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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Backup Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13711
Folder ID Number: 13711-001

Folder Title:
Gridiron Club Dinner 4/1/90 [OA 6895] [3]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	20	4	6

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GRIDIRON CLUB DINNER

Let me congratulate the new Gridiron President. It's good to have an intellectual in charge. It took vision to predict my race would be over after Iowa... to say Dukakis would get the Southern vote... to work for a paper that predicts Daniel Ortega by 30 points... Speech in the dark? Hell, David Broder writes whole columns in the dark.

But David does take a pretty serious view of things. If he ever writes a piece about my press secretary's weight loss, he'll probably title it, "Marlin: A Beer Gut in Decline."

But Marlin's come a long way. Last year we went into a clothing store and Marlin said, "I'd like to see a bathing suit in my size." And the clerk said, "So would I."

But what's really in decline, of course, is dictatorship. In my inaugural address I said "the day of the dictator is over." All over the world, repressive regimes and totalitarian tyrants are toppling. But I didn't mean you, John.

Sure, my Chief of Staff's a tough guy. Down in Cartagena during a lunchtime photo op, they had to keep saying, "Remember John, bite the taco, shake the hand..."

And maybe Dick Darman has rubbed a few people wrong, too. But I've come to understand him better since I heard a story from his childhood. When he was 10, his family very nearly lost him. Later on his father said, "We should have taken him further into the hills."

But I still think we've got a good team in place. When the phone rang the other day, Brent ran it through intelligence. Jim Baker checked everything out. Happy to take the call. Certainly worth it. Never thought I'd hear from Elvis again.

Phone rang again later. They told me it might be a crank call. I said, "Oh, what the hell. Put Gephardt on."

In this town you've got to have a sense of humor. So I don't want to take this personally -- but I turn 65, and Moynihan says, "Let's rethink Social Security."

Lot of comedians out there. Doing impersonations. Okay with me. But natural disasters -- out of bounds. California earthquake? Not my fault. San Andreas fault.

Speaking of California, I did get some flack for appointing Arnold Schwarzenegger to head the Council on Physical Fitness. But what could I do? The short list was down to him or Helen Thomas.

And that White House Press Corps is still asking "Where's Brent?" So in the spirit of openness, we revealed that Brent took a vacation in Salt Lake City. The next day, Nancy Pelosi proposed new sanctions against Utah.

[LAST ONE:]

World-shaking events do move quickly these days. Boggles the mind. Wonderful to see free speech restored to the Soviet Union. To Eastern Europe. To Andy Rooney.

You know, a few years ago David Broder wrote, "Gridironers believe that foolishness is its own reward." It's true. And on that basis alone, this evening has been priceless.

I've heard enough jokes in my life to know that at the bottom of all good humor lies a measure of rebellion. If we've learned anything from the momentous world events of the past year, it is the undeniable value of thoughtful dissent. That's why those with the courage and conviction to speak up when they sincerely disagree are so crucial to freedom.

As the esteemed David recently said -- David Brinkley -- "This city is nowhere near as important as it thinks it is." Also true -- but the lesson here shouldn't be about declining influence, as much as deflating self-importance.

Events in Eastern Europe and around the world have a power of their own because of the people and personalities that drive them -- but above all, because of the power of ideas that compel them.

One of those ideas is America -- a shining path the world seeks to follow. So as we stand on these shores watching a world in transition, we may witness its various upheavals through eyes blurred with tears or bright with laughter. But we can know that because of this idea called America, the world will never be the same again.

And thanks to my best efforts, the English language may never be the same again, either.

Good night, and God bless you all.

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GRIDIRON DINNER -- DRAFT TWO

** Thank you, David. You know, I remember an inspired moment Barbara and I had after leaving this dinner last year. Standing on a windy street corner... She in a trenchcoat with the collar turned up... Her long red hair blowing in the wind... and both of us too proud to run after it.

Nice to have an intellectual like David Broder in charge. Took vision to predict my race would be over after Iowa... to say Dukakis would get the Southern vote... to work for a paper predicting Daniel Ortega by 30 points... Any man with that kind of vision is the right man to do a speech in the dark.

But David does take a pretty serious view of things. I mean, if he were to do a piece about my press secretary's weight loss, he'd title it, "Marlin: A Beer Gut in Decline."

Phone rang the other day. Brent ran it through intelligence. Everything checked out. Happy to take the call. Certainly worth it. Never thought I'd hear from Elvis again.

Phone rang again later. They told me it might be a crank call. I said, "Oh, what the hell. Put Gephardt on."

Look, the guy who called was Rafsanjani. Really. Irving Rafsanjani, from Toledo.

GRIDIRON NOTE

Tip O'Neill will not be @
the dinner. His secretary says
he'll be in Florida.

((We could say he's down there
posing for American Express ads.))

Lot of comedians out there. Doing impersonations.

11. Okay with me. But natural disasters -- out of bounds.

California earthquake? Not my fault. San Andreas fault.

But kinder and gentler? Yes. I hear the voices others don't. Haunted by them. The downtrodden. The destitute. Piteous souls who struggled bravely and still lost their house. Like Drexel Burnham.

3 In my inaugural address I said "the day of the dictator is over." Good news. All over the world, repressive regimes and totalitarian tyrants are toppling. But I didn't mean you, John.

4 Good team in place. Sure, my Chief of Staff's a tough guy. Down in Cartagena, during a lunchtime photo op, they had to keep saying, "Remember John, bite the taco, shake the hand..."

5 And maybe Dick Darman has a reputation for being hard to work with. But I've come to understand him better since I heard a story from his childhood. When he was 10, his family very nearly lost him. Later on his father said, "We should have taken him further into the hills."

6 Of course, Lee Atwater's famous for his mean streak. When he was in the hospital, the nurses caught him short-sheeting his own bed.

9 So in Washington you've got to be tough. Have a sense of humor. And I don't want to take this personally, but I turn 65, and Moynihan says "Let's rethink Social Security."

10 Tip O'Neill nearly didn't make it here tonight. Somebody lost the key to the suitcase. Then his bags got mixed up, and he nearly wound up in Toronto.

12 Sure, I got some flack for appointing Arnold Schwarzenegger to head the Council on Physical Fitness. But what could I do? The short list was down to him or Helen Thomas.

13 The White House Press Corps is still asking "Where's Brent?" So in the spirit of openness, we revealed that Brent took a vacation in Salt Lake City. The next day, Nancy Pelosi proposed new sanctions against Utah.

15 But world-shaking events do move quickly these days. Boggles the mind. Wonderful to see free speech restored to the Soviet Union. To Eastern Europe. To Andy Rooney.

14 Dangerous times, though. Had to determine whether that Libyan plant was making mustard gas. Called for very sophisticated intelligence methods. Asked a C.I.A. agent to drive by, roll down his window, and yell to a guard, "Pardon me sir. Would you have any Grey Poupon?"

Like to start a Broder. Then go into Maulin too & we intend to end with a bang on Maulin go with this —

- ✓ 1, 2 — two Broder jokes
- ✓ 3 — "In my inag. address But I didn't mean you, John"
- ✓ 4 — Actually we have a good team in place, "Sore my ch. of st. . . . bite face, shake, hand"
- ✓ 5 — "And maybe Dick Darman further into the hills"
- ✓ 6 — policy out speaking of hardworking people, Lee Atwaters' famous . . . short shooting own keel"
- ✓ 7 — "So in Wash you've got to be tough rethink SS. ? work in reverse"
- ✓ 8 — And as you get older time seems to move backward, ^{all} phone rang the other day. Never thought I'd hear Elvis again"
- ✓ 9 — "Phone rang again later Not Gep on"
- out 10 — "Look guy was Ray from Toledo"
- ✓ 11 — "Lot of comedians San Andreas fault"
- ✓ 12 — speaking of California, I sure got some flack for app. Arnold Helen Thomas."
- ✓ 13 — And that WHPG is still asking wheres Brent? Utah"
- ✓ 14 — Are "Dangerous times, though. . . . Grey Poupon?"
- ✓ 15 — but world shaking events. . . . To Andy Rooney

16 — But kinder gentler? . . . Drexel Burnham

The luminaries in ~~D.C.~~ here tonight sure
have been traveling alot lately

— 17 Tip O'neil almost didn't make it here tonight
Toronto"

And, out at that Seaborne summit,
Maui

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shadow. "The good thing about the state level is we can solve some of our problems," said Oklahoma's Henry Bellmon, a former Republican senator. "I'm not sure Washington can solve anything on its plate." Cecil D. Andrus, a former secretary of the interior now back in his job as governor of Idaho, said, "No question I have more influence on the direction the country's going -- not just my state -- as a governor than I did in the Cabinet" of the Carter administration.

For former Senate Budget Committee chairman Lawton Chiles (R-Fla.), retiring in 1988 and going back to Tallahassee has revived a badly dented confidence in democracy. "I loved being a senator, and I respect the people who are there," he said, "but the failure of leadership in the presidency has meant that Washington never deals with anything until it has become a crisis."

Chiles recounted the satisfaction he found last year in lending his support to a volunteer effort in nearby Gaston County, where black residents, determined to reduce the highest infant mortality rate in the state, set up a school-based clinic that not only achieved that aim but cut teenage pregnancies by 70 percent and school truancy by a third.

"As chairman of the Budget Committee," Chiles said, "my main challenge was to keep from pulling a gun on myself while I shaved. Here, I can really help get things done."

Escaping Washington has done wonders for Chiles's morale, but what does the eclipse of this power-conscious city's clout in the country and the world do to those who remain? "Maybe I'm just getting older, or maybe it's because I've just come back from Prague," said former senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. (R-Md.), "but I don't feel the electricity there was there. I think the drama that's been here in the past is lacking."

Elder statesman Clifford said, "I think we've all lost the sense of pride we had before. I think we reveled in the fact we were the capital of the world. This is the place where the meetings were held -- and members of Congress took part, not just the president. But it's drifted away now. We are beset, instead, by questions about whether we are the murder capital of the country . . . The ugliness of our life has changed the concept of Washington in our own country and in the world."

Maybe, but others find consolations. "We've become much more of a cultural center," said ex-secretary Laird, citing the attractions of the Kennedy Center and Wolf Trap, among other institutions. "A far more interesting, civilized city," Brinkley agreed. "Much more fun to live in, largely as a result of the outpouring of money on public and private pleasures."

Which may explain the not so subtle shift in the Riggs commercials. Instead of hailing the "most important city in the world," the bank now promises to care for "the most important money in the world -- yours."

Staff researchers Bruce Brown and Ralph Gaillard Jr. contributed to this report.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, DAVID BRINKLEY.; PHOTO

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"You are blessed," he said with British tact, "with a very cautious and reactive president, who likes to work beneath the surface. He is not an upfront man, seizing his opportunities, like the Berlin Wall or the changes in South Africa. He doesn't like to lead from the front."

Robert Lichter of the Center for the Media and Public Affairs noted that it is principally the president who puts Washington in the world's spotlight and "this president is just not interested in getting on television. He doesn't want to dominate the news."

In 1989, Lichter said, there were only a third as many stories on Bush personally on the evening network news as there had been on President Ronald Reagan in 1981. Even widening the lens to the whole administration shows the same tendency. In 1981, television did 3,406 pieces on the Reagan administration, and eight years later, only 2,010 on its successor.

The fadeout has caused big problems for the world's largest press corps, concentrated in Washington on the theory that this is where it's really happening.

John Wolman, Washington bureau chief of the Associated Press, said, "We've tilted our coverage to reflect what's interesting -- and obviously a lot of that is the reaction to what's happening overseas." Just last week, he said, he reassigned a reporter from an agency beat and added a "Sunday foreign affairs person."

In television-land, the shift of interest is even sharper. Timothy J. Russert, head of the NBC News bureau, said roughly one-fourth of his network's news resources are concentrated in Washington, and yet it is a constant battle to get Washington pieces on the air. "In the morning conference call, there's yelling from around the country about 'too much Washington . . . I don't want to see two more guys in red ties talking about HUD.' There may be eight to 10 stories a day the Washington bureau will offer that we believe to be painstakingly important to the future of the republic . . . We average about three a night [on the air], but when major news is happening in the world, we're often cut down to just one."

David Brinkley, author of a best-selling memoir of World War II Washington and host of ABC-TV's "This Week" Sunday public affairs program, said that even though the show originates here, "it's gotten to the point, there's nothing I want to deal with in Washington. This year's Washington news sounds exactly like last year's Washington news."

Those who have fled important Washington jobs testify that they have escaped, not just tedium but a sense of irrelevancy that drove them almost to despair. Former senator Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts, now a Boston lawyer, said, "I always get back on the plane feeling discouraged" after one of his one-day-a-month visits to Washington. "The things they talk about there are so short-term, they're almost irrelevant." Arguing that Main Street America is much more aware of the danger of the nation's "economic decline" than either end of Pennsylvania Avenue, Tsongas said, "It's almost like Washington is pre-Pearl Harbor and the rest of us are post-Pearl Harbor."

Governors who compare their current jobs with the impact they had in high-level Washington posts say it's the difference between substance and

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"As we look down the road," Helms mused, "we can certainly see indications that Washington will not be the center of the universe, as it was since World War II. It will still be important, but in a world as disorderly as this one, we're going to have a hard time influencing things."

In the mind of a man like Clark Clifford, a White House aide under President Harry S. Truman and secretary of defense under President Lyndon B. Johnson, Washington's loss of influence has been steep and palpable.

"This isn't a blip on the screen," the veteran Washington lawyer said of the capital's seeming slip into semi-obscurity. "There was a steady, long, praiseworthy rise to eminence in the world almost unequaled since Rome ruled and Greece had its turn . . . and now we are in decline."

In the days of the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan and the creation of NATO, Clifford said, "we saved the world, and Washington became the capital of the world." Partisan Democrat though he is, Clifford is willing to say that Washington was still playing that role when President Richard M. Nixon "signed the first arms-control agreement with the Soviet Union and opened the dialogue with China." Since then, he said, "we have frittered it away," largely, in his view, by the economic policies of the 1980s that "reduced this economic Gibraltar to the largest debtor nation in the world."

Some staunch Republicans share that view. Rep. Silvio O. Conte (R-Mass.), a 31-year veteran of Capitol Hill and ranking minority member of the House Appropriations Committee, recalled that when he came to Congress in the Eisenhower years, "I was working with the White House on foreign aid. If some problem popped up in the world, it would be nothing to appropriate \$ 30 [million] or \$ 40 million to take care of it. Now we can't do it. Poland, the Phillipines, Panama -- they all want our help, and they're all important, but we can't do it.

"We're carrying this huge deficit, and we've become the world's debtor, and that means we've lost control of our own destiny . . . The Pacific basin has become the manufacturing center, and we're a service economy stuck with tremendous inventory of military hardware which will soon be worthless."

Rep. Charles E. Bennett (D-Fla.), who has been in Congress more than 40 years, agreed that "we bankrupted the country for the sake of the rich with the 1981 tax bill" and Congress is "too pusillanimous" to correct it. "But," countering the darker views of Washington's status, he said, "America is still the best-hearted, most generous nation, so it's the center of the world."

And University of California-Berkeley political scientist Nelson Polsby argued that the alleged pettiness of Washington's current concerns is nothing unusual. "Go back to the Truman days," when NATO and the Marshall Plan were created, he said, "and you'll find people lamenting that all the discussion was about deep freezes, mink coats and scandals in the Justice Department."

However, it's not just the relative economic decline of the United States that puts Washington in shadow, many say, but the low-key leadership style of President Bush -- a far less visible chief executive than his predecessor. Alastair Stewart came here a month ago for Britain's Independent Television Network and has been surprised and a bit disconcerted "by the low level of interest in London in what Washington is doing and saying."

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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February 18, 1990, Sunday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A1

LENGTH: 1972 words

HEADLINE: Nation's Capital in Eclipse as Pride and Power Slip Away;
Some See Descent as Steep and Permanent but Others Regard It as Temporary

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: David S. Broder, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Seven years ago, when Riggs National Bank began promoting itself as the No. 1 financial institution in "the most important city in the world," few Washingtonians snickered or suggested that this designation of their town was undeserved.

Today, after a year in which the spotlight of public attention has swung from Warsaw to Beijing to Berlin to Prague to Budapest and most recently to Johannesburg, with frequent stops in Moscow and only an occasional glance at the Potomac, Washington's claim to the title may look as dented as Mike Tyson's heavyweight crown.

Good thing we can still laugh @ ourselves.

"This city," said longtime Washingtonian David Brinkley, "is nowhere near as important as it thinks it is."

If the veteran television newsman's electronic world is any guide, Washington has slipped -- and slipped badly. Of the 330 minutes of actual news on the three main network evening broadcasts this past Monday through Friday, Washington stories totaled less than 44 minutes. And that's a generous reckoning, including, for example, Defense Secretary Richard B. Cheney's visit to the Far East. It also includes the heavy coverage of the indictment of Washington Mayor Marion Barry -- hardly the kind of story that enhances the city's stature.

Historian and Kennedy White House aide Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., pinpointed two changes that he and many others said account for the eclipse of Washington. "The age of the superpowers has come to an end," he said, "so military power does not translate to influence, as it once did. And second, despite our wealth, we represent ourselves as poor, or refuse to mobilize our resources, so we circumscribe ourselves."

Some qualified observers dismiss all this as a temporary phenomenon. "So much has been going on in the world in the last six months," said former Central Intelligence Agency director Richard Helms, "no domestic stories can make it, except the Trumps' divorce."

Former Wisconsin congressman and secretary of defense Melvin R. Laird argued that "if we seem to be mere spectators" to the epochal events in Europe, "it's because of what we did here over the last 40 years" to help those once battered and subjugated nations reach the point they can make decisions for themselves."

9TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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March 30, 1983, Wednesday, Final Edition

SECTION: First Section; Op-Ed; A23

LENGTH: 810 words

HEADLINE: The Laughing Stock

BYLINE: By David S. Broder

KEYWORD: BRODER

BODY:

Last weekend was that annual celebration of silliness and civility here known as the Gridiron Dinner. It is an occasion when the newspaper people who comprise the membership of the club set out to mock the politicians we cover--and end up making fools of ourselves.

It occurred to me, sitting backstage between acts, dressed as a pregnant peasant woman, that there must be a Larger Meaning to this. Upon semi-sober reflection, I have discovered that there is.

It was captured in a line from a song that someone impersonating Rep. Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz.) sang: "There is no platform like a strong sense of humor." What Gridiron reminds us is that the only way to survive the pressures, strains and antagonisms of politics, and make this crazy and glorious system of ours work, is to keep it all in perspective.

The reporters' role in the Gridiron is a subsidiary one. We play hosts and put on the musical skits but, as President Reagan accurately observed, the level of our creative effort would do credit to the fifth grade of the Herndon, Va., school.

The special ambience of the event is created by throwing together politicians who are, in working hours, often at swords' points. The test is to see if they can, by their wit, strip the situation of its tension and turn the evening into one of fellowship.

There have been times when it failed, either because the tensions of the outside world were overwhelming, or because the politicians in question lacked the sense of irony to see the absurdity of their situation.

Last Saturday, it worked splendidly. In the presence of the Russian ambassador, the president of the United States sang a song mocking his own use of biblical imagery to buttress his anti-Soviet rhetoric. "I often quote the Lord," he sang, "cause how'd I scare the Commies, just quoting Jerry Ford?" Another Reagan verse suggested that when Philip Habib has brought peace to the Middle East, he might tackle a really quarrelsome area--the senior White House staff.

Sen. John Glenn of Ohio, the Democratic speaker of the evening, laughed his reputation as a tedious orator away--maybe for good--by turning the president and vice president--to say nothing of a distinguished columnist for the New

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York Times --into helpless straightmen for a monologue that can fairly be called a triumph.

Gridiron reminds us that, in the eyes of history, even the most inflated of personages in this city are bit players. As Sen. Bob Dole, the GOP's speaker, put it, quoting Oliver Wendell Holmes: statesmen and pundits "lead the parade in the same sense that small boys who jump in front of the circus parade lead it through town. When we turn off to head home, the parade goes on."

Personal relationships of the kind that are fostered on such light-hearted evenings really are essential to making government function. In a conversation after the dinner, I heard a story that shows how important such friendships can be in large-scale government achievements, like last week's passage of the measure to ensure the financial future of the Social Security system.

Last Christmas, the prospect of a bipartisan agreement on Social Security seemed remote. The commission that was assigned to draft such a proposal was on the verge of breaking up.

