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SUBJECT: FW: Tuesday Hotline

TO: Donald A. Mitchell (CN=Donald A. Mitchell/OU=NSC/O=EOP [NSC])

READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Huffman, Craig S.

> Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2000 12:21 PM

> To: eric lee; H; Jacobs; Josh; Raether, Carl

> Subject: Tuesday Hotline

>

> <>

- h000926.html===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

 Spotlight

Dems: Go Joe Go

Could Joe

Lieberman win the White House and lose the Senate for Democrats? Dems

worry that CT's GOP Gov. **John Rowland** could choose Lieberman's
Senate successor if Gore wins -- and hurt Dem chances for control in a
tight battle for the Senate majority. **(#34)**

If Dems pick up four seats an

d

lose Lieberman's, it could deny them control of the Senate. The solution?

Some CT Dems urge Lieberman to quit the Senate race and give the party a

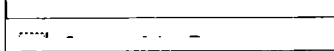
chance to elect one of their own.

New York Times reports

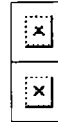
Sens. **Byron Dorgan** (D-ND) and **Harry Reid** (D-NV) enlist Sen.

Min. Leader **Tom Daschle**'s help in persuading Lieberman to step aside. DSCC head **Robert Toricelli** said on "Meet" it would be the

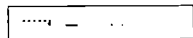
"right decision." (#21)



"There were times when he was standing next to me
that I thought he was Amos or Jeremiah. Instead, we have 'Seinfeld.'"



--
William Bennett on Sen. Joe Lieberman, Salon.com,
9/26.



☐ Time

Traveling

Debate

tape mystery stirs memories of '86 Rove story in TX; (#1) Oil prices rekindles the '70s. (#3)

☐ Return

n

Of Newt

Gore

camp won't let Bush support of GOP Medicare plan "wither on the vine." (#5)



Schoolhouse Rock

Bush

blast at Gore for education "recession" aimed at women voters (#4)



On

Track!

Believe

it or not, Gallup (#43) and Battleground (#44) show same upward Bush movement; GOP

poll has Gore up (#47)



The E

V

And Flow

Latest

EV projection -- Gore 307, Bush 180



Lazio's Loss Is...

Franks'

gain? Soft money to help GOPer in NJ SEN? (#29)



Staying On Massage

Bush

and Gore Share A Masseur. (#53)

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Media Monitor

Get your free weekend Hotline until Election Day -- CLICK
HERE to sign up.

Erratum : Yesterday's write-up of the Newsweek poll
 should have noted that 766 likely voters were surveyed.

WHITE ELEPHANT WATCH

In the 1986 movie "Power," about the life of a "high-flying" political consultant (played by Richard Gere), the Gere character discovers his office has been bugged in the heat of the movie's fictional gov. campaign.

Karl Rove recommends the movie in a 5/14/00 *New York Times Magazine* profile by Melinda Henneberger, who noted her "surprise" at the coincidence of the Gere bugging and the controversial bugging of Rove's office in the '86 TX gov. race -- the same year "Power" was released.



WHITE HOUSE 2000

&nb sp; While aides to **George W. Bush** "say there may be a mole in their midst," TX Dems are "blaming" the Bush camp's "top dog for leaking sensitive information" to **Al Gore**'s campaign. "At issue is how" a Bush debate prep tape found its way into the mailbox of Gore adviser **Tom Downey**, "a mystery now being investigated by the FBI." Over th e weekend, the Bush camp "suggested" that the Gore camp had "planted a spy" at Bush headquarters. And yesterday, TX Dem chair **Molly Beth Malcolm** "offered up a different scenario: **Karl Rove**, Bush's chief political consultant, manufactured the incident to create a distraction from a campaign struggling to regain its footing." Malcolm asserted that the tape-mailing "has Karl Rove's fingerprints written all over it." Malcolm "offered no proof to back up her contention," but said it was "no coincidence that Rove was at the center of an eavesdropping controversy" in the '86 TX Gov. race. Malcolm: "His history is this kind of stuff. This helps

get the attention off of the issues of this campaign and maybe helps Karl." Bush spokesperson **Dan Bartlett** called Malcolm's accusation "silly partisan rhetoric" that is "aimed at distracting attention" from the suspension of Gore aide **Michael Doyme**, who "bragged" about a mole inside the Bush camp. Bartlett: "It seems the more the FBI investigates, the more nervous Nashville gets" (Root, *Ft. Worth Star-Telegram*, 9/26).

Cox's Herman remembers that in the '86 race, "the stakes were high, and crucial information seemed to be leaking from the Republican camp to the Democratic camp. The big debate was upcoming. Finger-pointing and blame-throwing ensued. Each side implicated the other. The feds were called in." In '86, Rove was the strategist for GOP nominee **Bill Clements** and current Bush media consultant **Mark McKinnon** was working for Dem Gov. **Mark White**. As the campaign's lone debate "drew near, word got out that a private eye hired by Rove found an electronic transmitter hidden behind a red, white and blue elephant needlepoint framed and hung behind Rove's desk." Rove hired the PI "after becoming convinced that campaign inside information was leaking out." At the time, McKinnon was quoted as saying: "It seems to me the Republicans are the ones who have experience at this kind of stuff. ... If their goal is to distract the campaign from the issues, they've done it fully. This thing stinks and the wind is blowing from over there." In '86, the investigation "played out to no conclusion" and McKinnon is now with the GOP candidate. Bush aides "acknowledge" that McKinnon "quickly pops up as a suspect in the clandestine tape shipment," but "insist the tape and related documents were accessible only to trusted, top-level staffers" and "do not suspect McKinnon." One Bush "confidant": "We are absolutely confident it's not anyone within the Bush organization. We've certainly upgraded our

security" (*Austin American-Statesman*, 9/26).

Washington Post's Lardner reports that the FBI investigated the '86 incident, "but it sputtered to a halt a few weeks later when the head of the security firm that found the bug declined to take a polygraph test" (9/26).

'86 Story Makes The Dem Talking Points

Dem Strategist **Chris Lapetina**: "In 1986 there is a gubernatorial race in Texas. Karl Rove ... is running that race for the Republican. He says there is a bug in his office. He accuses the Democrats of doing it. The Democratic campaign says that this guys is full of bull if he says we did it. It just so happens that campaign was being run by Bush's ad man. Now you have both of them each accusing each other of lying, playing dirty tricks. Now, both are working for Bush. ... The history is there. It absolutely happened in 1986. It is Rove and [Mark] McKinnon, they are bot h now working for Bush" ("Hannity & Colmes," FNC, 9/25).

Boston Globe's **Nyhan**: "In 1986, Karl Rove, who is now Bush's campaign manager, wa s then running a campaign for the Republican candidate for governor in Texas. And a couple of hours before the only debate in the race, guess what? He discovers a supposed microphone, a bug, hidden in his office wall. And Rove blames the Democratic governor at the time for spying on his campaign. And furthermore, it ... so upset the Democratic governor's then-consultant that he claimed Rove did it deliberately. And that turns around that same consultant, Mark McKinnon, is now working for Bush. He i s in Rove's payroll down there in Austin. Doesn't this echo a little bit?" ("Crossfire," 9/25).

