do better.

Peter Jennings was one of those most influenced by the negative reviews of the press coverage of 1988. He wanted a new approach to covering politics. The same held for Paul Friedman, the executive producer of "World News Tonight." The results, however, were mixed. While ABC and the other networks forced changes in the primary sea-

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