One thing that kept it going was the friendship of Dole and Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, both commission members, and the link to the White House Moynihan enjoyed through his one-time Harvard protégé and live-in baby-sitter, David A. Stockman, the director of the OMB.

Perhaps an even more significant and less public back-channel of communication linked Richard G. Darman, a special assistant to the president, and Robert M. Ball, the former Social Security commissioner who was the key strategist for the Democrats on the commission.

Ball and Darman formed their friendship in a bizarre moment of the Nixon administration, when some overeager politicians on his White House staff tried to grab credit for a Social Security benefit increase by sending out a red-white-and-blue insert, with Nixon's picture, with every Social Security check the month the increase went into effect.

Ball threatened to resign as Social Security commissioner if they did that. Darman, then a young assistant to Health, Education and Welfare secretary Elliot Richardson, was the one who countermanded the White House order and saw to it that a less gaudy notice went out with the checks.

Through the years, though Ball became an adviser to the Democrats and Darman moved onto the Reagan White House staff, each remembered that in a crunch he could reach out to the other.

Their friendship helped rescue the Social Security system. Like the Gridiron Dinner, it demonstrates that there are occasions when politicians and reporters--even disguised as pregnant peasant women--do manage to rise above themselves.

DATE: MARCH 21, 1990

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NUMBER OF STORIES FOUND WITH YOUR REQUEST THROUGH:
LEVEL 1... 1

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright (c) 1984 The Washington Post

March 28, 1984, Wednesday, Final Edition

SECTION: First Section; Op-Ed; A23

LENGTH: 833 words

HEADLINE: The Importance of Being Amateur

BYLINE: By David S. Broder

KEYWORD: BRODER

BODY:

Thanks to an editor's negligence, I was allowed to sneak home last weekend and to wallow in wonderful amateurism, instead of what passes for the professionalism of the political campaign.

By happy coincidence, the Gridiron Club--that collection of overage amateur thespians and singers who are forced by cruel fate to make their living as newspaper scribblers--holds its annual soiree on the same weekend that the NCAA basketball tournament gets down for semi-finals.

That means that a vacationing journalist can experience both the sublime and the ridiculous elements of amateur endeavor in the space of a single weekend. You will have to guess which is which.

If you need a hint, it was not Patrick Ewing of Georgetown or the marvelously named freshman center of the University of Virginia, Olden Polynice, who had trouble distinguishing their left feet from their right. That was the charm of the famous Gridiron dancers, reappearing by popular demand as the symbols of America's ever-growing military might.

But I digress. This is an essay in praise of amateurism. The reason college basketball is superior in its appeal to the pro game (Forgive me, Larry O'Brien. I never would have said it while you were commissioner of the NBA.) is that emotion plays so much greater a role in the college game.

Now, I was not born yesterday. I know that there are occasional hints that some of those tall persons playing for colleges some distance from their homes may have more than the pursuit of scholarship in their minds. But Georgetown and Virginia, my favorite schools, are first-rate universities with a habit of graduating their athletes with their classmates and with real degrees.

Ralph Sampson stayed in Charlottesville for four years, disdaining the chance to turn pro early, and graduated with his class. Ewing is doing the same thing at Georgetown. Through my esteemed Washington Post colleague, Thomas Boswell, I learned that the hero of Virginia's victory over Indiana, Kenton Edelin, was that rarest of creatures, a walk-on.

He came to Charlottesville, without a scholarship, intent on an education, and was discovered playing intramural basketball. Though he made the steal, the basket and the free-throws that sent Virginia to the Final Four, Edelin is going on to law school as he had planned.

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At the Gridiron, we have nothing but walk-ons, no one having ever been given a material inducement to leave the anonymity of the typewriter for the glory of donning greasepaint in the annual song-and-skits show we put on for our politician quests. The Gridironers believe that foolishness is its own reward. This year, sitting in the audience instead of being part of the chorus, I was able to appreciate how truly foolish and amateurish we do look.

The Democratic skit had distinguished columnists and commentators costumed as what I suppose I am required to call cave persons. In the Republican skit, they were space creatures.

President Reagan remarked, accurately, that it was a wonderful evening for those who missed the weekly Gong Show. But his biggest applause came when he said, at the end of the all-but-interminable entertainment, "Ask yourself if you are really better off than you were three-and-a-half hours ago."

On the shuttle back to the New York primary, I was thinking that the answer to Reagan's question was yes. There is precious little room for amateurism in presidential campaigns these days, and politics is the worse for it.

The stakes seem to have grown too large for these ventures to be entrusted to anyone but those who make a living from running campaigns. In New York, for example, Walter Mondale has hired David Garth to create special ads for him--on the theory that Garth speaks to New Yorkers better than Mondale's full-time Texas-based ad man. Soon there will be upstate, suburban and city specialists.

One of the charms of Gary Hart's campaign last month was its amateurism. Gov. Joe Brennan of Maine, one of the least stuffy people in politics, delighted in telling the story of his encounter on a pre-Christmas airline flight from Washington with a young constituent named Ron Briggs. "I asked him what he was doing," Brennan recalled, "and he told me he was a senior at George Washington University, but had dropped out for a while to help Gary Hart.

"I told him it was wonderful that young people were taking an interest in politics," Brennan said. "I almost patted him on the head." The governor's tone was rueful: two months after that encounter, 22-year-old Ron Briggs beat the governor and the rest of the Democratic establishment by carrying the Maine caucuses for Hart.

Since then, the Hart campaign has succumbed, as all campaigns do, to the desire for professionalism. But the night of his triumph, Ron Briggs was as calm and cool as Kenton Edelin in his moment of victory --or as The New York Times' Maggie Hunter was when she closed the Gridiron show with her sultry version of a hymn to Reagan.

Hooray for amateurs!

GRIDIRON DINNER -- DRAFT FOUR

Thank you, David. Sorry if I'm a little late. Barbara wouldn't let me up here until I ate my broccoli.

Let me congratulate the new Gridiron President. It's good to have an intellectual in charge. It took vision to predict my race would be over after Iowa... to say Dukakis would get the Southern vote... to work for a paper that predicts Daniel Ortega by 30 points... Speech in the dark? Hell, David Broder writes whole columns in the dark.

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But what's really in decline, of course, is dictatorship. In my inaugural address I said "the day of the dictator is over." All over the world, repressive regimes and totalitarian tyrants are toppling. But I didn't mean you, John.

Sure, my Chief of Staff's a tough guy. Down in Cartagena during a lunchtime photo op, they had to keep saying, "Remember John, bite the taco, shake the hand..."

And maybe Dick Darman has rubbed a few people wrong, too. But I've come to understand him better since I heard a story from his childhood. When he was 10, his family very nearly lost him. Later on his father said, "We should have taken him further into the hills."

But I ^{still} think ~~overall~~ we've got a good team in place. Phone rang the other day. Brent ran it through intelligence. Jim Baker checked everything out. Happy to take the call. Certainly worth it. Never thought I'd hear from Elvis again.

Phone rang again later. They told me it might be a crank call. I said, "Oh, what the hell. Put Gephardt on."

In this town you've got to have a sense of humor. So I don't want to take this personally. ^{But} I turn 65, and Moynihan says "Let's rethink Social Security."

Lot of comedians out there. Doing impersonations. Okay with me. But natural disasters -- out of bounds. California earthquake? Not my fault. San Andreas fault.

Speaking of California, I did get some flack for appointing Arnold Schwarzenegger to head the Council on Physical Fitness. But what could I do? The short list was down to him or Helen Thomas.

And that White House Press Corps is still asking "Where's Brent?" So in the spirit of openness, we revealed that Brent took a vacation in Salt Lake City. The next day, Nancy Pelosi proposed new sanctions against Utah.

World-shaking events do move quickly these days. Boggles the mind. Wonderful to see free speech restored to the Soviet Union. To Eastern Europe. To Andy Rooney.

[[LAST ONE:]]

But it's important to remember that these are dangerous times. Determining whether that Libyan plant was making mustard gas called for very sophisticated intelligence. So I told a C.I.A. agent to drive by, roll down his window, and say to a guard, "Pardon me sir. Would you have any Grey Poupon?"

You know, a few years ago, David Broder wrote, "Gridironers believe that foolishness is its own reward." It's true. There is great value in laughing at ourselves.

Some say that Washington isn't the Goliath it once was.

As another David -- David Brinkley -- noted not long ago, "This city is nowhere near as important as it thinks it is."

The lesson here is not one of declining influence. It is of deflating self-importance. The power of Eastern Europe is that of people and personalities, yes. But it is, above all, about the power of ideas.

The idea called America has given the world a path to follow. And now so many

And whether we've seen the world through eyes wincing in pain, blurred with tears, or bright with laughter, it will never be the same again.

Laugh, and the world laughs with you.

And I promise to do all I can, to keep you supplied with new material.

GRIDIRON DINNER

CAPITAL HILTON

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

THANK YOU, LARRY [O'ROARK, GRIDIRON CLUB PRESIDENT]

I MUST SAY I'M IMPRESSED.

THIS IS THE LARGEST WHITE TIE GROUP I'VE SEEN

SINCE THOSE COMING OUT PARTIES IN IOWA.

- 2 -

BY THE WAY, NEXT YEAR

WHO DO I SEE

ABOUT GETTING AN EARLIER SPOT IN THE SHOW?

((PAUSE)) EVEN THE ACADEMY AWARDS WEREN'T THIS LONG.

((ASIDE)) HAVE WE GOTTEN TO BEST PICTURE YET?

BARBARA'S TOLD ME TO BAN ASSAULT WEAPONS.

WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN BANNED

WERE THOSE LAST THREE SKITS.

BELIEVE ME, THOUGH, I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO

FOLLOW A TOUGH ACT.

LET'S FACE IT: IF I WAS FUNNIER THAN RONALD REAGAN

I WOULD HAVE WON IN 1980 ((PAUSE))

AND HE'D BE UP HERE TONIGHT

TRYING TO LAUGH AWAY THE BUSH DEFICIT.

- 5 -

I GUESS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I'VE LEARNED
SINCE BECOMING PRESIDENT
IS THAT YOU CAN'T TAKE CRITICISM TOO SERIOUSLY.

FOR EXAMPLE, PEOPLE SAY I'M INDECISIVE. ((PAUSE, THEN
HESITANTLY)) WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.

- 6 -

PEOPLE SAY I LACK POLITICAL COURAGE.

DON'T FORGET. ((FORCEFULLY))

I'M THE ONE WHO WENT TO THE AMISH

AND TOLD THEM TO "JUST -- SAY -- NO."

- 7 -

PEOPLE SAY THAT MY AGENDA'S CONFUSING,
MY STAFF'S DIVIDED,
AND YOU CAN'T FOLLOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
THIS FROM THE GUYS ON THE McLAUGHLIN GROUP?

- 8 -

BUT I KNOW HOW TO TAKE A HIT.
GEORGE WILL PREDICTED
THAT IF I GOT ELECTED,
THE SOUND YOU'D HEAR FROM THE OVAL OFFICE
WOULD BE ((LOOK AROUND)) "THE ARF OF A LAP DOG."
((PAUSE, THEN INCREDULOUSLY))
AND NOW MILLIE GOES AND PROVES HIM RIGHT.

BUT, I AM GLAD THAT ONE OF THE PUPPIES
WAS A BOY.

NOW CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC
WHEN THEY REFER TO THAT
S. O. B. IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

WATCHING YOU TONIGHT BROUGHT BACK

A LOT OF CAMPAIGN MEMORIES.

CAMPAIGN-STYLE POLITICS HAS EVEN COME TO MOSCOW.

YOU CAN TELL THEY'RE NOT USED TO CAMPAIGNING.

I SAW BORIS YELTSIN ON TELEVISION THE OTHER NIGHT:
SITTING IN AN 18-WHEELER; PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE; AND
CRITICIZING THE POLLUTION IN ODESSA HARBOR.

- 11 -

I HAD A FEELING YELTSIN WOULD WIN, THOUGH.
ONCE I FOUND OUT HIS OPPONENT, BRAKOV,
HAD SPENT A LOT OF TIME RIDING AROUND IN A TANK.

- 12 -

ACTUALLY, I THINK OUR ADMINISTRATION
HAS GOTTEN OFF TO A GOOD START.
THE TRIP TO JAPAN WAS VERY TOUCHING.
IT WAS A NOSTALGIC EXPERIENCE,
VISITING OUR MONEY.

- 13 -

YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A GOOD STAFF
TO MAKE THE WHITE HOUSE RUN.

LIKE FRED McCLURE UP HERE.

FRED'S WORKED FOR ED MEESE, JOHN TOWER,
AND FRANK LORENZO. ((PAUSE))

I ALWAYS CONSULT FRED WHENEVER I WANT TO
RUB SOMEONE THE WRONG WAY.

- 14 -

AND I WAS GLAD TO SEE YOU APPRECIATE
LEE ATWATER'S TALENTS TOO.

LEE'S A SMART GUY. ((PAUSE))

HE'S THE FIRST PERSON IN HISTORY
TO GO THROUGH HOWARD UNIVERSITY
IN JUST THREE DAYS.

HAVE YOU SEEN LEE ON STAGE?

INAUGURATION WEEK.... THE LETTERMAN SHOW.

THE SUNGLASSES.... THE LOUD MUSIC.

THE DANCING AND THE SWEAT. ((PAUSE))

NOW I KNOW WHAT LEE MEANT

WHEN HE SAID HE WANTED TO LEAD THE PARTY.

AS LEE'S OFTEN TOLD ME,

YOU CAN'T GET A BREAK FROM THE MEDIA.

BILL BENNETT ANNOUNCED HE'D STOPPED SMOKING.

NEXT DAY, THE PAPERS CALLED HIM A QUITTER.

- 17 -

EVEN MY GRANDKIDS ARE STARTING TO PICK UP
BAD HABITS FROM THE MEDIA.

THE OTHER DAY, ONE OF THEM ASKED FOR A CANDY BAR
AND I SAID "No".

THEN SHE SAID, "I'D LIKE TO ASK A FOLLOW-UP."

- 18 -

BILL'S TAKEN ON THE TOUGH JOB OF FIGURING OUT
WHAT TO DO ABOUT SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

WE ALL KNOW THE NRA'S POSITION:

GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE, GRAPES DO.

AND OF COURSE, IF WE OUTLAW GRAPES,

ONLY OUTLAWS WILL HAVE GRAPES.

- 19 -

SERIOUSLY, I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE
CRIME SITUATION IN D.C.

I WENT ABOARD MARINE ONE

AND ASKED THE PILOT WHERE TO SIT.

HE SAID, "BACK THERE, BEHIND THE TAILGUNNER."

- 20 -

((LAST JOKE:))

YOU'D THINK THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD BE SAFE FROM CRIME.

BUT LAST NIGHT BARBARA WAS HEADED OUT THE DOOR

TO WALK MILLIE,

LOOKED BACK, AND SAID, "COVER ME."

- 21 -

WE DO A LOT OF KIDDING AROUND IN THIS TOWN. BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO LAUGH. BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH HUMOR ISN'T SINGLED OUT IN THE FIRST AMENDMENT, AS TONIGHT'S FRIENDLY COMPETITION SHOWS, IT'S DARN NEAR A NATIONAL IMPERATIVE. AMERICANS ARE SUPPOSED TO TAKE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY -- BUT NOT THEMSELVES.

- 22 -

MARK TWAIN CALLED LAUGHTER THE "ONE REALLY EFFECTIVE WEAPON," AGAINST WHICH NO HUMBUG CAN STAND. AMEN.

LAUGHTER IS PART OF THE MAGIC OF AMERICA, PART OF THE MAGIC OF OUR POLITICS AND OUR PRESS.

- 23 -

A YEAR FROM NOW -- HECK, A WEEK FROM NOW -- THERE'LL BE ALL SORTS OF NEW MATERIAL. MY MISSTATEMENTS ALONE SHOULD GIVE YOU PLENTY TO WORK WITH. AND THERE'LL BE THINGS YET UNTHOUGHT OF, AS UNLIKELY AS TAINTED GRAPES OR MILLIE'S PUPPIES.

- 24 -

I WISH YOU HAPPY HUNTING. AND I WISH YOU LAUGHTER IN YOUR WORK. I PROMISE TO DO MY PART -- REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR.

GOOD NIGHT, AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

#

Broder's worried
that nobody pays attention to Washington anymore. This
from a man whose paper predicts [unclear] will win by 30 pts.

Broder's been in the dark for years.
[find some of his wrong predictions]
primary - [unclear] - [unclear] - [unclear]
fairly & hope you want predictions for '92

GRIDIRON MATERIAL -- FIRST ROUND

set up red hair (bamble?)

On way over I saw guy w/ sign - [unclear]

I remember an inspired moment Barbara and I had, after leaving this dinner last year. Standing on a windy street corner... She in a trenchcoat with the collar turned up... Her long red hair blowing in the wind... and both of us too proud to run after it.

Phone rang the other day. Brent ran it through intelligence. Everything checked out. Happy to take the call. Certainly worth it. Never thought I'd hear from Elvis again.

Phone rang again later. They told me it might be a crank call. I said, "What the hell. Put Gephardt on."

State pretty good, but have you ever heard Gephardt do Patanjali?
I said I was listening to First Year [unclear] I said [unclear]

In my inaugural address, I said "the day of the dictator is over." ~~True, there's still one tyrant throwing his weight around, but it takes time to reform some dictators. And I like John Sununu.~~

you're on my team to stay.

but John,

I just wish we could convince him to stop running around in that Batman shirt.

Sure, John's a tough guy. Down in Cartagena, during a lunchtime photo op, they had to keep saying, "Remember John, bite the taco, shake the hand..." ✓

~ But I am an environmentalist. And I'm concerned about the loss of exotic species. You know: Snail Darters... Lemmings... Communists... *Evans & Hook*

~~I guess it just proves democracy works. We have the best technology. The best products. And the best ads to sell them. There's even an ad for those Epilady leg shavers titled, "When Sally Went Hairy."~~

* * *

↑ I can't comment on Panama tonight. But I do want to apologize if any of you own a drawer-full of red underwear.

↓ Jim Baker was a little angry about the invasion. You know, financial markets are pretty sensitive these days. One little invasion can devastate your holdings in Fruit of the Loom...

1
These are changing times. We used to say Better Dead than Red. Now it's, "Don't be caught Dead in Red."

We used to wonder how to get the toothpaste back in the tube. Now we're trying to get the pineapple back in the can.

7
Daniel Ortega -- true story -- was asked to sum up the areas of agreement he had with Mrs. Thatcher after a meeting they held last year. With great diplomatic skill, he answered, "We have both dressed in green."

* * *

Science has taught us a lot lately. Alcohol affects women 25 percent more than men. And coffee makes men more effective with women. I asked Barbara about it. She said, "Why don't we talk about that over an Irish Coffee..."

Mr. Coffee, Juan Valdez, Mrs. Valdez is a lucky woman. Joe Antognio
Robert Young - Father's Day

Americans are concerned about education, and they ought to be. It's time to get back to basics. Reading. Writing. Remote-control.

* * *

Moon - unification church

I know there's a lot of concern -- even fear -- about reunification. I've watched that situation carefully, and let me *taking advice from the Pope. They told me* reassure you. I've decided that even if they want to, we can't let the Trumps ~~want~~ do it.

You've got to hand it to a guy like Donald Trump. Otherwise he'll just buy it...

He did have a redeeming social grace once, but he sold that. There but for the grace of God \ \ goes God.

They're thinking about making Marla Maples into a dramatic mini-series. You know. "Flirty-something."

* * *

Now, I know what the critics are saying. They say I'm too thin skinned. Well, I resent that.

They say I don't have vision. I don't see it that way.

They say I care too much about public opinion. I don't know. What do you think?

*Used to say obnoxious. Now they're saying I'm macho...
Back off.*

Rusty got used!
I said I don't believe the polls & get hate mail from Chicago

5

*67% of Am's think polkae
worth,*
They say I'm obsessed with polls. That's true. But I'm
even more obsessed with how to pronounce "Lech Walesa." / also
concerned about the Hungarians, the Czechs...

They say ignore the polls. Now they say I'm writing off Eastern Europ. and I will
They say I'm too cautious. That I take too much time to
respond. I'll get back to you on that one.

But kinder and gentler? Yes. I hear the voices others
don't. Haunted by them. The downtrodden. The destitute. Those
piteous souls who ~~dared greatly~~ struggled bravely, and still
lost their house. Like Drexel Burnham.

* * *

Got a call from the Motor Vehicle Bureau yesterday. They
wanted to revoke my driver's license. Turns out somebody heard
me giving a speech. Said I was having more accidents with my
deliveries than Domino's.