One Story Becoming Two

FNC's **Cameron**, on the Bush campaign and the "mole":

"Senior Bush adviser s are now saying that they are willing to believe that there is, in fact, a mole amongst them. Perhaps an intern or a volunteer, they speculate, who has been obtaining inter-office memos and such and emailing them first to a personal account and then on to the Gore campaign. Now a Gore staffer has been put on administrative leave, suspended really, for having boasted that they have a mole in the Bush camp. The Gore campaign is denying that. But Bush advisers have suggested that the FBI should go to computer s in Nashville and look at computer hard drives for evidence. This is the mole allegation and it is separate entirely from the mysterious video tap e that was mailed to a Gore aide" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

GOP strategist **Ed Rollins** on th e whole situation: "I think to a certain extent it's a lot about nothing" ("LKL," CNN, 9/25).

Bush spokesman **Ari Fleischer**, on the "Mole": "An affidavit was filled out by a staffer in Nashville at the request of the Gore campaign and then his statements in that affidavit turned out to be false. His story crumbled like blue cheese as soon as he was confronted by a reporter who had evidence that he had sent out an email implicating himself having knowledge of a mole. That is very troubling. False affidavits are very troubling. They generally signal other problems."

More Fleischer, on the mole being from the Bush camp: "There is not a chance that any of the people who worked for Governor Bush involving the debates -- their people prepping him for the debates -- ever would have done that" ("The Edge," FNC, 9/25).

Cheney, on the possible mole: "All I know is, we have a Gore staffer who is alleged to have said to people in the press that they have a mole inside the Bush campaign. ... At some point I assume we'll find out what's happening here. But I don't know. I don't have any

special knowledge in this area" ("Mitchell Report," MSNBC, 9/25).

FNC's **Barnes**: "The chances of a mole in some strategic position in the Bush campaign are nil . There may have been some munchkin who was slipping stuff out. But this story has legs because it's a mystery" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

Fortune's Birnbaum : "If any part of this turns out to be true, it will fall into a pattern that Bush is trying to paint Gore into -- someone who is willing to do anything to win" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

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2 GENERAL ELECTION: The State Of The Race

ABC's **Jennings**: "It is 6 weeks until election day, and we can anticipate, with some justification, that the presidential candidates will try to jack up the rhetoric another notch or two" ("World News," 9/25).

CBS' **Rather**: "It's 43 days until election day, and the presidential candidates are focusing their messages and efforts even more tightly now on swing voters in battleground states" ("Evening News," 9/25).

NBC's **Mitchell**: "The candidates are in a real contest tonight. Several polls have Al Gore and George Bush in a statistical dead heat. ... Did George Bush speed up, did Al Gore slow down, or are the polls wrong?" ("Mitchell Report," MSNBC, 9/25).

FNC's **Hume**: "A week ago, most national polls showed George W. Bush behind Al Gore ... but the race has tightened, with some polls showing Bush has a slight lead, or dead even with Gore" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

Under header, "It's A Competition For The Ages," *New York Post's* Barrett and Morris write, "For the first

time since Labor Day, Bush tops every tracking poll, although the margin is so skinny it's considered a statistical tie" (9/26).

Washington Times' **Z. Hallow** notes Bush's "biggest gains" have come "among women -- a group the Texas governor targeted last week with appearances on two popular daytime talk shows." GOP pollster **John McLaughlin** "attributed the Bush surge in part" to his "regaining the women voters he had in the spring and summer, the ones who thought he was a good, strong leader and family person. They liked his ideas on taxes and Social Security and his saying he would restore honesty and integrity in the White House" (9/26).

Writing on WJS.c om, *Wall Street Journal's* **Hunt** notes the latest round of polling : "The presidential race is tightening, but dichotomies persist. Polls and political experts from both parties believe that over the past week ... Bush has wiped out most, if not all, of ... Gore's lead. But these same analysts also suggest that the Democratic nominee continues to enjoy an important advantage in the key industrial battlegrounds" (9/25).

MSNBC's **Williams** on Bush: "In two new polls tonight, George W. Bush is ahead by one point. While that point gets erased when allowing for the margin of error, it's a hugely important psychological advantage for the Bush campaign, which recovered from stumbles and turned in a good week on the campaign trail, which enough voters noticed, apparently, to make this race a statistical dead heat now. Now the debates loom large" ("The News," 9/25).

"If neither candidate gains an advantage this week, they will likely be in a dead heat in national polls when they take the stage next week for the first of three televised debates" (Cummings/Murray, *Wall Street Journal*, 9/26).

Newsweek's **Alter** on Bush's support: "His support

was firmer, more solid than Gore's. And we saw with this most recent erosion that that could be a potential problem for Gore. ... A lot of his support has been among people who haven't really quite made up their minds. And that's why these debates ... are going to be absolutely pivotal because you have a lot of what are called 'lightly aligned voters.' They're just not sure" ("The News," MSNBC, 9/25).

ABC's **Compton** on the polls: "All polls aren't created equal. Some have a very high undecided factor, probably haven't asked the right questions or pushed hard enough for an answer. So I think you take a look at a lot of polls, you take a look at a lot of factors in it, and you don't take any of them as gospel" ("LKL," CNN, 9/25).

GOP strategist **Ed Rollins** on polls: "One of the difficulties I think we have today is we have too many polls. I think today we have an election that's pretty even. We have two political parties that are about even in numbers, and both parties are supporting their candidates 90 percent or better, which is very unique. So what's bouncing back and forth are kind of these independent, undecided voters that are a small segment of the electorate. And the reality is that those are the people who want to look at a debate, look at the two candidates and obviously make a choice as to which way they go" ("LKL," CNN, 9/25).

Washington Post's **Balz**, on the race tightening: "There's been kind of a harmonic convergence over the weekend of all the polls. ... I don't know exactly how to explain it all ... other than, from the beginning of this race, we've always anticipated that it would be close. ... I think we've spent too much time focusing on one day movements in polls or the poll that seems to be outside of everybody else's that shows a big change or a big movement. This is a reminder that this race is close

and is likely to stay close" ("Mitchell Report," MSNBC, 9/25).

Washington Post's Connolly: "I don't necessarily think there are enormous shifts taking place from week-to-week, but subtle, small, nuanced things may be occurring. I think that no one doubts that last week we saw Governor Bush get his footing back a little bit, even just reassure many in his own party and in terms of being back on track. Also, he caused Vice President Gore a little bit of heartburn last week on a couple of issues. ... You saw a little bit more assertive Bush campaign" ("IP," CNN, 9/25).

L.A. Times' Brownstein: "We really are in unusual race between two candidates who are very closely matched at a time when the parties are almost at parity in the nation. And I think we're going to have some more twists and turns before it's over" ("IP," CNN, 9/25).

Washington Post's Balz, on swing voters: "They will move back and forth between now and election day three or four more times. We may see some more movement in the polls. They are not firmly aligned in one direction or another, and little things could impress them. ... I think the debates will be crucial in firming up ... opinion of people. But there are folks out there for whom neither of these candidates is the ideal President, and they're just trying to make up their mind slowly" ("Mitchell Report," MSNBC, 9/25).