Selling the Blackbird to Amos's

Competition in the evening news slot has gotten really
tough. So I want to pass on an idea to boost the ratings. Let's
have Leslie Stahl read the news in a chair over a dunk tank. \\

e

Viewers could call a 900 number, and try to guess how tall her hair is.

And then when somebody guesses right, in she goes -- and we could finally see what it looks like when it's wet.

Hey, she couldn't be as embarrassed as Millie was, after the nation learned that she took showers with me.

Summer You know, ~~Dan Rather~~ *hard to work with,* and I haven't always seen eye to eye.

~~But~~ I've come to understand him better since I heard a story from his childhood. When he was 10, his family very nearly lost him. His father later said, "We should have taken him further into the hills."

Y - Family took him fishing. Should have taken him further off shore. He grabbed the computer before we pushed him off.

I know what everybody's saying about my poll ratings. Unbelievable, right? Well, my route to good ratings was easier than your average talk show host's. I didn't have to lose weight, have my nose broken, or go in drag...

*Alec Farman
Camp
Bennett - Cesar
Lax 3*

Another true story. I was in Memphis last November, when they were filming the TV re-creation of Elvis' early days. We asked the crew if they'd move for our motorcade. City of Memphis decided to re-route me. Elvis lives.

you think you're that like

boxed in battle at ca. of the threat

You've ~~all heard about~~ Dick Cheney and Bill Webster fighting over how peaceful the world is. Well, the two of them were out fishing last summer. Storm came up. Sank their boat. They're floundering around, and Bill says, "Dick, don't tell my ~~guys~~ ^{staff} at the CIA about this, but I can't swim!" And Dick says, "Bill, your secret's safe with me. I'd hate to have ~~my~~ ^{staff} men find out I can't walk on water."

peace disturbed. May not be easy to repair the fires.

We're in a box trying to figure out how to win by war. Perry said caterpillars.
Sure, the Stealth Bomber's expensive. High tech, big bucks.
Just think of all those
~~First of all we've got to sew~~ ^{we've got to sew} parachutes for all those caterpillars...

Visual AID?

But we couldn't just let them all ^{pop} ~~burst~~ ^{in a tropical region} ~~burst~~ ^{to get out to sea} ~~burst~~ ^{caterpillars to hold onto the deck umbrellas.}
We're trying to keep the White House scandal-free. But

everybody slips now and then. Dick Darman's seeing some questionable woman named Rosie Scenario.

When you're bald in the front, it means you're a thinker. *partly updated*
 And when you're bald in the back it means you're sexy. When
 you're bald in the front and back, it means you just **think** you're
 sexy. But really, Marlin, before press conferences, it must be
nice only having to straighten your tie...

proposal - shrink deficit, inflation.
 [Foley/ Rosty, liquid diets...] Last year _____
 went into a clothing store and said "I'd like to see a bathing
 suit in my size." The clerk said, "So would I." I won't pick on
 his wardrobe, but the bathing suit he wore in Palm Springs has a
 big hole in the knee.

Some say that 1989 was the triumph of conservative
 philosophy. It was also the year when Susan Sarandon -- true
 story -- heard she made George Will's list of what he'd like to
 take to another planet. She said, "I'm flattered, and glad to
 learn that the rest of Mr. Will's body is not as conservative as
 his brain."

② *Backus* *Ray in life of N.H. ~~Stewart~~ ~~out of~~*
 ① *Winner An's Feminist Show V. Lee?*
2nd Place 1st Place - V. Lee

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 27, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *CW*

FROM: MARK LANGE *ML*
 DAN MCGROARTY *DM*

SUBJECT: GRIDIRON AND RADIO-TV CORRESPONDENTS DINNERS

Attached are remarks for the Gridiron Dinner and the Radio-TV Correspondents Dinner.

The Gridiron Dinner is this Saturday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m. We pulled the best jokes from the selection you returned to us and incorporated your suggestions as well. Your remarks are about four minutes in length and you will be speaking at the end of the program.

Also attached are jokes for the Radio-TV Correspondents Dinner, this Thursday, March 29, at 7:45 p.m. You are staying through the dinner, and will speak around 9:45 p.m. The remarks are approximately 4 minutes.

#

Cables - script, his comments, my notes?

had table
spring off program
tie it in.

[3 MWS.]

Lange/Credenza Corps
Draft Four
[GRID5.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GRIDIRON CLUB DINNER

Long evening (make current.)

Let me congratulate the new Gridiron President. It's good to have an intellectual in charge. It took vision to predict my race would be over after Iowa... to say Dukakis would get the Southern vote... to work for a paper that predicts Daniel Ortega by 30 points... ~~Speech~~ *Speech* in the dark? Hell, David Broder writes whole columns in the dark.

Broder - I had permis. to be

~~But~~ David does take a pretty serious view of things. If he ever writes a piece about my press secretary's weight loss, he'll probably title it, "Marlin: A Beer Gut in Decline."

But Marlin's come a long way. Last year we went into a clothing store and Marlin said, "I'd like to see a bathing suit in my size." And the clerk said, "So would I."

But what's really in decline, of course, is dictatorship. In my inaugural address I said "the day of the dictator is over." All over the world, repressive regimes and totalitarian tyrants are toppling. But I didn't mean you, John.

Sure, my Chief of Staff's a tough guy. Down in Cartagena during a lunchtime photo op, they had to keep saying, "Remember John, bite the taco, shake the hand..."

And maybe Dick Darman has rubbed a few people wrong, too. But I've come to understand him better since I heard a story from his childhood. When he was 10, his family very nearly lost him. Later on his father said, "We should have taken him further into the hills."

But I still think we've got a good team in place. When the phone rang the other day, Brent ran it through intelligence. Jim Baker checked everything out. Happy to take the call. Certainly worth it. Never thought I'd hear from Elvis again.

Phone rang again later. They told me it might be a crank call. I said, "Oh, what the hell. Put Gephardt on."

In this town you've got to have a sense of humor. So I don't want to take this personally -- but I turn 65, and Moynihan says, "Let's rethink Social Security."

Lot of comedians out there. Doing impersonations. Okay with me. But natural disasters -- out of bounds. California earthquake? Not my fault. San Andreas fault.

Speaking of California, I did get some flack for appointing Arnold Schwarzenegger to head the Council on Physical Fitness. But what could I do? The short list was down to him or Helen Thomas.

And that White House Press Corps is still asking "Where's Brent?" So in the spirit of openness, we revealed that Brent took a vacation in Salt Lake City. The next day, Nancy Pelosi proposed new sanctions against Utah.

[LAST ONE:]

World-shaking events do move quickly these days. Boggles the mind. Wonderful to see free speech restored to the Soviet Union. To Eastern Europe. To Andy Rooney.

You know, a few years ago David Broder wrote, "Gridironers believe that foolishness is its own reward." It's true. And on that basis alone, this evening has been priceless.

I've heard enough jokes in my life to know that at the bottom of all good humor lies a measure of rebellion. If we've learned anything from the momentous world events of the past year, it is the undeniable value of thoughtful dissent. That's why those with the courage and conviction to speak up when they sincerely disagree are so crucial to freedom.

As the esteemed David recently said -- David Brinkley -- "This city is nowhere near as important as it thinks it is." Also true -- but the lesson here shouldn't be about declining influence, as much as deflating self-importance.

Events in Eastern Europe and around the world have a power of their own because of the people and personalities that drive them -- but above all, because of the power of ideas that compel them.

One of those ideas is America -- a shining path the world seeks to follow. So as we stand on these shores watching a world in transition, we may witness its various upheavals through eyes blurred with tears or bright with laughter. But we can know that because of this idea called America, the world will never be the same again.

And thanks to my best efforts, the English language may never be the same again, either.

Good night, and God bless you all.

#

Ray Siller
March 28, 1990

1. I want to thank the Secret Service ... who were here earlier this afternoon with their electronic equipment sweeping the room for broccoli.

2. Why this preoccupation with my diet? I follow nutritional guidelines. Each morning at breakfast I eat something from the four major food groups: pork rinds, pork rinds, pork rinds, and tobasco sauce.

3. This has gone unreported, but a few weeks ago we had an engine go out on AF I. Our pilot told me he had to dump some fuel. I said, " Could you substitute broccoli?"

4. Some members of the Senate welcome the broccoli caper. They're relieved that now when the press writes about "long green" they're not referring to Charles Keating.

5. I have a new method to dispose of the broccoli. I hand John Sununu a chain saw and tell him they're miniature redwoods.

6. California sent us 10,000 tons of broccoli. Just my luck the medfly attacks fruit not veggies.

7. I should count my blessings. So far there are no California dancing broccoli heads.

8. I'm tired of the press criticizing what they call "Bush-speak" They say I use phrases like "the vision thing" ... "the environment thing" ... and now "the broccoli thing". Well just for the record, I don't talk like that and frankly I resent the inference. So can we please now drop this thing thing.

9. John Sununu feels it should be legal to perform laboratory experiments on fake fur salesmen.

10. I enjoy press conferences ... those Maalox moments.

3 weeks ago
11. ~~I may be holding too many press conferences. The press may be tired of seeing me. There are subtle clues. Like lately they've been facing the back of the room ...~~
I was talkin' of boycotting press - now saved

... When I say "And now I'll take your questions," ... and Helen Thomas leaps to her feet and shouts, "Thank you, Mr. President."

12. It doesn't do much for my self esteem when I look out and spot Brit Hume wearing a Sony walkman.

✓✓ 13. Or when you see Charles Bierbauer doing a lambada with Sarah McClendon.

14. Down in Texas the candidates who have done well have favored capital punishment. Let's put it this way: when Clayton Williams refers to extra crispy, he's not talking about Colonel Sanders.

✓✓ 15. I received a phone call from a very upset Lech Walesa. He heard me say, "I have no faith in polls."

16. The judge gave Capt. Joseph Hazelwood his choice of sentence ... a thousand hours either cleaning up the oil spill on the Alaskan beaches or the wine stains on this Gridiron dinner's tablecloths.

17. We're focusing on the illiteracy problem within Congress. Not enough Members can read my lips.

✓✓ 18. I predict this year I'll have Congress eating out of my hand. When I say jump, they'll say how high. If you buy that, you'll believe Andy Rooney does the lambada with Louis Farrakhan (or Lee Iacocca with PM Kaifu).

19. After a busy day Barbara and I like to relax up in the family quarters, take off our shoes, curl up by the fireplace and read my lips.

? 20. They still have no leads in that Gardner museum art heist. Because of the works of art not taken, they're speculating the thieves knew very little about art. I hate to point a finger, but yesterday Jesse Helms showed up in the Senate dressed as a rent-a-cop.

K24 21. Did you all watch the Oscars? We don't have anything like that here in Washington. Around here, when you hear someone say "the envelope please," it's a Senator talking to Charles Keating. }

22. They're filming a sequel to the movie "Field of Dreams" ... set in Washington. This time Shoeless Joe Jackson comes back and accepts a bribe from Charles Keating.

23. I'm excited. A major movie studio wants to film my biography. They're going to call it, "My Silver Foot."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS ^{10:25} SEEN

DW 3/28/90

MAR 27 PM 5:4

March 27, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*

FROM: MARK LANGE *ML*
DAN MCGROARTY *DM*

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*How 'bout
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+ this
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Mr. Sununu.

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Speaking of California, I did get some flack for appointing Arnold Schwarzenegger to head the Council on Physical Fitness. But what could I do? The short list was down to him or Helen Thomas. ✓

And that White House Press Corps is still asking "Where's Brent?" So in the spirit of openness, we revealed that Brent took a vacation in Salt Lake City. The next day, Nancy Pelosi proposed new sanctions against Utah. ✓

[LAST ONE:]

World-shaking events do move quickly these days. Boggles the mind. Wonderful to see free speech restored to the Soviet Union. To Eastern Europe. To Andy Rooney.

You know, a few years ago David Broder wrote, "Gridironers believe that foolishness is its own reward." It's true. And on that basis alone, this evening has been priceless.

I've heard enough jokes in my life to know that at the bottom of all good humor lies a measure of rebellion. If we've learned anything from the momentous world events of the past year, it is the undeniable value of thoughtful dissent. That's why those with the courage and conviction to speak up when they sincerely disagree are so crucial to freedom.

As the esteemed David recently said -- David Brinkley -- "This city is nowhere near as important as it thinks it is." Also true -- but the lesson here shouldn't be about declining influence, as much as deflating self-importance.

Events in Eastern Europe and around the world have a power of their own because of the people and personalities that drive them -- but above all, because of the power of ideas that compel them.

One of those ideas is America -- a shining path ^{of progress and prosperity} the world seeks to follow. So as we stand on these shores watching a world in transition, we may witness its various upheavals through eyes blurred with tears or bright with laughter. But we can know that because of this idea called America, the world will never be the same again.

And thanks to my best efforts, the English language may never be the same again, either.

Good night, and God bless you all.

#

Separate joke - one bit if it goes on beer.

Lange/Credenza Corps
Draft Four
[GRID5.DOC]

~~Thank~~ Thank. Enjoy being your guest.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GRIDIRON CLUB DINNER

Very moving. you said it all. This is my 28th ^{Gridiron} Presidency shouldn't be one more act

Let me congratulate the new Gridiron President. It's good to have an intellectual in charge. It took vision to predict my race would be over after Iowa... to say Dukakis would get the Southern vote... to work for a paper that predicts Daniel Ortega by 30 points... ^{Toast?} Speech in the dark? Hell, David Broder writes whole columns in the dark.

★
Barbara's hair
2-3
weave-ins

~~But David does take a pretty serious view of things. If he ever writes a piece about my press secretary's weight loss, he'll probably title it, "Marlin: A Beer Gut in Decline."~~

~~✗~~

^{in Grid, take floor call}
But Marlin's come a long way. Last year we went into a clothing store and Marlin said, "I'd like to see a bathing suit in my size." And the clerk said, "So would I."

✓

But what's really in decline, of course, is dictatorship. In my inaugural address I said "the day of the dictator is over." All over the world, repressive regimes and totalitarian tyrants are toppling. But I didn't mean you, ~~John~~ ^{Mr. Sumner.}

Sure, my Chief of Staff's a tough guy. Down in Cartagena during a lunchtime photo op, they had to keep saying, "Remember John, bite the taco, shake the hand..."

✓

And maybe Dick Darman has rubbed a few people wrong, too. But I've come to understand him better since I heard a story from his childhood. When he was 10, his family very nearly lost him. Later on his father said, "We should have taken him further into the hills."

→
?

But I still think we've got a good team in place. When the phone rang the other day, Brent ran it through intelligence. Jim Baker checked everything out. Happy to take the call. Certainly worth it. Never thought I'd hear from Elvis again.

✓

Phone rang again later. They told me it might be a crank call. I said, "Oh, what the hell. Put Gephardt on."

~~X~~

Paid June, when I'm 64

In this town you've got to have a sense of humor. So I don't want to take this personally -- but I turn 65, and Moynihan says, "Let's rethink Social Security."

family
→

Lot of comedians out there. Doing impersonations. Okay with me. But natural disasters -- out of bounds. California earthquake? Not my fault. San Andreas fault.

Ben Ken
✓

structure prudence w/ caution *Adm*

Speaking of California, I did get some flack for appointing Arnold Schwarzenegger to head the Council on Physical Fitness. But what could I do? The short list was down to him or Helen Thomas.

→

→ *is skit, she's in fatigues*

And that White House Press Corps is still asking "Where's Brent?" So in the spirit of openness, we revealed that Brent took a vacation in Salt Lake City. The next day, Nancy Pelosi proposed new sanctions against Utah.



[LAST ONE:]

World-shaking events do move quickly these days. Boggles the mind. Wonderful to see free speech restored to the Soviet Union. To Eastern Europe. To Andy Rooney.



You know, a few years ago David Broder wrote, "Gridironers believe that foolishness is its own reward." It's true. And on that basis alone, this evening has been priceless.

I've heard enough jokes in my life to know that at the bottom of all good humor lies a measure of rebellion. If we've learned anything from the momentous world events of the past year, it is the undeniable value of thoughtful dissent. That's why those with the courage and conviction to speak up when they sincerely disagree are so crucial to freedom.

As the esteemed David recently said -- David Brinkley -- "This city is nowhere near as important as it thinks it is." Also true -- but the lesson here shouldn't be about declining influence, as much as deflating self-importance.



Events in Eastern Europe and around the world have a power of their own because of the people and personalities that drive them -- but above all, because of the power of ideas that compel them.

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And thanks to my best efforts, the English language may never be the same again, either.

Good night, and God bless you all.

#

*Work ourselves
in on*

Reps / Dems

→ great performers.

So go ahead: give up your day time jobs!

Lange/Credenza Corps
Draft Six
[GRID6.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GRIDIRON CLUB DINNER

That was an inspiring climax a few moments ago.

Let me congratulate the new Gridiron President. It's good to have an intellectual in charge. It took vision to predict my race would be over after Iowa... to say Dukakis would get the Southern vote... to work for a paper that predicts Daniel Ortega by 30 points... Speech in the dark? Hell, David Broder writes whole columns in the dark.

I still had Barbara wearing a mask.

I remember an inspired moment Barbara and I had after last year's Gridiron. Standing on a windy street corner... She in a trenchcoat with the collar turned up... Her long, flowing red hair blowing in the wind... and both of us too proud to run after it.

Per A.D.

Marlin's come a long way. Last year we went into a clothing store and Marlin said, "I'd like to see a bathing suit in my size." And the clerk said, "So would I."

But what's really in decline, of course, is dictatorship. In my inaugural address I said "the day of the dictator is over." All over the world, repressive regimes and totalitarian tyrants are toppling. But I didn't mean you, Mr. Sununu.

Reps ↑ Dems ↓ (get joke about 2 party system broken?)
(mean) (nice)

Joe Hopping June The bad, bad GOP - meaner than a zinkypud dog

what Mr. News called this gray flannel goat.

Sure, my Chief of Staff's a tough guy. Down in Cartagena during a lunchtime photo op, they had to keep saying, "Remember John, bite the taco, shake the hand..."

like 'Geraldor Revolving' said: 'alibi'

And maybe Dick Darman has rubbed a few people wrong, too. But I've come to understand him better since I heard a story from his childhood. When he was 10, his family very nearly lost him. Later on his father said, "We should have taken him further into the hills."

N

But I still think we've got a good team in place. When the phone rang the other day, Brent ran it through intelligence. Jim Baker checked everything out. Happy to take the call. Certainly worth it. Never thought I'd hear from Elvis again.

(I must say), some of the tunes in the program helped ease the flows of the foot gear.
~~In this town you've got to have a sense of humor.~~

~~So I don't want to take this personally -- but I turn 65,~~
and Moynihan says, "Let's rethink Social Security."

Last one:

Lot of comedians out there. Doing impersonations. Okay with me. At this juncture, ~~Got to strike a balance between~~ *-- fine. Now look, we -- need to find* ~~caution and prudence.~~ *between* But natural disasters -- out of bounds. California earthquake? Not my fault. San Andreas fault.

Great to see Helen Thomas in Safeway tonight
key in those
3
Speaking of California, I did get some flack for appointing
Arnold Schwarzenegger to head the Council on Physical Fitness.
But what could I do? The short list was down to him or
Helen Thomas.

And that White House Press Corps is still asking "Where's
Brent?" *like the judge said "off the stealth administration."* So in the spirit of openness, we revealed that Brent
took a vacation in Salt Lake City. The next day, Nancy Pelosi
proposed new sanctions against Utah.

*Send up at
his meeting
China*

[LAST ONE:]

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learned anything from the momentous world events of the past
year, it is the undeniable value of thoughtful dissent. That's
why those with the courage and conviction to speak up when they
sincerely disagree are so crucial to freedom.

*CUT
BACK*

As the esteemed David recently said -- David Brinkley -- "This city is nowhere near as important as it thinks it is." Also true -- but the lesson here shouldn't be about declining influence, as much as deflating self-importance.

Events in Eastern Europe and around the world have a power of their own -- because of the people and personalities that drive them -- but above all, because of the power of ideas that compel them.

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Good night, and God bless you all.

#

☆

James O'Connell
into BF - on Washington Street
as 1982's Mystery Guest

☆ Breaks pup and is most important part of griffin

right of the long butler knives

speaks in the dark -- you know, to speak in the dark
you know, the tiger thing

Swarm - global assembly

Name: From Rice in a Park to Trip in a Barrel

Clay/Nickie joke

Butterfly getting. Part of my eye level change

That sounds like the perfect formula

☆ Break says Graham like King looking in top of
Paper/Graham spray me.

off the fat gone on any layer of world here
for the 5 mins of world consciousness

What
see there about my name

Thomas being same - back from 3rd floor

got from back post
sing Russian here

John Thomas - speak
John Thomas' body
sing again

☆ Put John's face on John Thomas' body

☆ P.T. conf. P2 - not recording.
Will never forget for.

☆ did not know
during the time
of the N

Today's Times

you can't put a
price tag on talent like this

West / Michigan

Asians² don't measure progress in dollars
of \$'s spent

Lange/Credenza Corps
Draft Six
[GRID6.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GRIDIRON CLUB DINNER

You know, that closer a few moments ago was the most moving thing I've seen in over a dozen Gridirons. But I do remember an inspired moment Barbara and I had, after last year's dinner. Standing on a windy street corner... she in a trenchcoat with the collar turned up... her long, flowing red hair blowing in the wind... and both of us too proud to run after it.

Let me congratulate the new Gridiron President. It's **good** to have an intellectual in charge. It took vision to predict my race would be over after Iowa... to say Dukakis would get the Southern vote... to work for a paper that predicts Daniel Ortega by 30 points... Speech in the dark? Hell, ~~David~~ Broder writes whole columns in the dark.

That tune about the "Bad, Bad, G.O.P." was a real toe-tapper. We Republicans are tough, like "Geraldo Revolting" said -- especially my Chief of Staff. Down in Cartagena during a lunchtime photo op, we had to keep saying, "Remember John -- bite the taco, shake the hand..."

Our Press Secretary, he used to be pretty soft. But he's come a long way from last year, when we went into a clothing store. Marlin said, "I'd like to see a bathing suit in my size." And the clerk said, "So would I."

But I think we've got a good team in place. When the phone rang the other day, ^{Scowcroft} ~~Brent~~ ran it through intelligence. ~~Jim~~ Baker checked everything out. ^{Sumner said} ~~Happy~~ to take the call. Certainly worth it. Never thought I'd hear from Elvis again.

Look, we're sensitive to those jokes about the "stealth administration." The White House Press Corps is still asking "Where's Brent?" So in the spirit of openness, we revealed that Brent took a vacation in Salt Lake City. The next day, Nancy Pelosi proposed ~~now~~ sanctions against Utah.

[LAST ONE:]

Look. Lot of comedians out there. Doing impersonations. Okay with me. At this juncture, need ^{for} ~~to strike~~ a balance: somewhere between caution, and prudence... ~~Diabolical, anti-me journalism?~~ ^{But} Natural disasters? Out of bounds. California earthquake? Not my fault. San Andreas fault.

You know, a few years ago David Broder wrote, "Gridironers believe that foolishness is its own reward." It's true. Because the basis of all good humor is a measure of rebellion. And if we've learned anything from the momentous world events of the past year, it is the undeniable value of thoughtful dissent.

As the esteemed David -- David Brinkley -- recently said, "This city is nowhere near as important as it thinks it is."

Also true -- but the lesson here shouldn't be about declining influence, as much as deflating self-importance. Events in Eastern Europe and around the world have a power of their own -- because of the people and personalities that drive them -- but above all, because of the power of ideas that compel them.

We may witness the world's upheavals through eyes blurred with tears or bright with laughter. But we can know that because of this idea called America, the world will never be the same again. And thanks to my best efforts, the English language may never be the same again either.

Good night -- and God bless you all.

#

TO: EDWARD McNALLY (202) 456-6218
FROM: RAY SILLER
SUBJECT: GRIDIRON DINNER
NO. OF PAGES: 11, INCLUDING THIS PAGE

Mark —
Not one of
his better efforts...
— Eddie

Siller

THE PRESIDENT

THE GRIDIRON

MARCH 31, 1990

They're filming a sequel to the movie "The Hunt for Red October"...that will better reflect the changes since the Cold War ended. This time, the submarine swerves to avoid a boat from Greenpeace...collides with the Exxon Valdez...and gets rescued by Dick Gephardt in his dinghy.

I saw that new Tom Cruise movie..."Born on the Seventh of December".

I haven't seen much TV lately. I caught a new show, "America's Funniest Home Videos"...I thought I was watching C-Span's coverage of the House.

The FDA just recalled two million cans of benzene from hardware store shelves. They found it was laced with Perrier.

The Perrier scare didn't affect anyone in this town. Most politicians and reporters drink their benzene straight.

Nicaragua has a new president...Violetta Chamorro...or, as Daniel Ortega calls her...the Central American Deborah Norville.

Haiti's former military ruler, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, is in hiding. He was last spotted wearing a long blond wig and co-anchoring a morning news show.

Andy Rooney is back on "60 Minutes". Don Hewitt had to take him back. Andy's sportjackets were way too big for Deborah Norville.

Since Jane Pauley left the Today Show, their ratings have declined. Morale is low over there. Yesterday morning, Willard Scott wore his toupee at half mast...Gene Shalit wore a tiny black armband around his mustache.

Sometimes I feel the press blows things way out of proportion. My press secretary went on a diet and dropped pounds. So *it's always bad news with* David Broder wrote a column titled, "Marlin: A Beer Gut in Decline".

Now David Broder is suing comedian Billy Crystal. David claims fifteen years ago he submitted a screenplay to Crystal about the improbable romance between a zany, outrageous couple at the Washington Post...called "When Ben Met Sally".

✓ We're still trying to determine whether that Libyan chemical plant was manufacturing mustard gas. I had a CIA agent drive by in a Rolls Royce, roll down his window, and yell to a guard, "Pardon me. Would you by any chance have any Grey Poupon?"

There was another sting operation at the Vista Hotel. The FBI enticed (BLAND GUY NEEDED HERE) up to a room and filmed him buying packages of saccharin.

Peace is breaking out all over the world. The only remaining hotbed is in Donald Trump's bedroom.

Lee Atwater is back at work. Sometimes Lee gives the impression he's playing with a bent guitar pick. Nurses at the hospital said he was the first patient who poured tabasco sauce down his IV tube.

✓ Lee's enemies say he has a mean streak. How many patients short-sheet their own bed?

The night before my flight to Colombia, I spent the night aboard Air Force One, trying unsuccessfully to fall asleep. My pilot used to fly for Northwest, so he kept singing, "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall".

OR...The night before my trip to Colombia, I slept aboard Air Force One, which wasn't easy. With my pilot, you tend to sleep with one eye open. On his resume, he lists as previous employers Northwest and Exxon.

It shakes your confidence when you see him as he climbs aboard drop his keys on the runway.

And when you hear him over the p.a. yell to the steward, "How many times do I have to tell you...just a splash of water"?

Smoking is now banned on all domestic flights, except pilots may still smoke in the cockpit. That's not easy if you fly for Northwest...trying to light up while you're balancing those tiny bottles of Jack Daniels on your lap.

Because cigarette advertising is banned on television, the cigarette companies have had to come up with imaginative ways to advertise their product. The other day up on the Hill, the Marlboro Man galloped into the Senate...on Jesse Helms' shoulders.

Jesse Helms is planning a trip to Florence, Italy. He's gonna chisel a pair of marble Doctor Dentons on the statue of David.

✓ The cigarette manufacturers have taken some flak for targeting specific groups. They've got a new cigarette called "Capitol Hill"...aimed at uneducated male congressmen.

✓ Magazines are reflecting the changes in our world. Playboy showed naked Soviet women...and Gentleman's Quarterly revealed a naked Ted Kennedy...Sometimes you can have too much glasnost.

I want to congratulate Ted Kennedy for making Gentleman's Quarterly's annual best undressed list.

✓ Tip O'Neill would have been here, but someone lost the key to the suitcase...and he only had twelve seconds of oxygen left. (IF TIP IS THERE, SAY "TIP ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT HERE TONIGHT. SOMEONE LOST THE KEY TO THE SUITCASE...AND HE ONLY HAD TWELVE SECONDS LEFT.")

I knew my honeymoon with Congress was over when Tom Foley began to call me by a pet name..."The George". (A LA IVANA AND DONALD TRUMP)

Tom, we all appreciate how difficult your job is. There are three things a Speaker must be able to do: bang his gavel...pretend to be awake during a State of the Union...and tell Ted Kennedy and Chris Dodd to sweep up the beer nuts under their desks.

If you succeed at these tasks, someday you too may get to pop out of a Samsonite.

In the past year, things have loosened up in Congress. Yesterday, Ted Kennedy introduced Chris Dodd as "the distinguished drinking buddy".

Greenpeace plans to demonstrate outside the Capitol. They're protesting another ecological disaster...the wine spills on Ted Kennedy and Chris Dodd's ties. (COULD SUBSTITUTE MOYNIHAN)

I still keep active in sports. You have to when you're the Exercise President...The other day, I played a round of golf...shot an 82...And those miniature golf courses are harder than they look.

John Tower asked if he could play through...He was in a foursome with Howard Baker, Jack Valenti, and (NEED ANOTHER WEE MAN HERE)

_____ has a mean streak. He's the kind of guy who would invite Lee Iacocca over to his home for dinner and serve sushi.

Did you read where Richard Perle may get to contribute a regular column for the Soviet magazine Ogonyok? (TRUE) And just when things were going so well.

The Soviet Union held its election, and Mr. Gorbachev was named President. In his acceptance speech, he asked for a kinder, gentler society. I knew it. I knew it. Peggy Noonan defected.

"Kinder and gentler." Art Buchwald advised me if Gorbachev's dog has puppies, sue for plagiarism.

There's now a McDonald's in Moscow. You can already see the influence McDonald's is having over there. Today members of the Politburo posed for their annual photo, and each man wore a paper hat.

McDonald's in Moscow. The most popular item on the menu is the Egg McCommy.

To launch the McDonald's, Russia and the United States are sharing technology. For the Big Mac, they'll use Russian beef and Dick Gephardt's buns.

Russia has hired local teenagers to work the counters. Dick Gephardt wants to send them America's zit technology.

Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu and I had a productive meeting in Palm Springs. He agreed not to send Sumo wrestlers to Lee Iacocca's house.

I assured Mr. Kaifu my limo was not a Chrysler...so quit poking at the tires with a Samurai sword.

Democracy is returning to this Hemisphere. There are only two tyrants left...Castro and Sununu.

You all know John Sununu...or, as he's called by the Sierra Club...the American Satan.

I can't wait for the baseball season to begin. The other day, John Sununu was out on the White House lawn swinging a baseball bat, hitting pop flies. I said, "John, I didn't know you played ball." He said, "I don't. I'm trying to punch a hole in the ozone layer".

During the campaign, John wanted me to run as the Anti-Environment President.

How many people show up at the Cherry Blossom Festival with a chainsaw?

John had a troubled childhood. His parents gave him a Teddy Bear and he bit its head off. (A LA HEAVY METAL SINGER OZZY OSBOURNE WHO BIT A BAT'S HEAD OFF)...That's no behavior for a thirty seven year old.

Cardinal O'Connor had an exorcist do a sweep of John's office.

Most of you will be surprised to hear John has a sensitive side. During a recent Cabinet meeting, I noticed him doodling these tender lines on an envelope. (PULL OUT ENVELOPE AND READ OFF IT) "I think that I shall never see...a poem lovely as a toxic waste dump".

John was in New York last week staying at the Waldorf. He was only there a few hours. Cardinal O'Connor sent an exorcist up to his room to flush him out.

On two occasions last year, Cardinal O'Connor called upon an exorcist to remove the devil from a home. And the exorcist had his hands full...because Dick Gephardt had sent the devil a Care package of food.

In Rumania, they took down the big statue of Lenin. _____
(LIBERAL MAGAZINE, NEWSPAPER, OR INDIVIDUAL) wants to prop it up outside their home as a lawn jockey.

Many of you have razzed me about that Rafsanjani phone call. I've had nothing but trouble with that phone ever since we switched to MCI.

I should have suspected the call was a hoax. He asked if I had Prince Abdul in a can.

I should have suspected the caller wasn't an Iranian. At the end, he asked if I liked Georgetown's chances in the playoffs.

Rafsanjani has been exploiting the hoax. Yesterday I got back at him. I phoned him in Tehran and asked if he's got Prince Omar in a can.



WATCHING EVERYONE PERFORM TONIGHT GAVE ME A GREAT IDEA. LET'S ELIMINATE POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS ALTOGETHER AND JUST COMPETE ON "TAR MARCH".

OF COURSE TOM (FOLEY), THAT WOULD CHANGE THE ORDER OF SUCCESSION: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, THE

ED MCMATHON.

WHAT DO YOU CALL AN EVENING OF POLITICAL SINGING, DANCING, AND ACTING? THE FRENCH HAVE A NAME FOR IT "LES MISERABLES".

AND TO THINK I CAME HERE WHEN I COULD HAVE BEEN THE GRAND MARSHALL AT A BOCAL FESTIVAL

I GOT A KICK OUT OF THE DEMOCRAT'S SKIT. BY THE WAY, I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM TOSHT PATT (O ANDREW FORD WEBBER): DON'T QUIT YOUR DAY JOB

TONIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDES ONE THING. CONGRATULATIONS ARE DEFINITELY NOT DIVERTING CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR ACTING LESSONS.

I ESPECIALLY ENJOYED THE SONG PARODIES. THOSE A THE KIND OF SONGS THAT MAKE ME WISH I COULD DECLARE MARTIN LAW.

③

I LOVE _____'S VOICE. I HAVEN'T HEARD A SOUND LIKE THAT SINCE MILHE WAS IN HEAT.

PERSONALLY, I DON'T EVEN SING IN THE SHOWER ANYMORE. MY DAUGHTER ONCE TOLD ME I SANG LIKE ONE OF THE BEATLES. WHICH I THOUGHT WAS A COMPLIMENT UNTIL I FOUND OUT THAT YOKO END TECHNICALLY WASN'T A BEATLE.

SINGING AND DANCING? NOT FOR ME. PERSONALLY, I RATHER EAT BROCOLLI.

_____ IS QUITE A DANKER. IF POLITICS DOESN'T WORK OUT, THE BULLETS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW CHEERLEADERS.

_____ IS QUITE A DANKER. I HAVEN'T SEEN FOOTWORK LIKE THAT SINCE I TRIED TO BOARD THE SHIP AT MALTA.

I'M CERTAINLY NO DANGER. AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT, YOU DIDN'T SEE ME TRYING TO BOARD THE SHIP AT MALTA.

THE DECKS WERE SO SLIPPERY I WAS AFRAID IF I SHOOK HANDS WITH GORBACHEV WE'D END UP DANCING THE LAMBADA.



WE'VE HEARD SOME VERY MOVING SPEECHES TONIGHT.
THE KIND OF SPEECHES THAT MAKE YOU WANT TO
TEAR UP THE FIRST AMENDMENT.

AFTER WHAT'S BEEN SAID TONIGHT

I'M READY TO PROPOSE A TR AIR BILL

I'VE BEEN BOTHERED BY MAY HAVE MATTER. I FOUND
OUT THAT EVERY TIME YOU SNEEZE, YOUR HEART
STOPS. I GUESS THAT EXPLAINS WHY EVERY
MORNING THE VICE-PRESIDENT SENDS ME A
LOVELY BOUTIQUE OF RAGGED

AND I NOTICE AT OUR MORNING BREAKFASTS HE'S
CONSTANTLY OPENING ME THE LETTER

I WANT TO COMMENT _____ FOR THE FINE

JOB HE'S BEEN DOING. IN THIS ADMINISTRATION, THE
ONLY PERSON WORKING HARDER IS MARTIN FITZWATERS
TAILOR.

MARTIN LOOKS GREAT, AND HIS WHOLE ATTITUDE HAS
CHANGED. I REMEMBER THE DAY PINOCHET TALKED
DOWN. I SAID "FINALLY, CHILE IS FREE" HE SAID
"GREAT! WHEN DO WE GET?"

(5)

I'M JEALOUS. DAN GAVE MARLIN A HAND CARVED WOODEN DOLL FROM SOUTH AMERICA. HE GAVE ME A "VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS" PENCIL SHARPENER FROM THE AIRPORT.

I WANT TO COMMEND DAN RESTENKOWSKI FOR HIS CREATIVE IDEAS FOR REDUCING THE BUDGET DEFICIT. BUT DAN, WERE YOU REALLY JEALOUS ABOUT THAT WHITE HOUSE BAKE SALE?

WELL, AFTER A YEAR IN THIS OFFICE, I HAVE COME TO REALIZE I AM ONLY THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE FREE WORLD. NEXT TO JUDGE WARNER.

I WAS THIS CLOSE TO INTERVENING IN THE BASEBALL NEGOTIATIONS. I TOLD MY SON GEORGE THAT IF THEY DIDN'T REACH A SETTLEMENT SOON, I WAS GOING TO SURROUND THE BARGAINING TABLE WITH TROOPS AND PLAY ~~THE~~ LOUD ROCK MUSIC.

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS ... YOU KNOW ... WHAT'S HIS NAME ... GEE, IT'S RIGHT ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE ... YOU KNOW, THE BLACK GUY ... NO, NOT SULLIVAN ...

(6)

THIS EVENING
I'VE HAD A LOT OF FUN ~~TO~~. AND
I TRULY APPRECIATE THE GOOD NATURE OF
TONIGHT'S RIBBING. BUT, I'VE HEARD ENOUGH
JOKES IN MY LIFE TO KNOW THAT AT THE
BOTTOM OF ALL GOOD HUMOR LIES AN
ELEMENT OF DISSENT. IF WE'VE LEARNED
ANYTHING FROM THE MOMENTOUS WORLD
EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR, IT IS THE
UNDENIABLE VALUE OF THOUGHTFUL DISSENT.
NOT EVERYONE HAS TO BE IN THE MAINSTREAM
AFTER ALL, IF EVERYONE WAS IN THE
MAINSTREAM, IT WOULD NO LONGER BE A
STREAM. IT WOULD BE A POND. AND A
STAGNANT ONE AT THAT. THAT'S WHY I
VALUE THOSE BOTH IN AND OUT OF
GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE THE COURAGE TO
SPEAK UP WHEN THEY SINCERELY DISAGREE.
AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO LISTEN, UNDERSTAND
AND WHEN NECESSARY, EVEN STIR THINGS
UP A BIT MYSELF.



Invasion Of Privacy Inc • 5130 Klump Ave. • North Hollywood, Ca. 91601 • (818) 506-7714

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DATE: 3/22/90

TO: Mark Lange

FAX #: (202)456-6218

FROM: Steve Skrovan

RE: Gridiron Dinner

PAGES: 7 including cover sheet.

TO REPLY: WCI-INVASION OF PRIVACY FAX: (818) 769-3614

NOTES: _____



TO: MARK LANGE
FROM: STEVE SKIDVAN
RE: GRIDIRON DINNER
(6 PAGES INCLUDING COVER)

Mar. 22, '90

Mark,

Sorry this is late. I tried to cover ground not covered by the others. Consequently there are fewer general pop culture references and more things dealing with the particular event.

Please excuse the philosophical wax job on page six. If you think something usable there as a closing, great. If not, then burn it before anyone else sees it & I ruin my reputation as a humorist.

STEVE SKROVAN

Watching everyone perform tonight gave me a great idea. Let's eliminate political campaigns altogether and just compete on "Star Search".

Of course Tom (Foley), that would change the order of succession: President, Vice President, and then Ed McMahon.

What do you call an evening of political singing, dancing and acting? The French have a name for it: "Les Miserables".

And to think I came here when I could have been the Grand Marshal of the Broccoli Festival.

I got a kick out of the Democrats' skit. By the way, I have a message from Joseph Papp (or Andrew Lloyd Weber): Don't quit your day job!

Tonight's entertainment proves one thing. Congressmen are definitely not diverting campaign funds for acting lessons.

I especially enjoyed the song parodies. Those are the kind of songs that make me wish I could declare martial law.

I love _____'s voice. I haven't heard a sound like that since Millie was in heat!

Personally, I don't even sing in the shower anymore. My daughter once told me I sang like one of the Beatles. Which I thought was a compliment until I found out that Yoko Ono technically wasn't a Beatle.

Singing and dancing? Not for me. Personally, I'd rather eat broccoli.

_____ is quite a dancer. If politics doesn't work out, the Bullets are always looking for new cheerleaders.

_____ is quite a dancer. I haven't seen footwork like that since I tried to board the ship at Malta.

I'm certainly no dancer. And if you don't believe it, you didn't see me trying to board the ship at Malta.

The decks were so slippery I was afraid if I shook hands with Gorbachev, we'd end up dancing the Lambada.