Pollster **Ed Goeas**, on the fluctuating polls: "There's not nearly as much movement as is being shown. ... In these September polls, you get a lot of overstatement of the movement ... including a lot of voters who are saying they are likely voters when, in fact, they are not. ... I think from a polling standpoint, you have to look at the race and say it's a dead even race, but the edge is certainly to George Bush over the last week" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

NPR's **Williams**: "What you are seeing now is people who are kind of up in the air, people who are unsure. At best, what you are seeing is Republicans feeling more confident. ... I think now there is less anxiety and that this is what people have said all along: this is a close race" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

CNN's **Schneider**: "In the past four days, Gore has lost seven points and Bush has gained six. We're seeing that shift across the whole electorate: men, women, young voters, seniors, rich, poor, everybody. Maybe Gore's convention bounce is wearing off. ... A kiss doesn't last forever. ... For the first time since the conventions, Gore had a bad week and Bush had a good week. ... This thing could go down to the wire. A lot is riding on those debates. ... Somethin g is rallying the Republican base. Bush? Maybe. But maybe something else: perhaps a horrified realization that Gore really might win this election" ("IP," CNN, 9/25).

CNN's **Novak**: "Each one has a strong base ... it's that other 10 percent, 12 percent, whatever it is in between, who is affected by things that really probably don't have anything to do with issues. It's gaffes. It's Gore looking pompous. It's Bush looking dopey. And that is why the good week, bad week is not just a figure of speech by reporters. It's something that really does affect the swing voter" ("IP," CNN, 9/25).

FNC's **Barnes**, on the Bush comeback: "Not only was he doing well, but Gore was doing poorly. ... It is a remarkable turnaround. It's not that all kinds of Gore people have turned around and jumped to Bush. It's undecided voters who have gone back and forth. ... It's Republicans who have become more intense and Bush has a higher percentage of Republicans who are now certain to vote for him. ... This has shattered Gore's momentum" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

Fortune's **Birnbaum** , on the numbers: "They still

are a statistical dead heat. ... What this does show is that the momentum has switched from Gore to Bush, that Bush is the candidate who is gaining support and Gore is losing support" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

CNN's **Fouhy**, on Bush's gains: "Bush had a really remarkable week last week. ... It was almost a slight of hand, because what he did was he made himself again the very likable candidate that we all remember from the spring by going on 'Oprah' and going on 'Regis,' talking about what was i n his heart. Gore recently has been considered the more likable candidate i n some of the polls. Bush got some of that back. But he also managed to really level some of his harshest criticism of Gore that he's done in quite some time, raising those issues of character and of questioning Gore's tendency to embellish and to pander. He didn't use necessarily those words, but those were definitely the implications. So he made himself more likable while at the same time making Gore less likable and doing it all in a way that didn't seem to reflect badly on himself" ("IP, " CNN, 9/25).

Living Of f The Interest

The AFL-CIO "has been spending more than" \$1 million a week on TV ads "sharpl y critical" of Bush in four battleground states: OH, MI, MO and PA. The ads , which began airing this month, are "overwhelming the ad efforts of other interest groups and rivaling the spending" of the presidential campaigns themselves. The ad campaign, which criticizes Bush's "treatment of a teacher retirement fund in Texas," is scheduled to end this week. However , AFL-CIO spokesperson **Deborah Dion** maintained the union "may return to the airwaves" before the election (Meckler, AP, 9/25).

NARAL is scheduled to announce today that it will launch a 15-state "grassroots campaign designed to affect th e outcome" of the race for the WH as well as "key" Senate and House races b y "targeting independent and

Republican voters who support abortion rights. " NARAL has started a "worst choice" list that the organization claims it will be "aggressively seeking to defeat." NARAL "hopes to contact more than 2 million voters -- roughly 3 to 10 percent of the voters in the 15 targeted states -- and will pepper them" with phone calls and direct mail . The states that the organization will target include: CA, FL, IA, MI, MO, MN, MT, NH, NM, OH, PA, NJ, NY, WA and WI (Balz, *Washington Post*, 9/26).

For their part, Priests For Life, a Catholic assoc. which "assists clergy of all denominations to address the abortion issue," yesterday launched the "first phase" of a TV ad campaign "aimed at lawmakers, candidates and voters." The ads will be followed by "a mass mailing to every priest in the nation stressing political responsibility on the abortion issue." The ads, which began airing yesterday on cable stations in "heavily Catholic populated markets," including NY, L.A., Chicago, DC, Detroit, Pittsburgh and Kansas City. The ads will air throughout the week during primetime. The first phase of the ad campaign is "budgeted at \$250,000" and the group plans to spend as much as \$1 million before the election (Release, 9/25).

In a release, the Sierra Club maintained that it will announce a "major air and ground campaign" on 9/2 8 to tell people where congressional and WH candidates stand on environmental issues. The "extensive fall effort, targeted at numerous key states, will focus on door-to-door literature drops," TV, Internet and mail and "incorporate an advertising tactic not used in recent elections" (Release, 9/25).

Is Hollywood Ready To Cave?

Wall Street Journal's Orwall writes that "on the eve of a second congressional hearing" to investigate the marketing of entertainment to children, the motion picture industry is "close to unveiling a slate of self-

policing mechanisms that it hopes will head off criticism." The proposed guidelines, which could be unveiled as early as today, were crafted by the MPAA "in discussions" with its member studios and Dream Works SKG. Warner Bros. "plans to present its own guidelines that in some respects go beyond the MPAA policies." According to "people familiar with the situation," the "tentative plan calls for it to provide more information about film ratings to consumers, with special attention paid to providing a better explanation when films are rated 'R' for violence" (9/26).

The Under-The-Radar Campaign

Chicago Tribune's James writes on the "proliferation of edgy , anti-candidate Web sites" that have "become another way for partisans to launch negative attacks on the opposition." To some observers, "the sites represent more than just a new way to slam politicians. They are also a testament to how, in an era corporate media giants, the Internet gives real people a wired soapbox capable of reaching a huge audience." But the sites "raise new questions about accountability for the accuracy of the charges they disseminate, as well as their provenance." Mindshare Internet Campaigns co-founder **Jonah Seiger**: "This is where there's real innovation's going on, where there's really an interesting evolution of political communication. ... I really think it's having an impact. It's not that every single voter is seeing these sites. But opinion leaders are looking at these things. People engaged in the campaign are looking. ... It filters through the larger context of the campaign and does define the discussion in some very important ways, quickly and cost effectively" (9/25).

First Debate, One Week Out

Cheney, on whether he agrees with ex-Pres. Bush's

assertion, made in a PBS documentary that debates are "crap": "I'm looking forward to it. I think it should be fun. It gets your competitive juices flowing. If you're in politics, you'd better have some competitive juices. ... The folks in Kentucky were excited about having the Vice Presidential debate there. . . . If I do well, maybe we'll carry Kentucky" ("Mitchell Report," MSNBC, 9/25).

ABC's **Compton** on including third parties in the debates: "We had a taste of those big debates back in the beginnings of the Republican primary, seven candidate s at once. They had to grandstand and pull out some gimmicks to try to get recognized. You know, there's no law that says it has to be a debate by the Presidential Debate Commission" ("LKL," CNN, 9/25).

Ex-talk show host **Phil Donahue** on debates: "I think if you get through the roadblocks, the labyrinth of detours and the Herculean effort to get your name on the presidential ballot in enough states that would mathematically make it possible for yo u to garner the 270 electoral votes needed to be elected, I think you shoul d be in the debates. If that criteria were applied now, we would have seven candidates qualified, the two major parties and five others" ("LKL," CNN, 9/25).