We've heard some very moving speeches tonight. The kind of speeches that make you want to tear up the First Amendment.

After what's been said tonight, I'm ready to propose a hot air bill.

I've been bothered by hay fever lately. I found out that every time you sneeze, your heart stops. I guess that explains why every morning the Vice President sends me lovely bouquet of ragweed.

And I notice at our morning breakfasts, he's constantly offering me the pepper.

I want to commend _____ for the fine job he's been doing. In this administration, the only person working harder is Marlin Fitzwater's tailor.

Marlin looks great. And his whole attitude has changed. I remember the day Pinochet stepped down. I said, "Finally, Chile is free." He said, "Great, when do we eat?"

✓ I'm jealous. Dan gave Marlin a handcarved wooden doll from South America. He gave me a "Virginia Is For Lovers" pencil sharpener from the airport.

I want to commend Dan Rostenkowski for his creative ideas for reducing the budget deficit. But, Dan, were you really serious about that White House Bake Sale?

Well, after a year in this office, I have come to realize I am only the second most powerful man in the free world. Next to Judge Wapner.

I was this close to intervening in the baseball negotiations. I told my son George that if they didn't reach a settlement soon, I was going to surround the bargaining table with troops and play loud rock music.

I was just about to call the chairman of the Joint Chiefs...you know...what's his name...Gee, it's right on the tip of my tongue...you know, the black guy...no, not Sullivan...

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: GRIDIRON CREDENZA
FROM: NO KNOWN RANKING
DATE: MARCH 14, 1990

Attached is some background and brainstorming material for tonight's exclusive engagement.

Take a few minutes to go over it and work up ideas.

See you in Dave's office at 6:00 p.m. tonight!

THE 1990 GRIDIRON CLUB DINNER

The Capitol Hilton
625 Guests
5:30 p.m.: The drinks start rolling
6:45ish: POTUS arrives
7:00: Dinner

THE PROGRAM FOR THE EVENING

- o 7:00 The festivities begin with the traditional Speech
In The Dark by the Club's new president, David
Broder of the Washington Post
- o USMC band enters, plays, exits
- o Opening musical number
- o Recognitions
 - Install the new president
 - Introduce new members
 - Acknowledge some members of the audience
- o Democratic skit (20-30 minutes of song and dance)
- o Democratic response by Tom Foley
- o Republican skit (also 20-30 minutes of song and dance)
- o Republican response by Dick Cheney
- o Closing musical number
- o Toast to the President
- o Presidential response
- o Auld Lang Syne
(the fat lady sings.....)

CONTACT: Penny Dixon 783-7787

NOTE: The headtable members and seating arrangements are not yet finalized. I'm told they should be done by March 23rd.

BRAINSTORM MATERIAL:

Panama

Noriega

voo doo

red underwear

Dave Barry calling Media Relations to determine the color
of POTUS' underwear

the real name of the Panama invasion:

"Operation Just **BE**cause"

Noriega's prison ID number/Florida lottery numbers (12,000 people
played it)

Rock music played loudly...

"Al Portador" must quite the wealthy fellow these days. It turns
out that General Noriega was making out checks for millions and
millions of dollars to this guy.....But, "Al Portador" means
"To The Bearer" in Spanish!

HUD work

Mayor Barry

the Vista Hotel

Colombia

the extreme security measures

sleeping on the plane

When Marlin said last month that I can sleep right through
takeoff, he was **NOT** referring to my first 100 days!

the San Francisco earthquake

Hurricane Hugo

the Huntington Beach oil spill

Savings and Loans

Keating

John Selby in Lafayette Park

global climate change

IPCC speech

Sununu

trees

clean air

Mike Tyson

Buster Douglas

the Superbowl/ the 49'ers/ the Broncos

China
secret missions
Scowcroft/Eagleburger

drug caterpillars

the baseball strike

the Berlin Wall

So much for the Wall, here at home, White House staffers are said to have been stealing sandstone chunks of the White House as it undergoes construction.

the East German put-put freedom cars

Soviets trying to make a convertible Ruble...

the new McDonalds in Moscow

Lithuania is revolting...

What scares me about a unified Germany?...they'll beat the PANTS off us in the Olympics!

Yes/No coffee cups at New York area 7-11 stores

They have been used to "poll" customers on such issues as Congressional pay raises (they ran out of NO cups) and "Trump for President"

the Malta summit

stormy seas

seasick patches behind the ears

the "hotdogging" President

Deborah Norville/ Jane Pauley

Will the Bushes rename Camp David...

"Camp Marvin"???

the Trump divorce

Marla Maples

Donna Rice

Jessica Hahn

Marla Maples

Tom Clancy
The Hunt for Red October

Rap music

Art Buchwald beats Eddie Murphy in "Coming to America" suit
West Point M.A./Kristin Baker (first female cadet commander)
women in combat

Latest pet craze -- Vietnamese potbellied pigs...

African Superfrogs banned from Angels Camp Frog Jumping Contest

New NCAA regs...

AMA study -- liquor is quicker for women

Barbara Bush gave Inaugural gown to Smithsonian...

Jesse Helms/art

Drexel Burnham Lambert/Michael/junk bonds

the Rafsanjani phone call

Pete Rose

the first Miss USSR pageant
Soviet women in Playboy

Malcolm Forbes passed away

Dan Quayle's South American doll

Municipal employees in Yorba Linda, CA get a holiday on Richard
Nixon's birthday

I sure pity the guy who was planning his American summer
vacation. He wanted to tour the country by Greyhound
and catch baseball games across the nation.

POP CULTURE

- o cordless phones
- o answering machines
- o car phones
- o fax machines
- o TV remote controls
- o compact discs
- o cable TV
- o Automatic Teller Machines
- o Batman paraphenelia
- o the Mazda Miata
- o Post-It Notes
- o personal computers
- o Video -- Reagan's, Totally Hidden, America's Funniest,

- o cholesterol
- o oat bran
- o sugar substitutes, fat substitutes
- o bottled water
 - o the Perrier scare
- o Ben & Jerry's ice cream
- o liquid diets
 - o Marlin: -55 lbs; Gorbachev commented on it at Malta
 - o Foley: trying to lose 45 and is well on his way;
 - o too bad his bike was stolen at the Y
 - o Rostenkowski: grape fruit diet
 - o Atwater: Slimfast shakes and honey chicken wings

MOVIES

- o The Hunt for Red October
- Henry V
- Look Who's Talking
- She Devil
- Parenthood
- Dead Poets Society
- Glory
- War of the Roses
- Do The Right Thing
- Lethal Weapon I and II
- Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
- The 3 Fugitives
- The Naked Gun
- The Fabulous Baker Boys
(Jim Baker and Co?)
- My Stepmother Is An Alien
- Steel Magnolias
- Back to the Future
- When Harry Met Sally
- Driving Miss Daisy
- Crimes and Misdemeanors
- Sea of Love
- Batman
- Three Men and a Baby
- Sex, Lies, and Videotape
- Nuns on the Run

--You know, traveling on Air Force One with _____ really proves the postulate that he who snores the loudest will fall asleep first!

--On a golf outing, the President replaced General Scowcroft's golf ball with an exploding chalk ball.

--the House gym, it has been written, is so often used for dates that members refer to it as "Sauna and Gomorrah"

--Nude Beaches and Recreation listed the Senate pool as the only place in Washington where nude swimming is allowed.

--((In reference to recent CA trip:))
"LA is my favorite museum."
(David Bowie)

--At a second hand garage sale:
Jim and Betty Wright's dinette set, going for \$300. It is a Spanish style ensemble and the wood is painted "fiesta orange". The shop claims it is not "any piece of junk, but a piece of history!"

--A mock ad in March's Washingtonian magazine touts the first "CONGRESSIONAL FANTASY CAMP" ... the political version of baseball "fantasy camps" for overaged athletes.

These campers, says the spoof, get to work with Senators Kennedy, Dole, Mikulski, and "all the other greats you have followed in the papers and watched on the evening news!"

Also promised:

limited franking privileges

token honoraria

live C-Span coverage

a 500-word "extension of remarks in Congressional Rec.

Traveller's Tales

Changes:
For your next foreign
trips... & our speech
writers.
clothes

Schoolboy howlers and the sort of hotel notices which once attracted the attention of that idiosyncratic genius, Gerald Hoffnung ("Every room is fitted with a French widow."), have long given grist to the mill of this column. Carl Nielsen, whose wife teaches in Geneva, sends in the following collection — as supplied by his wife's students. They deserve publication.

In a Bucharest hotel lobby: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.

In a Leipzig elevator: Do not enter the lift backwards, and only when lit up.

In a Belgrade hotel elevator: To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order.

In a Paris hotel elevator: Please leave your values at the front desk.

In a hotel in Athens: Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m. daily.

In a Yugoslavian hotel: The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.

In a Japanese hotel: You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery: You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

In an Austrian hotel catering to skiers: Not to perambulate the corridors in the hours of repose in the boots of ascension.

On the menu of a Swiss restaurant: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

On the menu of a Polish hotel: Salad a firm's own make; limpid red beet soup with cheesy dumplings in the form of a finger; roasted duck let loose; beef rashers beaten up in the country people's fashion.

In a Hongkong supermarket: For your convenience, we recommend courteous, efficient self-service.

In a Bangkok dry cleaner's: Drop your trousers here for best results.

Outside a Paris dress shop: Dresses for street walking.

Outside a Hongkong dress shop: Ladies have fits upstairs.

In a Rhodes tailor shop: Order your summers suit. Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation.

From the Soviet Weekly: There will be a Moscow Exhibition of Arts by 15,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past two years.

In an East African newspaper: A new swimming pool is rapidly taking shape since the contractors have thrown in the bulk of their workers.

In a Vienna hotel: In case of fire, do your utmost to alarm the hotel porter.

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest: It is strictly forbidden on our black forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for that purpose.

In a Zurich hotel: Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

In an advertisement by a Hongkong dentist: Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists.

A translated sentence from a Russian chess book: A lot of water has been passed under the bridge since this variation has been played.

In a Rome laundry: Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

In a Czechoslovakian tourist agency: Take one of our horse-driven city tours — we guarantee no miscarriages.

Advertisement for donkey rides in Thailand: Would you like to ride on your own ass?

On the faucet in a Finnish washroom: To stop the drip, turn cock to right.

In the window of a Swedish furrier: Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

On the box of a clockwork toy made in Hongkong: Guaranteed to work throughout its useful life.

Detour sign in Kyushi, Japan: Stop: Drive Sideways.

In a Swiss mountain inn: Special today — no ice cream.

In a Bangkok temple: It is forbidden to enter a woman even a foreigner if dressed as a man.

In a Tokyo bar: Special cocktails for the ladies with nuts.

In a Copenhagen airline ticket office: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

On the door of a Moscow hotel room: If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

In a Norwegian cocktail lounge: Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

At a Budapest zoo: Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

In the office of a Roman doctor: Specialist in women and other diseases.

In an Acapulco hotel: The manager has personally passed all the water served here.

In a Tokyo shop: Our nylons cost more than common, but you'll find they are best in the long run.

From a Japanese information booklet about using a hotel air conditioner: Cooles and Heates: If you want just condition of warm in your room, please control yourself.

From a brochure of a car rental firm in Tokyo: When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstades your passage then tootle him with vigor.

Two signs from a Majorcan shop entrance:

- English well talking.
- Here speeching American.

U.S. Department of Commerce
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DATE 3/14/90

TO MARK LANG

TELEPHONE NUMBER 456-9900

TELEFAX NUMBER 456-6218

BUILDING/ROOM NUMBER 111 EOB

FROM FLEMING SAUNDERS

TELEPHONE NUMBER 377-3263

TELEFAX NUMBER 377-2095

BUILDING/ROOM NUMBER 5517 (DOC)

PAGES TO FOLLOW 1

MESSAGE _____

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF INFORMATION BY CALLING:

456-6218
 Speerhunting

To: Mark Lang
 From: Fleming Saunders

I'd been stuck in here so long I was about ready to ~~join~~ *secede with*
 Lithuania. *Vermont/U.S. I say fine*

✓ My critics say I'm obsessed with polls. Which is absolutely false.
 I care about Hungarians and Germans and the Czechs too.

✓ My critics say I pay too much attention to public opinion. That's
 absolutely false!...uh, what do you think?

✓ My critics say I'm thin-skinned. WHICH I AM NOT!

One of the things that irks me is the accusation that I pay too
 much attention to public opinion polls. But fortunately only 27
 percent of all Americans feel that way.

Even some of my supporters say I don't get on television enough.
 Well, I wasn't afraid to come here tonight, was I?

I like spontaneous television the best. Remember that NBC special,
 "A Day at the White House"? Tom Brokaw and the cameras show up out
 of nowhere. What a shock for the Silver Fox and me. Sununu's
 planning another one for next month.

✓ (re hoax) One of my assistants did speak up -- "Mr. President, it
 might be a crank call." I said, "well, what do I have to lose.
 Put Gephardt on."

(re hoax) Well, look at it this way. The caller really did sound
 legitimate at first. And it's not every day you get to talk to the
 Ayatollah Khomeini.

(re hoax) It is a little embarrassing. A producer from America's
 Funniest Home Videos called me, wanted to know if I had it on
 videotape...at least I think it was a guy from America's Funniest
 Home Videos.

President Nixon called me, said "burn the tape!"...at least I think
 it was President Nixon.

I get accused of keeping too many secrets. Hell, I can't even keep
 an unlisted phone number!

Look at the bright side. Iran's economy is recovering after the
 war, and its telephone system seems to be doing especially well.

(close) Gotta go check my answering machine.

TO: STEVE SKROVAN

POTENTIAL MATERIAL...

- Women in combat...
- New AMA study: Liquor is quicker for women...
(No women will be at the Alfalfa dinner.)
- Barbara Bush just gave Inaugural gown to Smithsonian...
- Scowcroft secret missions...
- Rock music played to convince Noriega to give up...
- 12,000 people played Noriega's prisoner I.D.
number in the Florida lottery...
- Mayor Barry's L.A. Times interview (Jesse, etc.)...
- USSR may try to make Rubles convertible...
- Soviet secession brews...
- Art Buchwald beats Eddie Murphy
in "Coming to America" lawsuit...
- Latest pet craze: Miniature Vietnamese potbellied pigs
- African superfrogs banned at Angels Camp
Frog Jumping Contest...
- New NCAA regulations...
- Super Bowl...
- Berlin Wall...

Many Wall - Head down the wall

Waldo - Reagan's, Sex First, Totally hidden...

ON THE MEMPHIS STREETS PRESLEY ONCE RULED, TV'S ELVIS REINCARNATES THE YOUNG KING

The citizens of another city might have turned cartwheels to accommodate the President, but when George Bush visited Memphis last November, there was already a bigger hero in town. Down on Beale Street, home of the blues, actor Michael St. Gerard was re-creating for TV the musical birth of Elvis Presley, Memphis's eternal favorite son. When the *Elvis* crew was ordered to clear out for the President's motorcade, which would have caused irreparable shooting delays, Memphians sprang into action. Calls were made, strings were pulled—and within 48 hours the Secret Service had agreed to reroute. "The police had said, 'Nobody ever changes a President's motorcade,'" remembers Linn Sitler, head of the local film commission. "But *Elvis* did. That's what I call clout!"

In fact, ABC's new *Elvis* has been getting a lot of people all shook up. TV reviewers in particular have been rhapsodic. "A promise of greatness," declared the *Los Angeles Times*. "Ground-breaking television," trumpeted the *New York Times*, adding, "Mr. St. Gerard's performance as Elvis is little short of astonishing." Such raves have left St. Gerard somewhat stunned. "I had thought this would be a show they'd be dying to hate," he says.

What has instead charmed the critics is the show's poignant—and ostensibly true-to-life—portrayal of Presley from 1954–58, just as his dream of stardom begins to come true and way before it runs amok. Humble as pie, the hero of *Elvis* nervously runs out of the house the first

Having walked in Elvis's shoes, if not on water, "I know I never want to be that big a star," says Michael, in New York City.



MICHAEL TIGHE/ABC

"I don't see it," says St. Gerard, above, of his resemblance to Elvis, below. "Do you?" You bet.



©1990 JAY LEVITON/ATLANTA

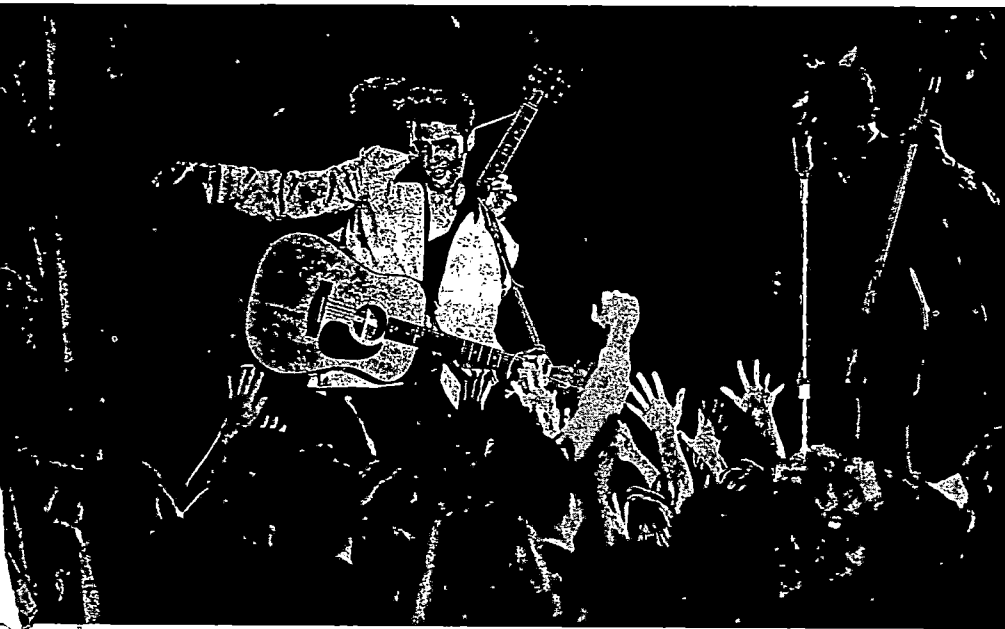
time one of his songs, "That's All Right (Mama)," is played on the radio. "The uniqueness is that this part of the story has not been documented," says co-producer Jerry Schilling, a member of Presley's Memphis Mafia for 11 years. "It's the most exciting part of his life, when life starts changing and people start treating him differently."

To document this period, the executive producers, including Elvis's former wife, Priscilla Presley, and his longtime friend Rick Husky, turned to scores of other friends and relatives, such as Sam Phillips, Elvis's first record producer, and Scotty Moore, his first backup guitarist. "Oh, it moved me back in time," says



KAREN P. PULLEN/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

"It's part of her father's life Lisa Marie didn't know a thing about," says Priscilla, on the set. "It's great insight for her."



GRAHAM SINDERS

"If people expect Elvis when they meet me," says St. Gerard, raising the rafters as the King, "they'll be disappointed."

Priscilla, who met Elvis in 1959, while he was in West Germany with the Army. "In those earlier years Elvis was very innocent, very vulnerable, very naive."

Priscilla, who produced the 1988 hit TV movie *Elvis and Me*, based on her autobiography, says she was initially reluctant to approve another production, mostly because of the difficulty of casting Elvis. Because she didn't want to hire an impersonator, "we really went to great lengths to try to find an actor in his own right with his own personality. Michael was just a dream come true."

A shy, stage-trained actor best known as Ricki Lake's boyfriend in 1988's *Hairspray*, St. Gerard, 27, had already portrayed Elvis in *Heart of Dixie* and *Great Balls of Fire*. But he swears, as does Priscilla, that he

bears little physical likeness to the singer. Many viewers, disagreeing, have found him to be a dead ringer, which St. Gerard attributes to his intensive preparation: buying every Elvis movie and reading every Elvis book ("even the trashy ones"). "I can just fall into it," he says. "I find everything about Elvis is rhythmic. His hair moves, the clothes move, the legs move, everything is fluid and working."

The show's other stars include Billy Green Bush as Presley's father, Vernon (a role Bush also played in *Elvis and Me*), and Millie Perkins as Elvis's mother, Gladys. In 1961 Perkins had starred with the real Elvis in *Wild in the Country*. "I was married to Dean Stockwell at the

time," she says, "and we considered ourselves to be artists. I was not looking forward to working with Elvis. But he treated me like a princess, and I loved him." As much as *Elvis* is a revealing character study, it is also a minilesson in the origins of rock and roll. Upcoming episodes will show Elvis hanging out with black musicians on Beale Street, to the taunts of other whites. "Elvis came up at a time where on the radio songs were being played like '(How Much Is That) Doggie in the Window' by Patti Page," says Steve Tyrrell, *Elvis*'s music director. "He was really the first pop artist to take black music and introduce it to contemporary America."