MSNBC's **Begala** on who should be included: "Fifteen percent is maybe too high, but I'm telling you, two percent and one percent is just too darn low to put into a debate, when the reality is one of these other two men, Bush or Gore, is going to be our president. We'd better be about the serious business of examining where they stand on the record" ("LKL," 9/25).

GOP strategist **Ed Rollins** on including Nader in the debate: "Mr. Nader has obviously made a lot of impact in the course of his life. He's been a catalyst for a lot of change, and he's done some significant things. But I think the reality is he's not going to be president, and in this particular debate I don't think he'd be a

constructive force" ("LKL," CNN, 9/25).

Compton, on whether Nader could get into the debates: "I suppose it's possible. It's probably better for Nader to do it at the front end of the process. They have one debate every week for about three weeks, and the later it goes the less advantageous to him " ("LKL," CNN, 9/25).

Shallow Waters, No Diving

Hartford Courant's Lightman writes that in the 2000 race for the WH, "making the talk and prime-time circuit is as crucial as a position paper." This time around, the candidates are "making the rounds like stars promoting their new situation comedies" (9/26).

Philadelphia Daily News' Grady writes, "Let me get this straight. Al Gore got a boost in the polls because he gave Tipper an X-rated smooch? And George W. Bush surged back because he roguishly gave **Oprah Winfrey** a televised kiss on the cheek? What is this, a national game of spin the bottle?" (9/26).

USA Today board of contributors member **Adam Goodheart** writes that the "other day" while he was trying to watch the Olympics as he "burrowed deeper into the sofa and the Sunday paper, I suddenly remembered the last time I'd felt this way. The restlessness, the boredom, the vague guilt and embarrassment, the sense that somehow this enormous event -- so freighted with expected significance -- just didn't matter: it was exactly how I felt, not many weeks before, when I'd tried to watch the television coverage of the national political conventions" (9/26).

; Writing in the *Washington Post*, *Slate* editor **Michael Kingsley** maintains that "these days TV talking heads, not poets (frankly) are the 'unacknowledged legislators' of our political system. And increasingly, they, too, feel the need to reassure viewers that what they say is actually true." TV pundits' "own special

technique is to preface a n assertion -- however obviously speculative, tendentious or flat-out made-up -- with the phrase, 'The matter of the fact is ...' But they ofte n resort to the classic 'frankly' as well" (9/26).

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3 OIL: Can A Disco Revival Be Far Behind?

&nbs p; *San Francisco Chronicle's* Collier reports that as crude oil prices continue to soar, **Al Gore** and **George W. Bush** "are using rhetoric not heard in American since the 1970s oil crisis." And "despite the heated words, both candidates are ducking the fact that U.S. dependency on foreign oil has increased." Gore "wants to reduce energy consumption, stimulate production of natural gas and renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and bio-fuels. Bush wants to unleash domestic oil production from environmental restrictions and aggressively pressure OPEC to increase its production and lower prices" (9/26). Oil prices dropped in the world market yesterday, following the release from the reserves (West, *Baltimore Sun*, 9/26). FNC's **Dick Morris**, on a Bush strategy on oil: "Bush can propose and should propose a suspension of the Federal and State gas tax. ... Bush could rack up a 10 point lead right now if he proposed it" ("O'Reilly Factor," 9/25).

What We Have Here Is A "Tendency To Exaggerate"

Gore's "tendency to exaggerate" came under "renewed fire" 9/25 from the Bush camp and energy experts "who said his claim that he helped establish the Strategic Petroleum Reserves is a fairy tale." Bush spokesperson **Dan Sullivan**: "To say that he was involved in the creation of the nation' s petroleum reserve is just factually not true. He's becoming the Hans Christian Anderson of American politics." The Gore camp said Gore

was in Congress "when the oil reserves were being filled and he was a member of a key committee with oversight of the project." Gore spokesperson **Kym Spell** said the reserves were authorized in '75 but were not funded until '77 when Gore was on the House Subcmte on Energy (Lambro, *Washington Times*, 9/26).

Who's To Blame?

USA Today's Welch reports "so far voters don't seem to be assignin g blame" for oil prices. Hudson Institute fellow **Marshall Wittmann**: "If they're waiting in gas lines on Election Day, they will definitely take out their rage, most likely on the incumbent party." Rep. **Billy Tauzin** (R-LA): "There's political fodder on both sides. The question is, in an election year, who can best exploit it?" (9/26).

Cheney Ha s An Answer

Dick Cheney has accused Gore of "having a conflict-of-interest because of Occidental Petroleum stock owned by a Gore family trust." Cheney said that Gore "acted inappropriately by supporting an extension o f a moratorium on royalties U.S. companies pay to drill in the Gulf of Mexico." Occidental was one of the companies that benefited. Cheney: "I think that does constitute a conflict of interest for him. It strikes me that as long as that prospective benefit is there for him, as the heir to that trust, it's inappropriate for him to be advocating a position that i s linked to Occidental's financial health" (Johnson, *Columbus Dispatch*, 9/26). Cheney said Gore should "step aside from any decisio n that would affect the price of Occidental stock or else the family trust would sell the stock." Gore's Occidental stock is worth about \$500K (AP/*Houston Chronicle*, 9/26).

Cheney said he was raising the issue because "he got tired of hearing Gor e 'castigating' oil companies." Asked if he was attacking Gore "to deflect any conflict

of interest of his own with the oil industry," Cheney said he had "severed his ties with Halliburton and I am not a public official. He is" (Romano, *Washington Post*, 9/26). Gore spokesperson **Doug Hattaway** said Gore "has no control over investments in the trust and no way of knowing whether it will contain the stock when his mother dies" (Kasindorf, *USA Today*, 9/26).

Cheney, on the Clinton/Gore energy policy: "The fact is, we don't have an energy policy. This Administration has said they want to reduce our dependence on foreign sources, but they haven't done it. They've gone exactly in the opposite direction." Cheney, on favoring higher oil prices during his Halliburton tenure: "Higher than \$10 a barrel -- without question. The industry won't survive otherwise. You can have [cheap oil] for a while if you want but, in the end, the market works. Supply and demand works. What's in everybody's interest is stability."

NBC's **Mitchell**, to Cheney, on his oil connections: "You're a voter in the Midwest, in a swing state. Why shouldn't you think, 'Well, gee. George W. Bush and Dick Cheney came from the oil patch, and they'll be more interested in the long term future of the oil industry employees than the American people?'"

Cheney: "I have left my job at Halliburton. I am in the process of divesting myself of all my financial interests. When I am sworn in, I will have no conflicts of any kind. Al Gore has served for 8 years ... as the potential beneficiary of a trust that has several thousand shares of Occidental stock that he never got rid of. If your concern is high prices, you've got to look at Al Gore's track record. This is the guy who, more than anybody else, has advocated high prices for fuel. ... Now, 6 weeks before the election, suddenly he's concerned. Now he's the champion of low cost gasoline for the consumer" ("Mitchell Report," MSNBC, 9/25).

Powell Gets Into The Act

Retired Gen. **Colin Powell** "suggested that President Clinton is playing politics with petroleum by tapping" the reserves. Powell: "I'd be surprised if there wasn't a political element to it." Powell was addressing a mentoring summit at the Univ. of VA at Richmond (Williams, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 9/26).

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4 BUSH: The ABC's Of It

Dallas Morning News' Jackson reports that **George W. Bush** "began discussing schools in economic terms Monday, declaring an 'education recession' that threatens the nation socially and financially. " Bush, at an elementary school in Portland, OR: "Expectations are not high enough, performance is not strong enough, and our leaders are not bold enough to reverse this slide." Bush said he would use the presidency to promote reading and "demand that schools improve poor performance or forfeit federal money." **Al Gore** spokesperson **Jano Cabrera**, on Bush's plan: "His plan would lead to an education depression" (9/26). Bush "returned to his favorite issue, education" as "he tried to generate new momentum in West Coast states long ago ceded" to Gore. His campaign also distributed a 20-page booklet that highlights his \$47B education plan that would "hold schools accountable for performance through annual achievement tests in reading, mathematics and science, with special attention paid to scores among poor and minority students" (Toedtman, *Newsday*, 9/26).

Bush "appeared more exuberant than in past weeks on the campaign trail" (Boyer, *Washington Times*, 9/26). He "criticized" Gore, saying "the failed education policies of the Clinton-Gore administration have allowed

American's public school system to slump into an 'education recession.'" Bush said that Gore "failed to provide the national leadership on an issue crucial to U.S. economic health, allowing standardized test scores to drop to a 'crisis' level while Gore toyed with educational 'fads and fashionable theories'" (Kemper, *Chicago Tribune*, 9/26). ABC's **Reynolds**: "Bush said [Gore's] plan was filled with trendy but unproven theories about education, and he cited what he called 'Gore's idea of the Three R's.'" Bush: "'Relationships, resilience and readiness. ' Now, that sounds nice, but what happened to reading?" Reynolds continues: "Bush's offensive was coupled with a new Republican Party ad on education , now running nationwide" ("World News," 9/25).

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And The Latest Bush Catch Phrase

Bush repeated the words "recession" and "stagnation" nearly "a dozen times in an hour." Bush "sought to close the gender gap that has separated" him and Gore by "focusing on an issue that traditionally plays well with women." Bush will use his "new 'education recession' catch phrase" at stops in CA today and tomorrow and in the Midwest next week (Kornblut, *Boston Globe*, 9/26). One Gore "strategist said he saw the use of 'recession' as an effort to subliminally tag" Gore "with the hurdle that faced Bush's father" when he ran for re-election in '92. The Bush camp said "focus groups responded well to the phrase." Bush was introduced by wife **Laura**, who described "the fine education that public schools provided their twin daughters" (Allen, *Washington Post*, 9/26). Bush courted "women and undecided voters" and "tried to seize the offensive on education" (Raum, *AP/Nashville Tennessean*, 9/26).

NBC's **Brown** on the "education recession": "You're going to hear that as a new catch phrase from the campaign, 'education recession.' It was his mantra. He

repeated it over and over today as he tried to make the case that while test scores have improved in Texas, that schools have improved, at the national level education standards overall have dropped, and the Clinton-Gore administration, as Bush reminds us, is the one he believes is responsible " ("The News," MSNBC, 9/25). CNN's **Crowley**, on the "education recession": "George Bush says jobs are plentiful, the Dow Jones is up, and the country is in a recession. He knew that would catch your attention. ... The Clinton-Gore administration, Bush charged, focuses on process, not children; regulations, not results" ("IP," CNN, 9/25). While Bush "sought to lay blame for the nation's education problems squarely on the administration's doorstep, many educators contend that the federal government plays a relatively minor role in primary and secondary education. The most important decisions -- on curriculum, standards, testing, personnel and construction -- are made by state and local officials" (Dao, *New York Times*, 9/26).

Leads And Takes

ABC's **Jennings**: "Bush has produced what amounts to a book on education, in which he says that the Clinton-Gore administration has neglected education to the point where there has been an 'education recession,' in his words" ("World News," 9/25).

NBC's **Brokaw**, on Bush: "Tonight Governor Bush is in Oregon, where he declared this country is in the midst of an 'education recession,' with test scores stagnating. He's advocating more aggressive testing programs, and accusing Gore of embracing fads instead of real education reform" ("Nightly News," 9/25).

CBS' **Whitaker**: "Bush went to school in Oregon today, and gave President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore failing grades for what he calls America's 'education recession.' He's claimed this traditionally

Democratic issue as his own. Convinced education will help him win women, he mentions it at every stop. The GOP started running education ads today With other Democratic issues Bush is trying to seize, like Social Security, Gore beats him in the polls. But on education, people think Bush can do as good a job" ("Evening News," 9/25).

FNC's **Hume**: "George W. Bush is back on the issue he and his campaign once thought would win him this election: education. It may seem odd for a man who says education is and should be controlled at the local level to be blaming the Administration in Washington for the nation's school problems. But Bush is" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

FNC's **Cameron**: "George W. Bush says education has and always will be his top priority. . . . [Today], he opened a new line of attack, accusing the Clinton/Gore administration of neglecting it. . . . Bush accused Al Gore of breaking his campaign promises for reform and becoming a defender of a status quo mired in bureaucracy. Bush ridiculed Gore as a captive of powerful teacher's unions and a proponent of new age fads at the cost of fundamentals" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25). More Cameron, on Bush's education record in TX: "Bush says Texas, under his leadership, has been recognized as one of two states to make the most progress. . . . The irony for Bush, a conservative advocating for local control, attacking the government for not doing enough on education is not lost on the Texas governor. But he defends his plans as conservative, saying he will demand accountability and measurable success. . . . He relishes the distinction between himself and other Republicans who he says in the past have been viewed as anti-education" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

Will He Or Won't He?

On Monday, Rev. **Jerry Falwell's** Web site listed

Bush as a "tentative" speaker for next Tuesday, but it is "unlikely" Bush will be in Lynchburg, VA, for Falwell's Super Conference since the first debate will be that evening in Boston. Conference organizers announced months ago Bush would address the group, but Bush has been listed as "tentative" since the schedule went online in August. A Bush spokesperson said the "campaign has never put the event on the calendar" (Young, Lynchburg News & Advance, 9/26).

Vetting The Vetter

; NBC's **Mitchell**, to Cheney, on whether he was properly vetted: "Who vetted you? Did anyone sit down with you and say, 'We know you're clean, we've got your tax returns ... but have you thought about how you would answer these questions that could be politically embarrassing ... the sort of things that became distractions when you joined the ticket?'"

Cheney: "They didn't have to be distractions. The press, to some extent, fixated on the options. I always said that I would do whatever I had to do to avoid a conflict. That's exactly what I did. I spent more time with the Governor going over my background than I did anybody else's background."

Cheney, on his less than rave reviews as running mate compared to those of **Joe Lieberman**: "With all due respect, I think Joe Lieberman's a fine guy. I think he's gonna lose. ... I think there's a real temptation for the press to cover all this as showmanship. I think we should not lose sight of the fact that this is about substance. It's a very important decision, and I'm very comfortable with my role in the campaign."

Cheney, on whether he'd put on a dark shirt and "do" **Regis**: "I might. I wouldn't sing. ... But I'm not opposed to those kind of things. I think sometimes they're useful in terms of saying something about the personality. ... But again, this is serious business."

It's not entertainment."