According to co-producer Schilling, the series will include songs that Elvis performed but never recorded. The voice on these tunes, as well as on most others (Elvis's own recordings are used only occasionally), is that of country singer Ronnie McDowell, who has imitated Elvis for

several other shows, including *Elvis and Me*. Tyrrell notes that at times "even Priscilla didn't know that it wasn't Elvis, so we thought that's pretty good."

ABC went deep in the wallet in its quest for authenticity, shelling out nearly \$800,000 per episode, about \$250,000 more than the budget of the average half-hour show. At various locations in or near Memphis, set designers painstakingly reconstructed Lansky's, where Elvis bought his flashy duds, and a black night spot called the Kit Kat Club. They also dragged period furniture into Sun Studios, the reactivated facility where Elvis cut his first commercial record.

The locals helped lend verisimilitude, responding enthusiastically to calls for extras. For the scene of Elvis's first billed concert, in 1954, at the Overton Park Shell, "more than 2,000 showed up and shivered through the night," says Linn Sittler. "The hardest part for the crowd was to follow instructions and act bored when St. Gerard did his first number. That's the way it was, and that's the way the producers wanted it."

Besides realism, the network is also banking heavily on the appeal of St. Gerard, a soft-spoken, exceedingly self-effacing performer who grew up in New Hartford, N.Y., the son of a homemaker and a businessman. With a few Japanese commercials and a teensploitation flick, *Senior Week*, to his credit, St. Gerard has a résumé as modest as his personality. Yet he has already sparked an Elvis-like hysteria. Several weeks ago he arrived at a Manhattan TV studio for a talk show appearance that had been announced only the night before. "There was already this crowd of people," says St. Gerard, who lives in a small, cluttered apartment on New York City's west side. "They were all holding stuff—my picture even—to sign. It was the weirdest thing." The tabloids, too, have been trailing him and touting stories of supposed romances with Priscilla and/or her daughter, Lisa Marie. St. Gerard's reply: "Are you kidding?"

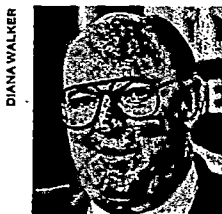
All of which has given the actor a deeper appreciation for the burden of Elvis's unprecedented fame. "It's hard to have all these people screaming for you," he says. "I don't know how he got through those things in real life. I wasn't the biggest fan, and now I find myself defending him all the time. The more I know, the more I see him as an American hero."

—Jeannie Park,
Alan Carter in New York,
Jane Sanderson in Memphis,
Michael Alexander in Los Angeles

Grapevine

PRESSING THE FLESH. Some Washington heavyweights are shedding excess poundage. White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater has lost so much weight (55 lbs.) on an Optifast liquid diet that even Mikhail Gorbachev commented on it at Malta. House Speaker Tom Foley, who has dropped 20 lbs., vows to get rid of 25 more. House Ways and Means chairman Dan Rostenkowski, who balloons every winter from holiday partying, is living mostly on grapefruit. Republican national chairman Lee Atwater's Slim-Fast diet of milkshakes was emulated by some of his dutiful staff, but the boss has let them down. Explains an aide: "Lee's idea of a diet is to drink two Slim-Fast meals, then go out and eat 25 chicken wings dipped in honey for dinner." His weight loss so far: 0 lbs.

DASHING DAN. CBS newsman Morley Safer's forthcoming book on Viet Nam depicts a bizarre encounter with anchorman



Pre-diet Fitzwater, February 1989 ...



... and Marlin-lite, February 1990

Dan Rather. According to Safer, Rather showed up at a Saigon bar dressed in fatigues and packing a .38-cal. revolver. He mystified his colleague by darkly intoning the Latin words for "don't let the bastards get you down." Rather denies ever carrying a gun and says he cannot recall the conversation.

HERE HE COMES, MR. CONNECTICUT.

The race for a House seat from Connecticut could turn into a beauty pageant, pitting the made-for-TV looks of former Congressman Toby Moffett, an ex-anchorman for WVRU-TV in Hartford, against Michael Pacowta, the mayor of Shelton. Three years ago, Pacowta paraded across the stage on the *Sally Jessy Raphael Show* in silk p.j.s with black flowing bottoms and a leopard-spotted kimono. Pacowta says he showed restraint in his modeling: "She tried to get me into a pair of skimpy bikini shorts, but I said too much leg." He got to keep the outfit.

* 49 PAGES 1,817 LINES *
* 9:36 A.M. STARTED 9:48 A.M. ENDED *

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*	EEEEE	N	N	DDDD	*

SEND TO: CAWLEY, CAROLYN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING
17TH & PENNSYLVANIA AVE., NW
WASHINGTON DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 20017

***** 09304 ***** PRINTOUT COMPLETED ***** MARCH 15, 9:48 A.M. *****

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DAVID W/3 BRODER AND DATE (BEF 01/5/1989 AND AFT 12/10/1988)

NUMBER OF STORIES FOUND WITH YOUR REQUEST THROUGH:

LEVEL 1... 13

12TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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December 14, 1988, Wednesday, Final Edition

SECTION: EDITORIAL; PAGE A25

LENGTH: 882 words

HEADLINE: Bush and the Fateful First Few Months

BYLINE: David S. Broder

BODY:

Seven months after the Cuban missile crisis had brought the world to the brink of nuclear war, John F. Kennedy went to American University and asked the Russians to acknowledge that "we are both devoting massive sums of money to weapons that could be better devoted to combating ignorance, poverty and disease." On that spring day 25 years ago, Kennedy held out "the hope that constructive changes within the communist bloc might bring within reach solutions which now seem beyond us."

Last week, at the United Nations, in the fifth decade of the Cold War, Mikhail S. Gorbachev delivered a speech that seemed to say that Kennedy's hope might be realized. Arguing that in a nuclear age, "the use or threat of force no longer can be ... an instrument of foreign policy," the Soviet president delivered his paraphrase of Kennedy's call to "make the world safe for diversity." Rejecting "any outward-oriented use of force," Gorbachev said his nation wanted to tap the world's most "powerful source of development -- the exchange of everything original that each nation has independently created."

As Kennedy gave force to his words by unilaterally suspending atmospheric nuclear tests, Gorbachev vouched for his seriousness by announcing he would unilaterally demobilize half-a-million Soviet troops and 10,000 tanks, significantly reducing Russia's threat to Western Europe.

Just as Kennedy used his initiative to spur rapid agreement on a nuclear test-ban treaty, Gorbachev made it clear he hopes his announcement will accelerate negotiations on conventional and strategic arms reductions.

The timing and the boldness of the proposal are dazzling, but most commentators have pointed out that they stem in large part from the desperation of Gorbachev's domestic situation. He needs to reduce the costs of his huge military establishment and shift resources to energize the crippled Soviet economy. And he needs foreign-policy successes to hold at bay the enemies of his radical domestic reforms.

Obvious as these motives are, the worldwide reaction to Gorbachev's initiative -- and especially the praise it has won from our European NATO allies -- puts heavy pressure on President-elect George Bush to respond early next year with a clear signal of American policy.

The timing is terrible from Bush's viewpoint. He does not take office for another month, he has no defense secretary and incoming Secretary of State James A. Baker III is just starting his Foggy Bottom briefings.

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Bush craves time to make his own assessment of Gorbachev's real purposes and motives and the odds of his staying in power long enough to carry out his policy. (It's worth recalling that Kennedy was dead barely five months after the American University speech, and the Vietnam War froze U.S.-Soviet relations for almost a decade.) Bush and Baker are far more skeptical than Ronald Reagan about Gorbachev's prospects and have questioned privately whether his success would really serve the long-term interests of the United States.

Late in June, in a San Francisco speech responding to the "reform programs" Gorbachev had just laid out to the party conference in Moscow, Bush said: "The Cold War is not over." He said the United States, while being "bold enough to seize the opportunity of change," must also be prepared for "protracted conflict."

The same skeptical tone dominated a speech at the University of Michigan on Oct. 19, which has received less attention than it deserves. In it, Bush said Gorbachev "is clearly a different kind of Soviet leader," one who has initiated "dramatic change." But he explicitly rejected the view that the Soviet Union's expansionism had been curbed by the crisis in its economy -- the idea, as he put it, that "America and NATO [can] relax [because] the Soviets are on the ropes."

Instead, Bush offered an alternative theory, emphasizing the critical role of the U.S. military buildup and U.S. sponsorship of resistance to Soviet encroachments in critical areas of the world. Gorbachev, said Bush, "is able to reverse course when Soviet policies fail, when the costs become too high.

"Those costs become too high not only when there is a shortage of food in Moscow but also when we resist aggression and intimidation. The costs become too high when the mujaheddin, helped by the United States, fight for freedom in Afghanistan. The costs become too high when the United States and NATO deploy Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe despite Soviet threats.

"But where those costs have not been clear, the Soviets have not changed. In the Middle East, in the Persian Gulf and in Central America, we see traditional Soviet policies. The opportunity for narrow gains still attracts Moscow."

Therefore, Bush said, "this is no time to reduce our leverage" by cutting back U.S. or NATO defense efforts. "We must maintain the pressure on Moscow to change. Only such a policy will produce lasting improvements in U.S.-Soviet relations."

Those views will be applauded by conservative elements of the Reagan-Bush coalition but challenged by powerful political forces both in Congress and in Western Europe that are far more eager to test the Gorbachev initiative.

The policy judgment Bush must make early in the new year will be fateful for him -- and the world.

TYPE: OPINION EDITORIAL

SUBJECT: UNITED STATES; FEDERAL GOVERNMENT; U.S. PRESIDENT; INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS; U.S.S.R.

NAMED-PERSONS: MIKHAIL S. GORBACHEV; GEORGE BUSH

10TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright (c) 1988 The Washington Post

December 17, 1988, Saturday, Final Edition

SECTION: EDITORIAL; PAGE A17; FREE FOR ALL

LENGTH: 315 words

HEADLINE: Broder Went Beyond Hyperbole

BODY:

David Broder went beyond hyperbole in his sarcastic criticism of the Democrats as "Connoisseurs of Defeat" [op-ed, Nov. 23]. Despite his attempt to imply that the Republicans won the presidential election because of "large presidential issues," it can also be argued that if campaign managers and public-relations technicians had been transposed, the Democrats could have as easily sent George Bush to the wings.

Of paramount interest is Broder's inference that the Republicans have earned credibility with the following "large issues":

National Security: The Reagan administration has substituted a World War II mind-set for a rational, progressive understanding that times have indeed changed -- military guarantees for our security no longer exist. With the exception of the INF treaty signing, our foreign policy has been a series of mistakes and tragedies and a waste of resources from Lebanon and the Persian Gulf to Nicaragua and El Salvador.

The Economy: Yes, Americans now have lower inflation, but that transient state has come at the cost of spending we never before imagined (and from a party that boasted of reducing government spending). As the effects begin to trickle down, will Broder still believe the performance was credible?

Community Values: If integrity, fairness, respect for laws, caring for social needs, concern for the weakest among us and accountability are important ingredients of such values, then this administration should best retire without further discussion. Role modeling of this sort we can all do without.

Now that we know of the long-lived friendship between Bush and Broder, it will be informative to see whether Broder will abstain from commenting on the next administration. The ethic of journalistic objectivity would suggest that necessity. In fact, that could contribute to a return of more bias-free reporting. -- Dan C. English

TYPE: LETTER

9TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright (c) 1988 The Washington Post

December 18, 1988, Sunday, Final Edition

SECTION: EDITORIAL; PAGE C7

LENGTH: 854 words

HEADLINE: Needed: A National Yardstick

BYLINE: David S. Broder

BODY:

If President-elect Bush is still seeking a Christmas present for the nation, let me suggest he give us a new yardstick. We could even wait a month, until Inauguration Day, when it could go on sale.

Here's what I mean: from scores of voter interviews during the past campaign year, I learned that the American people are, for the most part, pretty content with the way things are. That's the big reason George Bush will be the next president.

But they are concerned about where the country is heading. They're aware of growing gaps between the rich and poor here at home: the winter plight of the homeless makes it all too visible. And they also know we're in an increasingly competitive world economy and we're not winning.

So they worry about the future of their communities and wonder whether their children and grandchildren will have the opportunities they have enjoyed.

No one need doubt the willingness of the American people to tackle whatever challenges lie ahead. They rally round any worthy cause, from crime watches in their neighborhoods to relief drives for shattered villages in Armenia. But they need to know how we're doing as a nation and a people. President Reagan was reelected in 1984 on the boast that "America is back and standing tall." The brag that "We're No. 1" comes easily to our lips. But daily, people see reports that the United States is lagging in this or that measure. Their eyes tell them that some people in every community -- and some whole communities or regions -- are in trouble.

What we lack is a measuring stick by which we can gauge performance on those things that will determine whether we achieve our long-term goals of making this a strong, prosperous, just and decent society. And those may not be the obvious things -- like the Dow-Jones average or the overall unemployment rate.

That thought was triggered by a flier that came across the desk the other day from the privately financed Council on Competitiveness. In an effort to show how the United States is doing in the world economy, it charted such offbeat items as steel imports (encouraging) and availability of science and math teachers (bleak).

That particular set of charts came out of a focus on international economic competitiveness. But the title of the publication, "Challenges," suggested the possibility of a broader approach.

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Suppose the new president were to tell his Cabinet to sit down with top professionals in their departments and come up with the one or two 'challenges' in their areas most critical for the nation's future.

These should be challenges to the nation, not just the government -- goals that require wise public policies and real effort on the part of people, not just spending by Washington. And each of them should be specific enough to permit measurement -- not something that can be fuzzed by rhetoric or fogged in partisan debate.

The energy secretary, for example, might suggest that the energy efficiency of the economy or the extent to which we free ourself from dependence on foreign oil is an important measure of our future strength. The labor secretary might propose that we focus on the youth unemployment trend line, the commerce secretary on the gains or losses in productivity.

Having heard him, I would guess that Education Secretary Lauro Cavazos would suggest that reducing the school dropout rate may be the most important challenge in his area. Others might add improving our students' proficiency in math, science and language skills, compared to their counterparts in other industrial countries.

The defense secretary might use the percentage of high-school graduates in the military services or the number of days' supply of spare parts as a way of measuring readiness. The attorney general would, I hope, come up with a realistic measure of drug trafficking as his criterion. The budget director and the special trade representative would undoubtedly want charts focusing on the budget and trade deficits. The Treasury secretary might want to suggest the savings rate, and the health and human services secretary measure infant mortality or smoking-related deaths.

Doubtless the new president and vice president would have challenges of their own they'd wish to add, to say nothing of the first lady's insistence that reducing the number of adult illiterates be included.

The discipline of drawing up a short checklist of goals vital to the national future would itself be a useful exercise for a new administration. But that would be just the start.

With the power of the White House publicity machine, we could soon have a yardstick of national performance visible in chart form in every classroom, factory, office, bank and city hall across the land -- a daily reminder of the challenges we face as a people. As time passes, we could measure our progress or shortcomings.

My strong belief is that Americans are both community-minded and competitive enough that these national challenges would quickly become individual goals we would stretch to attain.

That's why I hope George Bush gives us a yardstick as a belated Christmas gift.

TYPE: OPINION EDITORIAL

(c) 1988 The Washington Post, December 18, 1988

SUBJECT: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT; U.S. PRESIDENT; EDUCATION

NAMED-PERSONS: GEORGE BUSH

7TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright (c) 1988 The Washington Post

December 21, 1988, Wednesday, Final Edition

SECTION: EDITORIAL; PAGE A19

LENGTH: 861 words

HEADLINE: Leashing The Dogs Of War

BYLINE: David S. Broder

BODY:

A quarter-century ago, Hannah Arendt wrote that 'wars and revolutions . . . have thus far determined the physiognomy of the 20th century.' Little has happened in the past 25 years to make that great political philosopher's observation less apt. Yet as 1988 comes to a close and we approach the century's final decade, the passions of mankind are bubbling less ominously and some longstanding conflicts may be on their way to settlement.

The guns are silent in an Iran-Iraq war which raged for most of the decade and drew a vast international fleet to the Persian Gulf. Soviet troops are withdrawing from Afghanistan. The Sandinistas and the contras have stopped killing each other on the borders of Nicaragua. The Vietnamese have reduced their garrisons in Cambodia. An American-negotiated agreement promises to bring peace to Namibia, a land fought over by South Africa and Angola, with the involvement of thousands of Cuban troops.

Most remarkably, both the Cold War and the Middle East conflict are easing. Barely a week after Mikhail Gorbachev announced large-scale unilateral cuts in the Soviet Union's Eastern European armies and invited the United States to negotiate still deeper reductions, Yasser Arafat acknowledged the existence of the state of Israel, clearing the way for the first direct talks between the United States government and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Add to all this signs of warming relationships between China and the Soviet Union, China and India, Japan and Russia, Japan and Korea, the approval by our Congress and the Canadian voters of a free-trade agreement virtually erasing that border, and the progress toward a full European economic union in the next four years -- it is an extraordinary pattern.

In one of his valedictory addresses, delivered at the University of Virginia, President Reagan cited many of these developments and claimed credit for 'the new coherence and clarity that we've brought to our foreign policy.'

Two years ago, when the saga of the arms sale to Iran was unfolding, those words would have brought derisive laughter. Today, even critics would acknowledge that American strength has played a significant part in the stabilization of many relationships around the globe. But some of the developments -- including the cooling of conflict in Central America -- have occurred because Reagan's plans were thwarted. And others clearly have a dynamic of their own.

It would take someone far wiser than I am to analyze the root causes of this worldwide military cool-down, a counter-trend to the climatological

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'greenhouse effect.' But one common characteristic of these separate decisions appears to have been a recognition of the intolerable human and economic costs of continuing the conflict. And a second is the waning force of the clashing nationalisms, the warring political doctrines, the rival ideologies and the religious antagonisms that fueled these fights.

At almost the same time that Hannah Arendt published her classic 'On Revolution,' from which this column's opening quotation was drawn, Edmund Stillman and William Pfaff, two students of foreign policy, published 'The Politics of Hysteria,' subtitled, 'The Sources of 20th Century Conflict.'

In it, they argued that 'the 20th-century wars of nationalism and ideology . . . [have] demonstrated the peculiar relationship between Faustian violence and ideology in Western history -- that is, the link between an extravagant cruelty and the pursuit of an illimitable, and unattainable, idea.'

Leaders gripped by religious, or revolutionary, or nationalistic, or ideological passions are the ones who have disturbed the peace and kept the world knee-deep in blood and carnage. The consequences have been awful. Considering both the economic costs and the destructive potential of modern arms, including nuclear weapons, it is no wonder that the nations that have gained most in both material wealth and international standing in recent years are those, such as Japan, which have most firmly renounced resort to war.

But the course by which other nations and leaders have come, seemingly all at once, to acknowledge the costliness of conflict is something the historians, or philosophers, will have to explain. All I know is that the ideologues seem to have lost their passion and plausibility -- even here at home.

Though his actions frequently lacked the philosophical consistency of his words, Ronald Reagan employed the most ideological rhetoric of any modern American president. By contrast, his chosen successor, George Bush, is clearly a man of moderate temperament and pragmatic instinct who is assembling an administration to match. Even as he campaigned with sharp-edged language against Michael Dukakis, Bush was careful to promise 'a kinder, gentler nation.'

The gunfire has not stopped -- not in the Holy Land and not in the drug-infested streets of this capital. At any moment, miscalculations could plunge the world back into war. But for now, 'the politics of hysteria' has given way to the diplomacy of reasonableness. The sound you hear this Christmas is a worldwide sigh of relief.

TYPE: OPINION EDITORIAL

SUBJECT: WARFARE, WAR; PEACE; UNITED STATES; INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

NAMED-PERSONS: RONALD REAGAN

(c) 1988 The Washington Post, December 28, 1988

NAMED-PERSONS: GEORGE BUSH; ROBERT J. DOLE; MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS

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LEVEL 1 - 10 OF 13 STORIES

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December 17, 1988, Saturday, Final Edition

SECTION: EDITORIAL; PAGE A17; FREE FOR ALL

LENGTH: 315 words

HEADLINE: Broder Went Beyond Hyperbole

BODY:

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Of paramount interest is Broder's inference that the Republicans have earned credibility with the following "large issues":

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: GRIDIRON CREDENZA
FROM: NO KNOWN RANKING
DATE: MARCH 14, 1990

Attached is some background and brainstorming material for tonight's exclusive engagement.