Cheney, on his new role as attack dog: "There was a lot to talk about last week. We had the Great Dog Caper with **Shiloh** and Al Gore's mother in law's arthritis medicine that he apparently made up and was peddling out on the road. We had the violence in the media flap. We had Al Gore and Joe Lieberman going to one of these fundraisers with the Hollywood crowd and standing quietly by while a comedian made fun of George Bush's religion. There was plenty to shoot at last week. ... When I think it's justified, when I think there are contrasts ... to be drawn, the way we do business, I'll do everything I can to point them out and hope that the press focuses on some of those questions" ("Mitchell Report," MSNBC, 9/25).

Newsweek's **Alter**, on Cheney's negatives: "He might hurt Bush on two issues. One is oil; it's very hard for them to argue that this is a terrible move with the strategic petroleum reserve, because Gore can come back and say, 'Look, the top and the bottom of the ticket both have big oil connections.' ... And actually Dick Cheney's on record as having supported higher oil prices just as recently as last year. Also, on education, Cheney is a little vulnerable. He did not vote in really any local elections, many of them involving the school board ... and you can expect that Lieberman and possibly even Gore will bring that up. Because here is Bush saying education is a local matter, and his vice presidential candidate didn't even vote in those local matters" ("The News," MSNBC, 9/25).

Life In The Colonias

San Jose Mercury News' Garcia reports on colonias -
- the shanty towns along the 1.2K mile TX-Mexico border where about 400K residents "live in some of the worst housing and sanitary conditions" in the US. Bush "has come under fire from critics who say he has done little

to improve the conditions of colonia residents, most of whom are U.S. citizens of Mexican origin." But Bush maintains he "has done more for the colonias than any previous" gov., GOPer or Dem. Colonias came into existence in the 1950s when "Developers sold unimproved property to low-income buyers for as little as \$50 in monthly least-to-own payments." But the developers didn't provide running water, electricity or sewage. And "while conditions have improved in the past 10 years with state and federal aid, colonias have become a persistent thorn in Bush's side." In July, the DNC released a video on colonia conditions and Bush "got bashed" by the Hispanic Caucus at the Dem convo. But supporters praise Bush for getting funding for sewage and water. In '94, before Bush's election, fewer than 4K colonia homes had water or sewage connections. Since then, more than 52K residents have been connected and 100K more water and sewage lines are in process (9/26).

Cabinet Watch

WI Gov. **Tommy Thompson** (R) "dismissed a suggestion Monday that he hopes to be named U.S. ambassador to the Vatican" if Bush wins. Thompson: "I can assure that whoever is suggesting that has not talked to me." Thompson, who is Catholic, on his aspirations for a job in a Bush administration: "It's going to be a very close election, and I think it's sort of in poor taste to be looking out for another job when I love being governor." Thompson has two years left on his term (Chapman, *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, 9/26).

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5 GORE: Gingrich Gone, But "Mediscare" Not Forgotten

Al Gore was in St. Petersburg, FL yesterday warning seniors that private insurers, HMO's and the drug

industry "cannot be trusted as much as Medicare to provide affordable medical treatment and prescription drugs." Gore: "The HMO's and insurance companies want to measure your health and well-being on a spreadsheet" (Nickens, *St. Petersburg Times*, 9/26).

ABC's **Jennings**: "[We] start with Medicare, or, as it is sometimes called in a political campaign, 'Mediscare'" ("World News," 9/25).

CBS' **Rather**, on Gore in FL: "Florida's a state that was once considered a sure thing for (George W.) Bush, but where Gore now hopes to score an upset" ("Evening News," 9/25).

NBC's **Brokaw** on Gore: "The Vice President is in Florida with a new 74-page outline of his Medicare reform plan. He says it will extend the program's solvency to the year 2030. He told seniors that Governor Bush's plan would force some of them to get their prescription medicines through local welfare offices" ("Nightly News," 9/25).

ABC's **Moran**: "Once again, AL Gore is here in Florida. This is the 9th time he's visited this state since he wrapped up the Democratic nomination last spring, and once again he is taking aim squarely at the states 2.5 million senior citizens. ... The vice president launched one of his sharpest attacks on his Republican rival in weeks. The only new proposal Vice President Gore offered today was a modest one ... the real purpose of today's event: draw the sharpest possible contrast between the two candidates on the crucial issue of Medicare. ... Gore blasted [Bush's Medicare] approach today, and tried to link Bush to a very unpopular Republican." Gore: "He supported Newt Gingrich's assault on Medicare" ("World News," 9/25).

CBS' **Roberts**: "Campaigning in the Sunshine State today, Al Gore reached out to voters in the twilight of their lives. With 2.5 million Florida voters on Medicare,

and the race here dead-even, courting seniors will be key to winning this state and its 25 electoral votes. ... A recent surge by Gore has forced George W. Bush to spend precious money and time in a state many thought he'd win in a walk. And it's not just seniors who need coddling: both campaigns are targeting a group of voters along the so-called 'I-4 corridor,' from Daytona Beach to St. Petersburg. They are young suburban families, voters who'll swing not on issues that affect their parents, but their children. Gore will pump the heat up here next week. His campaign intends to pump millions of dollars into this 4th-largest prize in the election; a state the vice president doesn't need so much to win as the Texas governor can't afford to lose" ("Evening News," 9/25).

Gore was in town to unveil his Medicare plan which he "would give more seniors more choices and more control over their health benefits" (Binette, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune News Coast*, 9/26). Gore "contrasted his plan" with Bush's, which he said "would force many seniors into welfare offices to collect prescription drug benefits" (Kelly, *Bradenton Herald*, 9/26).

CNN's **Karl**: "For the Vice President, a new line of attack on Medicare and a chance to play to the crowd he'll need to take Florida, the largest battleground state of them all. ... In a new criticism, Gore said George W. Bush's plan to give low-income seniors drug coverage could force seniors in some states to go to welfare offices to qualify. The Bush campaign dismissed Gore's charge as a 'gross distortion.' ... Bush strategists say Gore's latest salvo on Medicare is a sign their attacks are working, forcing the Vice President to respond" ("IP," CNN, 9/25).

FNC's **Hume**: "'You are! ... No, YOU are!' That about summarizes the current state of the debate between Gore and Bush over Medicare and prescription drugs. Bush has been charging that Gore's plan would rob senior citizens

of choice in choosing their healthcare. Now, in what was billed as a major address on the subject, Gore is making the same charge against Bush" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

FNC's **Angle**: "In one of his sharpest attacks yet, Al Gore ripped into the Bush healthcare plan, accusing his opponent of a horrible political sin: trying to use HMOs in Medicare. The Bush campaign denies that, and says it's the Gore plan that would force seniors into HMOs. ... Gore also accused Bush of trying to use the Medicare surplus to pay for his tax cut. ... Gore suggested Bush is simply anti-Medicare. But then Gore seemed to accept some of the criticisms of Medicare as legitimate points, because he proposed fixing some of them" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

Bush, campaigning in OR, said Gore was using Medicare "for political purposes." More Bush: "he calls my program welfare; I call it compassion" (Fireman, Long Island Newsday , 9/26).

Gore "broke little new ground" yesterday - his Medicare prescription drug plans are "established hallmarks of his campaign - but he did "promise to seek tough new penalties for any HMO that tries to exclude or drop out seniors. And he proposed to eliminate most co-payments and deductibles for medical screening tests" (Hillman, Dallas Morning News, 9/26).

MSNBC's **Williams** on Gore: "Gore campaigned today in the suddenly hotly contested state of Florida, once thought to be firmly in the Bush column. ... The state is now rated officially a tossup in the polls" ("The News," 9/25).

Gore's decision to unveil his Medicare plan in Tampa-St. Petersburg "was by design." The cities are regarded as a "retirement haven" and 25% of Pinellas County residents are age 65 or older (Pearson, Chicago Tribune, 9/26). Campaign press sec **Chris Lehane** said Gore

"would begin spending more money" in FL "during the next four weeks to win the state" (Griffin, *Orlando Sentinel*, 9/26).

CNN's **Novak**: "Al Gore has made a valiant effort in Florida. But all my information is that Bush is back in the lead in Florida. And maybe he better abandon that and worry about those central states that are going to decide the election" ("IP," CNN, 9/25).

; L.A. *Times*' **Brownstein**: "Gore has never demonstrated that he will really spend the money it takes to win Florida. He is close there. But he is letting Bush outspend him at least 2-1. It will cost a lot of money to really try for it" ("IP," CNN, 9/25).

More Karl, on Gore and "Medicare issues": "They certainly think they're absolutely critical to doing well in Florida and also in several of the other battleground states. They also believe ... that Bush has got some vulnerabilities on the Medicare issues. They believe that if Gore can talk about this issue, talk about what is wrong, in their view, with Bush's prescription drug plan, that they can win over those senior voters" ("IP," CNN, 9/25).

More Angle: "In one sense, Gore seemed to be admitting that the Administration could have done more to fix Medicare, but one Gore adviser [said] that this was an effort to neutralize those issues before next week's debate. Another adviser called today's remarks 'both a sword and a shield'" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

Gore then flew to Miami for a DNC fund-raiser that featured **Jimmy Buffett** (Silva, *Miami Herald*, 9/26).

Newt's In The News!

Washington Post's Milbank reports Gore is seeking "to link" Bush to the House GOPers under ex-Speaker **Newt Gingrich**, by releasing a '95 TV interview in which Bush "praised the GOP's proposed Medicare cutbacks." Bush in the '95 interview: "Elderly people will not suffer as a

result of this plan. It's gonna make the plan solvent. And republicans will be heralded, not only for saving Medicare but at the same time for having the political courage to balance the budget." Gore's release of the '95 interview "is an attempt to undermine" Bush "as he seeks to portray himself as more trustworthy than Gore on the subject of Medicare." Gore compared Bush's Medicare plan to Gingrich's plan: "The effect of the Bush-Cheney plan would be to cause Medicare as we know it to wither on the vine." More Gore: "He learned from Gingrich's rhetorical excesses, but the effect of his plan is the same" (9/26). Gore added that Bush would do "virtually the same thing to Medicare that Gingrich proposed: raising premiums, taking money out of Medicare for a tax cut that goes mainly to the wealthy, forcing seniors into HMO's, privatizing Medicare." Bush spokesperson **Dan Bartlett**: "What is important here is not what Governor Bush said about a plan five years ago that wasn't even his. What's important is what he says about his plan today" (Sack, *New York Times*, 9/26). Gore spokesperson **Doug Hattaway**: "Today, he says he supports Medicare, but when seniors needed him he supported Newt Gingrich's plan to cut Medicare in favor of a massive tax cut for the rich" (release, 9/26).

ABC's Gibson: "You are attacking the Texas Governor on Medicare, for 1995 remarks in which he advocated slowing the increase in Medicare spending. Shouldn't he be judged on what he is saying today rather than what he said 5 years ago?"

Gore: "Well, I do agree with you. What he said 5 years ago was in strong support of the Newt Gingrich plan that former Speaker Gingrich said would cause Medicare to 'wither on the vine.' ... I fought against that plan, even when Newt Gingrich shut the government down twice. ... But, I agree with you it is far more significant to look at the current proposals" (GMA, 9/26).

Ad Watch

Gore launched a new TV ad that highlights his service in Vietnam, his "dedication to his family," education reform, crime victim's bill of rights and helping parents "protect their children on the Internet." Ad script: "Al Gore. He'll put his values to work for us" (release, 9/26).

Just Your Average Joe

Salon's Tapper writes Joe Lieberman seems "to be relishing his new role even as ... the attacks have become much more personal. ... There is something weird going out there among crowds who turn out for Lieberman. Jews are proud, of course," but his "nominations seems to have touched a lot of non-Jews. ... So much of Lieberman's appeal is that he seems like a nice guy, one more at ease being himself than Gore, Bush or Cheney. It's one of the reasons you hear Gore continually refer to the Gore-Lieberman campaign, while Bush mentions Cheney sparingly." Campaign aides are "still unsure how to best market him to America. ... But maybe the anti-pol pol Lieberman, slick in his sincerity, can best make his case" (9/26).

Losing My Idealism?

37 years ago, Lieberman as a young college student traveled to MS to fight for civil rights. But as an elected official "civil rights matters have not taken precedence over consumer protection, foreign policy, and media violence for Lieberman. African-American leaders in CT "consider him a friend, but say he rarely takes the lead on issues of concern to them." His ratings with civil rights groups "have been good, but inconsistent." His votes "sided with the NAACP's positions 100 percent of the time in the current Congress but only 60 percent of the time in 1997-98" (Sack, New York Times, 9/26).

Hotline Staff Writers Yet To Receive Theirs

Lieberman's mom, **Marcia** is "sending care packages ... to reporters following" her son on the campaign trail. Contents include Tylenol, lip balm, tissues, an **apple**, **Manishewitz bagel chips**, a news clipping about her son, candles, a pair of plastic sunglasses, postcards, and a "handwritten note" that asks reporters to, "Please be good to my son!" The note is signed "Marcia Lieberman (Joe's mom!)" (Ayres, *New York Times*, 9/26).

Pay Attention Gen X

Gore will appear on MTV's "Choose or Lose" tonight (Sobieraj, AP, 9/26). He will field questions and "ask his young audience questions." MTV spokesperson **Jeannie Kedas** said an invitation was "extended" to Bush, but has not replied yet (Harper, *Washington Times*, 9/26).

Gaffe Watch

Gov . **John Engler** (R-MI), on the Union lullaby being a joke: "There are a lot of jokes connected with him these days. The bit about the dog is pretty funny too" ("Hannity & Colmes," FNC, 9/25).

6 NADER: Keep Your Feet on The Ground and Keep Reaching for the Stars

Ralph Nader held a press conference 9/25 to unveil a list of 100 "prominent people" on his "citizens' committee." Among the "celebrities with social justice backgrounds" were **Casey Kasem**, **Phil Donahue**, **Michael Moore**, **Susan Sarandon**, **Tim Robbins**, **Danny Glover**, **Willie Nelson**, **Bonnie Raitt**, **Pete Seeger**, **Michelle Shocked**, and **Eddie Vedder**. Others on the committee: **Randall Robinson**, **Noam Chomsky**, **Barbara Ehrenreich**, **Studs Terkel**, **Cornell West**, and **Jim and Rebecca Goodman**, "organic dairy farmers," (release, 9/25).

Nader: "It's time for a new start and I think the people who have supported this candidacy believe

likewise. We cannot settle every year after year for the least of the worst because the Democratic Party is bad and the Republican Party is worse," (AP/Newark *Star-Ledger*, 9/26).

Come On Guys, Can't I Play?