Take a few minutes to go over it and work up ideas.

See you in Dave's office at 6:00 p.m. tonight!

THE 1990 GRIDIRON CLUB DINNER

The Capitol Hilton
625 Guests
5:30 p.m.: The drinks start rolling
6:45ish: POTUS arrives
7:00: Dinner

THE PROGRAM FOR THE EVENING

- o 7:00 The festivities begin with the traditional Speech In The Dark by the Club's new president, David Broder of the Washington Post
- o USMC band enters, plays, exits
- o Opening musical number
- o Recognitions
 - Install the new president
 - Introduce new members
 - Acknowledge some members of the audience
- o Democratic skit (20-30 minutes of song and dance)
- o Democratic response by Tom Foley
- o Republican skit (also 20-30 minutes of song and dance)
- o Republican response by Dick Cheney
- o Closing musical number
- o Toast to the President
- o Presidential response
- o Auld Lang Syne
(the fat lady sings.....)

CONTACT: Penny Dixon 783-7787

NOTE: The headtable members and seating arrangements are not yet finalized. I'm told they should be done by March 23rd.

BRAINSTORM MATERIAL:

Panama
Noriega

voo doo
red underwear

Dave Barry calling Media Relations to determine the color
of POTUS' underwear

the real name of the Panama invasion:

"Operation Just **BE**cause"

Noriega's prison ID number/Florida lottery numbers (12,000 people
played it)

Rock music played loudly...

"Al Portador" must quite the wealthy fellow these days. It turns
out that General Noriega was making out checks for millions and
millions of dollars to this guy.....But, "Al Portador" means
"To The Bearer" in Spanish!

HUD work

Mayor Barry
the Vista Hotel

Colombia
the extreme security measures
sleeping on the plane

When Marlin said last month that I can sleep right through
takeoff, he was **NOT** referring to my first 100 days!

the San Francisco earthquake
Hurricane Hugo
the Huntington Beach oil spill

Savings and Loans
Keating

global climate change
IPCC speech
Sununu
trees
clean air

Mike Tyson
Buster Douglas
the Superbowl/ the 49'ers/ the Broncos

China
secret missions
Scowcroft/Eagleburger

drug caterpillars

the baseball strike

the Berlin Wall

So much for the Wall, here at home, White House staffers are said to have been stealing sandstone chunks of the White House as it undergoes construction.

the East German put-put freedom cars
Soviets trying to make a convertible Ruble...

the new McDonalds in Moscow

Lithuania is revolting...

What scares me about a unified Germany?...they'll beat the PANTS off us in the Olympics!

Yes/No coffee cups at New York area 7-11 stores

They have been used to "poll" customers on such issues as Congressional pay raises (they ran out of NO cups) and "Trump for President"

the Malta summit

stormy seas

seasick patches behind the ears

the "hotdogging" President

Deborah Norville/ Jane Pauley

Will the Bushes rename Camp David...

"Camp Marvin"???

the Trump divorce

Marla Maples

Donna Rice

Jessica Hahn

Marla Maples

Tom Clancy
The Hunt for Red October

Rap music

Art Buchwald beats Eddie Murphy in "Coming to America" suit
West Point M.A./Kristin Baker (first female cadet commander)
women in combat

Latest pet craze -- Vietnamese potbellied pigs...

African Superfrogs banned from Angels Camp Frog Jumping Contest

New NCAA regs...

AMA study -- liquor is quicker for women

Barbara Bush gave Inaugural gown to Smithsonian...

Jesse Helms/art

Drexel Burnham Lambert/Michael/junk bonds

the Rafsanjani phone call

Pete Rose

the first Miss USSR pageant
Soviet women in Playboy

Malcolm Forbes passed away

Dan Quayle's South American doll

Municipal employees in Yorba Linda, CA get a holiday on Richard
Nixon's birthday

I sure pity the guy who was planning his American summer
vacation. He wanted to tour the country by Greyhound
and catch baseball games across the nation.

POP CULTURE

- o cordless phones
- o answering machines
- o car phones
- o fax machines
- o TV remote controls
- o compact discs
- o cable TV
- o Automatic Teller Machines
- o Batman paraphenelia
- o the Mazda Miata
- o Post-It Notes
- o personal computers
- o Video -- Reagan's, Totally Hidden, America's Funniest,

- o cholesterol
- o oat bran
- o sugar substitutes, fat substitutes
- o bottled water
 - o the Perrier scare
- o Ben & Jerry's ice cream
- o liquid diets
 - o Marlin: -55 lbs; Gorbachev commented on it at Malta
 - o Foley: trying to lose 45 and is well on his way;
 - o too bad his bike was stolen at the Y
 - o Rostenkowski: grape fruit diet
 - o Atwater: Slimfast shakes and honey chicken wings

TELEVISION

- o Pat Sajak
- o Alex Trebek
- o Dick Clark
- o Arsenio Hall
- o Johnny Carson
- o Vanna White
- o David Letterman
 - "The Top 10 Reasons Why..."

- o America's Funniest Home Videos
- o Wheel of Fortune
- o Jeopardy
- o Roseanne
- o Cosby
- o thirtysomething
- o The Wonder Years
- o Cheers (Sam and Diane...Donaldson and Sawyer?)
- o Return of the Brady Bunch (Nicholas Brady?)
- o LA Law
- o Unsolved Mysteries
- o The Capitol Gang
- o The McLaughlin Group
- o A Current Affair
- o The Simpsons
 - Bart

- o the TV commercial for the Nissan Infiniti luxury sedan...
the viewers never saw the car, only serene rocks, water,
clouds, etc.
- o Domino's Pizza: Avoid the Noid
- o Joe Isuzu
- o American Express: Don't Leave Home Without It
- o Tip O'Neill appearing out of a suitcase

MOVIES

- o The Hunt for Red October
- Henry V
- Look Who's Talking
- She Devil
- Parenthood
- Dead Poets Society
- Glory
- War of the Roses
- Do The Right Thing
- Lethal Weapon I and II
- Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
- The 3 Fugitives
- The Naked Gun
- The Fabulous Baker Boys
(Jim Baker and Co?)
- My Stepmother Is An Alien
- Steel Magnolias
- Back to the Future
- When Harry Met Sally
- Driving Miss Daisy
- Crimes and Misdemeanors
- Sea of Love
- Batman
- Three Men and a Baby
- Sex, Lies, and Videotape
- Nuns on the Run

--You know, traveling on Air Force One with _____ really proves the postulate that he who snores the loudest will fall asleep first!

--On a golf outing, the President replaced General Scowcroft's golf ball with an exploding chalk ball.

--the House gym, it has been written, is so often used for dates that members refer to it as "Sauna and Gomorrah"

--Nude Beaches and Recreation listed the Senate pool as the only place in Washington where nude swimming is allowed.

--((In reference to recent CA trip:))
"LA is my favorite museum."
(David Bowie)

--At a second hand garage sale:
Jim and Betty Wright's dinette set, going for \$300. It is a Spanish style ensemble and the wood is painted "fiesta orange". The shop claims it is not "any piece of junk, but a piece of history!"

--A mock ad in March's Washingtonian magazine touts the first "CONGRESSIONAL FANTASY CAMP" ... the political version of baseball "fantasy camps" for overaged athletes.

These campers, says the spoof, get to work with Senators Kennedy, Dole, Mikulski, and "all the other greats you have followed in the papers and watched on the evening news!"

Also promised:

limited franking privileges

token honoraria

live C-Span coverage

a 500-word "extension of remarks in Congressional Rec.

(McNally/Simon)
3/30/89; 12:00 pm
Draft 3
(grid.gb)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GRIDIRON DINNER
CAPITAL HILTON
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

Thank you, Larry [O'Roark, Gridiron Club President]
I must say I'm impressed.
This is the largest white tie group I've seen
Since those coming out parties in Iowa.

((IF EVENING IS LONG)) By the way, next year --
Who do I see
About getting an earlier spot in the show?
((PAUSE))
Even the Academy Awards aren't this long.

I gotta tell you, though,
After watching XXXX & XXXXXXXX
Trying to act and sing tonight,
I have a feeling you may soon be joining
Salman Rushdie in hiding.

Believe me, I know.
Ronald Reagan is a tough act to follow.
Let's face it: If I was funnier than him
I would have won in 1980 ((PAUSE))
And he'd be up here tonight,
Trying to laugh away the Bush deficit.

People say I lack political courage.
Don't forget. ((FORCEFULLY))
I'm the one who went to the Amish
and told them to "Just say no."

I'm the one who went back to Yale
To fight against illiteracy.

((SHAKE HEAD)) Rough night up here.
Some presidential honeymoon.
Hasn't been a honeymoon like this since Mike Tyson's.

But I know how to take a hit.
George Will predicted
That if I got elected,
The sound you'd hear from the Oval Office
Would be "the arf of a lap dog." ((INCRECULOUSLY))
And now Millie goes and proves him right.

Millie had ~~6~~ puppies. ((SHORT PAUSE))
Actually, she had 8,
But the Senate rejected two.

~~But~~ ^{AM} Still, I'm glad that one of the puppies
Was a boy.

Now Congress will have to be more specific
When they refer to that
S. O. B. in the White House.

You know,
Some say we got off to a slow start.
Ridiculous.

And I'll deny it in a formal statement
As soon as we hire some speechwriters.

But actually

I think our administration
Has gotten off to a good start.
The trip to Japan was very touching.
It was a nostalgic experience,
Visiting our money.

You've got to have a good staff to make the White House run.
Like Fred McClure up here.
Fred's worked for John Tower and Frank Lorenzo.

((TO FRED)) Come to think of it,
Did you ever pilot any ships for Exxon?

And I was glad to see you appreciate Lee Atwaters talents too
~~Then there's Lee Atwater.~~

Lee's a smart guy. ((PAUSE))
He's the first person in history
To go through Howard University
In just three days.

Have you seen Lee on stage?
Inauguration week.
The Letterman show.
The sunglasses.
The loud music.
The dancing and the sweat. ((PAUSE))
Now I know what Lee meant
When he said he wanted to lead the Party.

As Lee's often told me,
You can't get a break from the media.
Bill Bennett announced he'd stopped smoking.
Next day, the papers called him a quitter.

Darman

Bill's taken on the tough job of figuring out
 What to do about semi-automatic weapons.
 We all know the NRA's position:
 Guns don't kill people,
Grapes do.

And of course, if we outlaw grapes,
 only outlaws will have grapes.

You'd think the White House would be safe from crime.
 But last night Barbara was headed out the door to walk Millie,
 Looked back, and said, "Cover me."

Barbara's told me she's totally opposed
 To the availability of assault weapons.
 But I told her, "How am I going to take
 Microphones and word processors away from reporters?"

Even my grandkids are starting to pick up
 Bad habits from the media.
 The other day, one of them asked for a candy bar
 And I said "No".
 Then she said, "I'd like to ask a follow-up."

Watching you tonight brought back a lot of campaign memories.
 But → campaign-style politics has even come to Moscow.
 You can tell they're not used to campaigning.
 I saw Boris Yeltsin on television the other night:
 Sitting in an 18-wheeler, pledging allegiance,
 Criticizing the pollution in Odessa Harbor.

I had a feeling Yeltsin would win though. ((SHORT PAUSE))
 Once I found out his opponent had spent a lot of time
 In the Red Army -- riding around in Soviet tanks.

People wonder whether Gorbachev
Is going to be able to remain in power.
I talked to him on the phone the other day.
He said, "Things aren't so bad.
At least I don't have Newt Gingrich after me."

We do a lot of kidding around in this town -- believe me, I know, since I'm often the target. But it's important to be able to laugh. Because even though humor isn't singled out in the First Amendment, as tonight's friendly competition shows, it's darn near a national imperative. Americans are supposed to take their responsibilities seriously -- but not themselves.

Mark Twain called laughter the "one really effective weapon," against which no humbug can stand. Amen.

Laughter is part of the magic of America, part of the magic of our politics and our press. A year from now -- heck, a week from now -- there'll be all sorts of new material. My misstatements alone should give you plenty to work with. And there'll be things yet unthought of, as unlikely as Rushdie's book or Millie's puppies.

I wish you happy hunting. And I wish you laughter in your work. I promise to do my part -- Remember Pearl Harbor.

Good night, and God bless you all.

#

(John Sununu is a tough boss.) John had met with his staff the other day. He said, "I have good news and bad news for you. First, the bad news. Except in the case of serious illness or a death in the family, you will no longer be permitted to knock off early on Sunday afternoons. People have been taking advantage of my kindness. Now, the good news. The minimum wage is going up to \$4-- an hour.

(re. preppy image) So what if I use horseshoes by Gucci.

Everybody always said it, and now it's true. The White House is full of horse shoes!

I invited my friends Newt Gingrich and Jim Wright to play. Newt made a ringer on his first toss. Fortunately, Jim's neck was o.k.

We're training the dogs. One of them is a particularly fast learner. Already finished Reflections of a Public Man. (or) Jim Wright's book.

Dick Darman is teaching the pups how to do budget tricks.

We want them to make friends with other dogs. We took them over to Lee Atwater's house, but Lee's pit bull was out looking for David Duke.

Six dogs. Now I'm really gonna be in deep doo doo.

Dick Moore edits

(McNally/Simon)
3/24/89; 2:00 pm
Draft 1
(grid)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: GRIDIRON DINNER
CAPITAL HILTON
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

Thank you, Larry [O'Roark, Gridiron Club President]
Your kind words are appreciated,
But entirely unnecessary.
It's nice just to be invited out
X For something other than an overseas funeral.

Still, I'm impressed.

BT This is the largest white tie group I've seen
Since those coming out parties in Iowa.

OK Larry told me earlier that Bob Dole had called
And said, "I certainly hope Washington's Power Couple
Will be invited to the Gridiron."
Larry said, "Of course. I've already invited the Mosbachers."

X I was hoping the world's most powerful editor-in-chief
Might be here.
But I see the Ayatollah couldn't make it.

BT I've been asked to read an announcement: ((PAUSE))
All door prize winners:
Please see Nick Brady
About picking up your free S & L.

X By the way, next year --
Who do I see
About getting an earlier spot in the show.

NO Even the Academy Awards aren't this long.

X
NO
I gotta tell you, though,
After watching members of the media
Trying to act and sing tonight,
I have a feeling you may soon be joining
Salman Rushdie in hiding.

X
Seriously though, your performances really registered. ((PAUSE))
On the Misery Index.

X
Really, though, I've enjoyed every minute of it.
But it's been a long night.
And you know me. ((PAUSE))
I'm not one to be kept waiting in the wings.

Ronald Reagan is a tough act to follow.

Let's face it:

BH
If I was funnier than him
I would have won in 1980 --
And he'd be up here tonight,
Trying to laugh away the Bush deficit.

I can't stay very long tonight.

A
My old friend Jerry Ford
Is coming over in the morning to play horseshoes,
And I'm going to be up half the night
Boarding up the White House windows.

X
W
In preparing for tonight,
I noticed on the calendar
That it was 200 years ago today
That the battleship Maine was sunk
When the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor ... ((PAUSE))
Wait a minute. ((PAUSE))

I may have that date wrong.

Rough night up here.

B Some presidential honeymoon.

Hasn't been a honeymoon like this since Mike Tyson's.

I guess the most important thing I've learned since becoming President

B Is that you can't criticism too seriously.

People say I'm indecisive.

Well, I don't know about that.

People say I lack political courage.

X They've already forgotten. ((FORCEFULLY))

I'm the one who went to those Amish people and told them to "Just say no."

People say that I've got no agenda, no plans,

X That nothing is happening in Washington.

I'm sorry, but I just don't catch their drift.

People say I'm inart-, inartic-, Antarctic, ((GIVE UP))

NO That I can't speak well.

Well, Al Haig's coming over to help me with that.

And I want my money back from Ailes.

+ ((INCREDULOUSLY)) And people still wonder why

Barbara's devoted her life

To fighting illiteracy!

As president, I was looking forward to
Receiving some honorary degrees.

CX Andover and Yale called.

They want theirs back.

X Just call me the Education President.

But I know how to take a hit.

ND *P* *a column*
George Will predicted

That if I got elected,

The sound you'd hear from the Oval Office

Would be "the arf of a lap dog."

And now Millie goes and proves him right.

Betrayed by my own dog.

A Pretty hard to stare down Gorbachev

When the Leader of the Free World

Gets kicked out of bed

By a pregnant springer spaniel.

CX I've heard of a President being in the dog house,
but this is ridiculous.

NOX I don't know why Millie had to

Go get pregnant in the first place.

I should have used my authority to order a
60-day cooling-off period.

A+ *A* *millie*
Six dogs.

Now I'll really be in deep doo-doo.

Maybe you heard --

Millie's mate was a sire named

"Tug Farrish the Third." [Tug III]

Just what I need to shed my preppy image --

Puppies with Roman numerals after their names.

Still, I'm glad that one of the puppies

Was a boy.

Now Congress will have to be more specific

When they refer to that

S.O.B. in the White House.

I may have gotten a little carried away *living quarters*
When I opened up the White House to Congress.

We were going to bed last night and saw

Bob Byrd playing the *violin* on the Truman Balcony.

Joe Kennedy was playing with the puppies.

Newt Gingrich was reading a bedtime story:

Chinese War Tactics in the 14th Century.

Congress should be warned, though.

I can play rough if I need to.

Remember all those photos I took

Of Congressmen in the Lincoln Bedroom.

I've still got the negatives.

I'm not the only one from the Lone Star State
Who's catching flak.

Baker. Bentsen. Mosbacher. Gramm. Wright. Cavazos.

At the White House there's Bates, McClure, Untermyer and
Cicconi.

Numer not familiar

X Had enough, Washington? ((LOUD AND SLOW))

READ MY LIPS: NO NEW TEXANS.

The key is knowing your aides.

Like Fred McClure up here.

X He's worked for Ed Meese, John Tower, and Frank Lorenzo.

When I go to the track,

I ask Fred's advice ((PAUSE))

And then bet on the other horses.

I guess you all have heard about the sequel

They're making for "Rain Man."

X It's about a White House official who travels across the country

With a reporter,

Talking on background the whole way.

It's called "Dar-Man."

Then there's Lee Atwater.

Lee's a smart guy. ((PAUSE))

He's the first person in history

To go through Howard University

In just three days.

X Lee's an innovative conservative.

Lee wants Russians to stop jamming VOA --

And Republicans to start jamming R&B.

X Have you seen Lee on stage?

Inauguration week.

The Letterman show.

The sunglasses.

The loud music.

The dancing and the sweat. ((PAUSE))

Read my
lips overdone -
and probably
will
be
used by
others

one Lee joke is
enough

Pat
52A

X
NO

X
NO

X Now I know what Lee meant
When he said he wanted to lead the Party.

X We should all just be grateful
Lee never learned to play the accordion.

Atwater aside,
I do admit we got off to a slow start.
There were the usual hassles in moving.
I turned in Air Force Two.
Got charged extra
For not filling up the gas tank.

December and January were rough,
Doing handwritten thank you's
For everyone who voted for me.

Even Barbara thinks I'm overly cautious.
She says I should take the rear-view mirror
Off my stationary bike.

X And it may be time to lift the hiring freeze
On sub-cabinet appointments.

X In fact, with so many Senators here,
I might as well announce another appointment.
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.
He's tough on defense.
He's an strong supporter.
He's Arnold Schwarzenegger.

X You can hold a hearing.
But I'd hate to be the guy to vote against him.

*Produce
Cub*

*give it a
budget cut
angle*

old joke

*Punch
line not
strong
enough
for this
build-up*

2
 Seriously, I bear no grudge about the recent hearings.
 And to prove it,
 I sent Sam Nunn a basket of fruit.
 A few apples, some grapes.

I wish this controversy about harmful apples
 Would be cleared up once and for all.
 As I sat down to dinner last night, two Secret Service agents
 Wrestled my Waldorf Salad to the floor.

apple pie

No
 All in all, I'd say our administration
 Has gotten off to a good start.
 The trip to Japan was a big success.
 The Japanese were impressed by the fact
 That I'm so good at bowing.
 I explained a Vice President gets a lot of practice bowing --
 And scraping.

No
 Actually, my trip to Japan was very touching.
 It was a nostalgic experience,
 Visiting our money.

2
 I've been asked if development
 Of the new FSX fighter with Japan might mean
 The sharing of some Pentagon secrets.
 Maybe -- but what do we care
 If the Japanese suddenly start paying
 \$600 dollars for a toilet seat.

Nevertheless, I do believe we are on our way
 To a kinder, gentler nation.
 Especially since Sam Donaldson left the White House.

You can't get a break from the media.

A Bill Bennett announced he'd stopped smoking.
Next day, the papers called him a quitter.

B+ Bill's taken on the tough job of figuring out
What to do about semi-automatic weapons.

We all know the NRA's position:
Guns don't kill people,
Grapes do.

X Of course, if we outlaw all the grapes,
only the outlaws will have grapes.

Still, this whole thing has been confusing.

X I have a hard time picturing Southerners
Putting up a fruit pantry in the back window of their pick-ups.

I am particularly concerned about the
Crime situation in D.C.

B+ I didn't know how bad it was until I went aboard Marine One
And asked the pilot where to sit.

He said, "Over there, behind the tailgunner."

I went over to Mayor Barry's office

The other day to talk about it, but he wasn't there.

Apparently, the police tipped him off that I was coming.

NOX By the way, someone ought to tell Mayor Barry that
The Superfund is not his expense account.

NOX And that the Supercollider is not his limousine.

Not bad, but
Will the
guests
get this

Bo
 You'd think the White House would be safe from crime.
 But last night Barbara was headed out the door to walk the dog,
 Looked back, and said, "Cover me."

Na
 We were meeting in the Oval Office this week
 To decide whether to call out the National Guard in D.C.
 We had pretty much decided against it
 When Dan Quayle stood up and said,
 "Come on guys, for a lot of us Guardsmen,
 This might be our only chance at combat pay."

C
 Barbara's told me she's totally opposed
 To the availability of assault weapons.
 But I told her, "How am I going to take
 Microphones and word processors away from reporters?"

C
 One of the problems is defining
 Exactly what a "semi-automatic" is.
~~I'm not so sure myself.~~
 Heck, it sounds to me like
 The editorial policy at the Washington Post.

I have to be careful here.
 To be fair, when they're wrong,
 The Washington Post does run corrections.
 For instance, on Page 3 the other day, it said:
 "Nothing in last week's Style section was true."

B+
 Even my grandkids are starting to pick up
 Bad habits from the media.
 The other day, one of them asked for a candy bar
 And I said "No".
 Then she said, "I'd like to ask a follow-up."

*I'm not
 from
 Washington*

Campaign-style politics has even come to Moscow.
 You can tell they're a little rusty at campaigning.
 I saw Boris Yeltsin on television last night:
 Sitting in an 18-wheeler, pledging allegiance,
 Wearing a policeman's cap and criticizing the pollution
 in Odessa Harbor.

I called Yeltsin with a few pointers:
 Don't forget to campaign at those coming-out parties
 in Siberia.

*Not if
he uses
the Iowa job*

People wonder whether Gorbachev
 Is going to be able to remain in power.
 So I called him and asked him.
 He said, "Things aren't so bad.
 At least I don't have Newt Gingrich after me."

The glasnost and perestroika in Russia today is amazing.
 They're openly discussing Stalin's crimes;
 Brezhnev's lavish lifestyle.
 Coming out next, I hear,
 Is a book called, "Lenin Was Lousy at Chess."

We kid about the Soviets. Sorry, Yuri [Dubinin].
 But the truth is, the novelty of the embryonic elections in
 Moscow this week is yet another reminder of how uncommon our
 traditions are.

*unless
to me*

You may recall Yakov Smirnoff's remark about how they have
 freedom of speech in the Soviet Union -- but with America, you
 have freedom after you speak. As he puts it: "It's a nice
 little feature."

AT

freedom to joke

12

included expressly

Although humor isn't singled out in the First Amendment, as ~~tonight's friendly competition shows~~, it's darn near a national imperative. Americans are supposed to take their responsibilities seriously -- but not themselves.

You've heard me declare it before: I'm not in Washington to question anyone's motives. I do not intend to let politics strain civility, credibility or friendship; it ought not deprive any of us of a good night's sleep, a partner on the playing fields, or ruin so much as a game of horseshoes. And when it does, there's no better antidote than a good laugh, preferably at one's own expense.

Mark Twain called laughter the "one really effective weapon," against which no humbug can stand. Amen.

Laughter is part of the magic of America, part of the magic of our politics and our press. A year from now -- heck, a week from now -- there'll be all sorts of new material. My misstatements alone should give you plenty to work with. And there'll be things yet unthought of, as unlikely as Rushdie's book or Millie's puppies. I wish you happy hunting. And I wish you laughter in your work.

Good night, and God bless you all.

#

(c) 1984 The Washington Post , March 26, 1984

When you're perfect in every way.

Each morning to Helen I mumble

That I get even smarter each day.

A William French Smith impersonator, to the tune of "Wichita Lineman":

It wasn't broke but we fixed it.

Won't leave well enough alone.

We're the Washington linemen

And we've fouled up the phones.

Martin Feldstein and Donald Regan impersonators, to the tune of "Red Sails in the Sunset" and "Paper Moon":

Feldstein:

Red ink in the budget,

It's THEIR policy.

That two hundred billion,

Don't blame it on me.

Regan:

Hey, it's only a paper debt.

Leading up to a bankruptcy.

It's a matter of make-believe,

So just believe in me.

Why should deficits bother you

If they're farther than you can see?

Marty Feldstein can pay the tax

From his personal money tree!

No one was safe.

"George Bush is here tonight," Liddy Dole cracked. "I didn't know anyone had died."

Then she looked at Bush and said, "George asked how I felt about the vice presidency in '88. I said, 'If you're interested in staying on, George, I'll keep you in mind.' "

(c) 1984 The Washington Post, March 26, 1984

Jackson had already left, but she left her Jackson joke in: "Jesse, I'd kinda like to see you elected. I've always wanted to hear an inaugural address that rhymes."

She pretended to look around in confusion to locate Hart, saying, "Oh, there you are, Gary . . . Well, now we know where he sits. If we could just find out where he stands."

Turning toward her husband, she said she knew a lot about airbags before she arrived at the Transportation Department. "After all, I've been driving around with one for a long time . . .

"A reporter recently interviewed Bob and me and he asked, 'Bob, isn't it emasculating being married to a powerful woman?' I said, 'Hold it, cupcake, I'll take this one.' "

GRAPHIC: Illustration, Elizabeth Dole and Robert Strauss. By Steve Mendelson--The Washington Post; Picture 1, Capitol Hilton general manager Frederick Kleisner and the Reagans. AP; Pictures 2 through 4, Jesse Jackson, Ed Meese and Gary Hart arrive at the Gridiron dinner. Photos by Gerald Martineau

26TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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March 29, 1982, Monday, Final Edition

SECTION: Style; D1

LENGTH: 1210 words

HEADLINE: Heere's Nancy!;
First Lady Steals Show at Annual Gridiron Dinner;
First Lady Steals Show

BYLINE: By Donnie Radcliffe

KEYWORD: GRID

BODY:

She used to be in pictures, this "Second Hand Rose" with the secondhand clothes. But Saturday night the vision in the feathered hat, pantaloons and yellow boots was First Lady Nancy Reagan, making a surprise on-stage appearance that brought down the house at the Gridiron Club's 97th dinner and political roast.

Belting it out for a high-powered, white-tie crowd of 600, the first lady poked fun at herself and her expensive tastes in designer clothes, then for an exit line dropped a plate done up to look like a piece of her new \$200,000 White House china.

Probably nobody was more surprised to see her take over the spotlight in the Capital Hilton Hotel ballroom than her husband. Later, President Reagan told the crowd he had come to the dinner "a happy husband" and would leave as "a stage-door Johnny." At the end, he asked jokingly if he could take his wife home to show her his collection of political cartoons.

Written, produced and performed by a committee of Gridiron members, a select group limited to 60 newspaper correspondents, the show traditionally lampoons Washington officialdom with the self-imposed proviso that the "gridiron may singe but . . . never burns."

This year's Gridiron not only didn't singe Mrs. Reagan, but gave her an opportunity to embellish her reputation. The sophisticated audience of journalists, politicians and their friends responded to her performance as though she had undergone a major change. A number of these image-makers left the ballroom saying that Nancy Reagan's song-and-dance number had transformed her image.

Saturday night's version singed the Democrats as poor little political lambs bemoaning how "the magic of big spending" and "the joy of being taxed" had lost appeal. The Reagan style of domestic, foreign and personal politics came in for its share of satirical singeing, too. A reporter impersonating presidential counselor Edwin Meese sang, "We'll Get Him to the War on Time," a reference to the Reagan staff's decision last summer not to awaken the president to inform him that two Libyan fighter jets had been shot down by two U.S. Navy jets.

L 'XIC® N 'XIS® L 'XIC® N 'XIS®

(c) 1982 The Washington Post, March 29, 1982

Mrs. Reagan's big number came halfway into the show, after a song chiding her about her clotheshorse image, sung to the tune of "Second Hand Rose." The words, in part, were:

"Secondhand clothes/ I give my secondhand clothes/ To mu-seum collections and traveling shows . . . I never wear a frock more than just once/ Calvin Klein, Adolfo, Ralph Lauren and Bill Blass/ Ronald Reagan's Mama's going strictly first class/ Rodeo Drive, I'll be back, Rodeo Drive/ In 1985."

A few minutes later, in a get-up that included a feathered boa, an aqua skirt with red and yellow flowers held together by safety pins and the floppy feathered hat her staff gave her on her birthday as a joke last summer, the first lady peeked out through a rack of clothes and demanded of bandleader Les Karr: "Let me see that score!"

When the audience realized who she was, she got her first standing ovation of the evening. Prancing around the stage, she sang in a throaty voice her own version of "Second Hand Clothes," written by White House speech writer Landon Parvin and the first lady's press secretary, Sheila Tate. It went:

"Secondhand clothes, I'm wearing secondhand clothes

"They're all the thing in the spring fashion shows;

"Even my new trench coat with fur collar

"Ronnie bought for 10 cents on the dollar

"The china is the only thing that's new.

"Even though they tell me that I'm no longer queen

"Did Ronnie have to buy me that new sewing machine?

"Secondhand clothes, secondhand clothes

"I sure hope Ed Meese sews."

She rewarded her second standing ovation with an encore. Then she dropped the plate, and it shattered.

Mrs. Reagan had slipped away unnoticed from the head table where the president sat with Gridiron officers, Vice President Bush and Barbara Bush, Soviet Ambassador Anatoliy Dobrynin, nine other ambassadors, four Supreme Court justices, including Sandra O'Connor, and most of the Cabinet.

"The president thought she was going to the ladies room," an aide to the first lady said later.

Followed by a single Secret Service agent, Mrs. Reagan made her way backstage where White House Social Secretary Muffie Brandon and Tate were waiting with a change of costume. She had rehearsed at the hotel Friday morning and before that went through her routine Thursday afternoon in the White House Library while Frank Sinatra and Perry Como were rehearsing upstairs in the East Room for that night's state dinner.

(c) 1982 The Washington Post, March 29, 1982

Delivering the Gridiron's traditional "speech in the dark," club president Benjamin R. Cole, Washington correspondent of the Indianapolis Star and the Arizona Republic, said: "The president says, give his economic plan a chance to work. The Democrats says, hell, it's already worked. Nonetheless, prosperity is just around the corner. You can hear it trickling down."

But until Mrs. Reagan stole the show with her unannounced solo, the loudest laughter of the evening had been for Rep. Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz.), delivering the speech for the out-of-power Democrats.

Udall said he and Sen. Barry Goldwater, the Republican speaker, had made Arizona "the only one of the 50 states where mothers don't tell little children they can grow up to be president." Remarking ruefully on his 15 straight defeats by Jimmy Carter, the Arizona Democrat asked, "How would you like to have that on your record?"

Some other Udallisms:

Interior Secretary James Watt and EPA Administrator Anne M. Gorsuch "have done for the environment what Bonnie and Clyde did for banks";

The Reagan administration's efforts to require notification of parents whose children use birth control devices could be called "the war on puberty";

The difference between the Supreme Court and the Ku Klux Klan is that "one puts on black robes and scares the hell out of white people, while the other puts on white robes to scare the hell out of blacks."

Mrs. Reagan's performance was the third by a first lady in what seems to be becoming a new Gridiron tradition. Betty Ford started it in 1975 when she and Happy Rockefeller, the first presidential and vice presidential wives invited as guests, participated in ceremonies initiating the club's first woman member, United Press International's White House correspondent Helen Thomas. (This year's five new members included no women.)

In 1978, Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter jitterbugged their way on stage to become the first First Couple to perform at a Gridiron dinner.

Among those for whom Mrs. Reagan's self-deprecating song-and-dance routine cast her in a new light was Virginia Gov. Charles Robb. He called her performance "one of the most astute moves I've seen in a long time." Maine Gov. Joseph E. Brennan also thought the first lady had "helped herself nicely," but added that such a rare view of her did not change her husband's policies. "There are still 10 million unemployed," said Brennan, "and there is still the interest rate."

President Reagan ended the evening by singling out his press secretary, James Brady, waving from his wheelchair.

"To laughter and to liberty," said the president, proposing a toast, "may America's supply of both never be scarce."

GRAPHIC: Picture, Nancy Reagan

28TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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March 17, 1980, Monday, Final Edition
Correction Appended

SECTION: Style; B1

LENGTH: 1270 words

HEADLINE: The Mocking of the President 1980 at the Gridiron Follies;
Firing at the Whites of Their Ties;
Some of Journalism's Biggest Powers and Egos Gather for Club's 95th Annual Roast

BYLINE: By Elisabeth Bumiller

BODY:

Jimmy Carter stayed home, but then, he doesn't get around much these days. As his campaign chairman explained, "If you'd just been home for 133 days with your wife and kids, you'd want to spend your first night out with the Gridiron Club?"

That was Bob Strauss, who was the funniest and wickedest among the roasters at the 95th annual Gridiron Dinner Saturday night. Or at least that's what Gridiron members and guests decided afterward, squeezed white tie and tails-to-tail into hot Capital Hilton party suites.

"It was Bob Strauss by a nose," said one guest. "George Bush was a close second."

A sample of Bush's monologue which roasted its own deliverer for rich-kid elitism: "Back in 1936, there was this big snow. And the chauffeur for my brother and me was the only one who made it to school."

But after Bush's funny ones, he spoke seriously about his campaign. "He talked about it almost in the past tense," said one Gridiron member. "It sort of sounded like a farewell address."

The third roaster was former Wisconsin Governor Patrick Lucey, who spoke for Ted Kennedy. The candidate had canceled because of the shooting death of a supporter and close friend, former New York congressman Allard K. Lowenstein. Lucey got few laughs from a speech written for Kennedy, whose absence muted the evening somewhat. Later, nobody could remember what he said.

But by the time midnight rolled around, hotel-suite parties were bubbling over with drinks and celebrities. Everybody was telling the good ones from the speeches. Or the good ones they could recall from the invitation-only, news-coverage-forbidden event.

"It was funny," said a jovial and very relaxed Walter Cronkite, "but I can't remember a damn thing." He said this about 1:45 a.m., deeply immersed in the evening's biggest afterparty, held by The Los Angeles Times and The Detroit News. Lots of glitteries, including -- Chrysler board chairman Lee Iacocca and actress Barbara Eden.

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"I love Washington star-gazing," she said.

If Cronkite had remembered a damn thing or two, he might have mentioned a few of these little zingers from Strauss:

If Pat Lucey is the Kennedy campaign's answer to Bob Strauss, then Bella Abzug is the Kennedy campaign's answer to Bo Derek."

If Andy Young were still United Nations ambassador, there would have been no problem with the U.N. vote on Israel. "He never paid any attention to communications from the State Department anyway."

Both Prescott Bush and Joseph P. Kennedy Sr. were politicians who love political jokes. "It's too bad they are not alive to see how they sired two of them."

That last one got laughter first and mixed reviews later. Strauss had gone too far, some said.

But then, the Gridiron's aim is to "satirize the great and not-so-great with good-humored bite," a mandate giving someone like Strauss the chance to vent political frustrations to an audience of 450 of the biggest names, powers and egos in journalism and government.

The exclusive club has been around since 1885, the year a group of newspapermen sought brotherhood, in part because the earlier scandal-plagued Grant administration thought they were a bunch of byline-hunting hounds. Every year since, there's been the annual dinner, where 50-plus journalist-members invite sources, colleagues and other assorted hoo-hahs.

There's always Maryland terrapin on the menu, and skits in which club members play the people they cover. "This year, Charles McDowell of The Richmond Times-Dispatch appeared as Strauss, stealing the show). And speakers, too -- one for the Republicans, one for the Democrats, and one for the administration.

Critics of the club say it's a bunch of elitist stuffed shirts, perpetrating the coziness between journalists and their sources. Supporters, guests and members say the dinner is just a lot of fun.

Saturday night, they got lots of songs, dances, plenty of jokes. And a chorus line that included Helen Thomas, the first woman gridiron member and White House correspondent for the United Press International. She appeared at a party afterward in a long, creamy dress that certainly didn't look like one worn by a showgirl.

Anyway, some of this year's lyrics, set to Sir Arthur Sullivan's famous hymn:

"Onward, Cater soldiers,/Arm the Persian Sea./Bring back Doug MacArthur,/Patton, Grant and Lee.

"Billions for the Pentagon/We will vote with joy/Tanks and planes and missiles,/Draft each girl and boy.

"Mark 5 and Poseidon,/M-X and B-1./Build them in profusion,/We are never done."

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Memorable moments from other years include the time when former representative Edward Mitchell (R-Ind.) punched Rep. Hale Boggs (D-La.) in the men's room, thereby draping him over the urinal. And in 1907, Teddy Roosevelt and Sen. Joseph B. Foraker got into a giant shouting match that was much more interesting than the evening's scheduled activities.

Among this year's unscheduled activity was a standing ovation for Canadian Ambassador Peter Towe, for his country's action in helping Americans escape Iran. There was also a solid round of applause for CBS newsman Roger Mudd. Presumably, that was because of his network's decision to make Dan Rather, and not Mudd, the next Walter Cronkite.

"Would you rather be rich, or would you rather be Rather?" asked Lucien Warren of The Frederick News-Post during introductions. Responded Jerry terHorst of the Detroit News: "I would rather be clear as Mudd." More applause.

And now some more lyrics, these about Kennedy and set to the tune of "Blues in the Night":

"My mama done tole me:/And Eunice done tole me:/George Gallup done tole me:/The lib-erals done tole me:/and ev-ry one tole me:/Run!

From Rockford to Bismarck/From Maine to Chicago,/Wherever the four winds blow,/I've heard me some small talk,/But there is one thing I know:

"A voters a two-face,/A worrisome thing who'll leave you to sing /The Blues ev-ry night."

Bush didn't escape from the music either. Sing a few bars of this one, set to the tune of "Rhinestone Cowboy":

"I've been making my plans since Yale/That I'd hit the glory trail;/This Connecticut boy was headin' down Texas way, Where dazzle is the name of the game/And a smooth guy can learn to play/And put a shine on his name."

For his opening one-liner, Bush grabbed the microphone in front of the illuminated gridiron on the wall and exclaimed, "What do you mean, this mike isn't on? I paid for it."

This was an unsubtle reference to his opponent, Ronald Reagan, the man whom he alone debated in New Hampshire while all the other candidates complained of Bush's piggishness. Reagan made the remark about the microphone because he had, in fact, paid for the two-man debate.

The dinner menu included melon with prosciutto, terrapin soup with sherry, a fish course, filet mignon, dessert and champagne. Spouses are absolutely not invited, so they amuse themselves by having dinner elsewhere, then going to the Kennedy Center or something.

Barbara Eden, who's married to Chicago Sun-Times executive vice-president Charles Fegert, had dinner at Trader Vic's and then saw "Swing" with some other wives. In between the two activities, the ladies decorated a powder room with gardenias the waiters at Trader Vic's had given them.

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"It's been such an evening," said Eden. Later, she was heard at the Los Angeles Times and Detroit News party (suite 1240, open bar, salad, casserole and mostly men) singing lustily. A little while later, most everybody else was singing too.

CORRECTION-DATE: March 18, 1980, Tuesday, Final Edition

CORRECTION:

In Monday's Style section, the hosts of a party held after the annual Gridiron Club dinner were incorrectly reported. The party was hosted solely by The Detroit News.

GRAPHIC: Picture, Helen Thomas rehearsing as chorus girl, by Gerald Martineau -- The Washington Post