FNC's **Hume**, on the Nader effect: "Ralph Nader's support ... has started hurting Gore, and now he's pushing for inclusion in the debates" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

FNC's **Shuster**: "Teeing off at the two Presidential candidates for cozyin g up to big business, Ralph Nader says the debate format goes against the grain of democracy, and shuts out the voice of real people. ... He claime d that a debate limited to Bush and Gore would be boring, and he questioned whether the election of either candidate would change the status quo" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

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77 BUCHANAN : More L.A. Times Vetting Of Running Mate

Los Angeles Times' Smith follows up on an 8/24 story on **Ezola Foster**, runningmate of Reform Party nominee **Pat Buchanan** and her medical history. Smith reports that Foster "was prescribed an antidepressant drug for most of 1997" and had to take "breaks from her job" as an LA schoolteacher "several times" in the 70s, due to "bouts of depression." Foster previously responded to reports that she had taken workers comp. payments for a "mental disorder" by saying she was "perfectly sane." The diagnosis was "whatever the doctor said that, after working with my attorney, was best to help me." But reports obtained by the *Times*, "suggested her problems were more serious than she indicated." They included "post traumatic stress syndrome," a "litany of emotional

disorders," and a tendency to "blame others for problems and disappointments in her life."

Foster, who was teaching in a "largely Latino" school, came under fire for her views on illegal immigration. A rally at which she was supposed to have spoken was broken up by a "melee" and she received flack at the school for her position. A psychiatrist hired to give a "neutral opinion," found that Foster suffered post traumatic syndrome because of "a constellation of symptoms" that were "based on reasonable fear," (9/26).

Not The Only Bomb-Thrower In Town

Buchanan's scheduled 9/26 speech at Flagler College in FL was delayed an hour as police responded to a bomb threat. Buchanan: "We don't usually get the threats, but the police did tell me there were three demonstrators outside ... I must be losing it." Buchanan campaign mgr. **Tim Haley**: "We've always felt that northern Florida is good territory for our message. Big government does not sell well in northern Florida," (Jaworski, *Florida Times-Union*, 9/26).

Meanwhile, Buchanan is also fighting to get his name on the FL ballot. Circuit Court Judge **Terry Lewis** will decide 10/2 whether Buchanan or Natural Law Party nominee **John Hagelin** is the Reform nominee in FL.

Aims For NY Conservatives

Buchanan, to a woman in the audience as he accepted the NY State Right to Life nomination: "There are six weeks left, we have to spend about \$2 million a week. Do you have any ideas?" Buchanan accepted the nod 9/23, as part of his campaign in "traditionally Democratic states" such as MA, NY, and NJ, (AP/Newsday, 9/24).

As Buchanan spoke, a banner behind him fell from the wall and "crumpled" to the ground. Buchanan, to a priest in the front row: "Now, is that symbolic, Father Driscoll?" Newsday's Henican writes, "Maybe it is," as in

this race, "the old Buchanan music is barely being heard."

Buchanan, in "what is surely his last presidential run," has taken the "usual argument against third-party candidates -- don't waste your vote, they'll never win -- and turns the argument on its head." More Buchanan: "The Republicans have lost New York . They won't spend a dime up here. So don't waste your vote on **George Bush**," (9/24).

One Out o f Two Ain't Bad

Hagelin won the NY Independence Party nod with 90% of the vote. Hagelin: "The victory is huge. The Independence Party of New York is the crown jewel of independent state political parties in America," (release, 9/24).

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8 WH 2000 SCHEDULES: For The Latest, Click Here!

Highlights from today's candidate schedules:

- FAIR TRADE NOT FREE TRADE: **Ralph Nader** speaks about global free trade at Carnegie Mellon Univ in Pittsburgh.
- STANDING TALL: **George W. Bush** will visit Sequoia High School in Redwood City, CA.
- CHOOSE OR LOSE: **Al Gore** participates in an MTV-sponsored tow n hall meeting in Ann Arbor, MI.

For complete candidate schedules click here! We also are tallying the number of days spent by each candidate in all 50 states. Click here for the latest totals.

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WH 2000 - - IN THE STATES

9 CALIFORNIA (54 EVs): Still Winnable For Bush? Trip Will Help Find Out

San Francisco Chronicle's Marinucci writes that in his two-day trip to CA, **George W. Bush** is "expected to discuss education policy" in a meeting with students at Redwood City's Sequoia High School and attend a fundraiser at the home of Autodesk CEO **Carol Bartz**. Bush is then expected to fly to L.A. where he will make an appearance with Cardinal **Roger Mahony** "in an event stressing science and math education in a Latino area" of South Central L.A. While polls show Bush trailing Gore in the state, his campaign "insists he will continue to fight on." Bush CA head **Gerry Parsky**: "We've said we planned to compete to win in California. And that plan includes visits by Cheney and Bush, a full ground game and paid media. ... We believe that, although we remain behind, it's winnable."

In a telephone interview with the *San Francisco Chronicle*, **Joe Lieberman**, "aiming for a pre-emptive strike" at Bush's campaign stop today in CA, maintained that the Bush campaign was resorting to "personal attack politics" instead of "focusing on real issues like improving schools." Lieberman: "The campaign is about issues like Medicare and education reform. ... It seems to be the way they are trying to come back up ... but it's not what this campaign should be about." Lieberman "saved his toughest words" for the Bush campaign strategy "suggesting that the vice president has been guilty of 'making up' facts about his life. Lieberman: "It's not right about the vice president. ... I regret this turn in the Bush-Cheney campaign. It's really personal-attack politics. I don't believe the American people are going

to fall for it. Al and I have made a promise we're not going to attack Bush and Cheney personally at all" (9/26).

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10 FLORIDA (25 EVs): Bush Bus Tour Being Contemplated?

Washington Post's Von Drehle writes that FL is the biggest state in the country "where the race is close" and there are "signs of unexpected difficulty" for **George W. Bush**. The Bush campaign, his brother FL Gov. **Jeb Bush** and other state GOPers "all predict they'll find a way" to win the state, "but it will be at a cost of millions in television ads -- more than \$1 million a week right now -- and lots of precious campaign days" and a "barnstorming bus tour is under consideration." The "winning formula" in FL GOPers believe "begins with a hard sell on Bush's plan for Medicare drug coverage and Social Security." Bush is outspending Gore in the state "dramatically: and if Gore "continues to spend frugally here it will only help Bush" (9/26).

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11 LOUISIANA (9 EVs): Gore Stop For This Week Rescheduled

New Orleans Times-Picayune's Alpert and Walsh report that "contrary to earlier reports," **Al Gore** "is not planning to be back" in the state this week. The Gore campaign had said in a previous visit that Gore would be back today, "but that apparently has changed and does not appear on the candidate's schedule." According to campaign staff, Gore does plan to visit the state before the election, but a stop has not yet been scheduled. A **George W. Bush** spokesperson echoed the statement,

maintaining that Bush would be back in the state before the election (9/24).

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12 MASSACHUSETTS (12 EVs): Bush Plans Quick Trip For Debate , Gore Sets Up Shop

Boston Herald's Miga writes that **Al Gore**, unlike **George W. Bush**, "plans to make himself at home in Democrat-friendly" MA next weekend before the scheduled presidential debate at the Univ. of MA in Boston. Gore will arrive in MA for three days of prep before the debate on 10/2. Gore is planning on setting up a "debate prep camp" in the Boston area where he can "cram, strategize with aides and conduct mock debates." Gore spokesperson **Doug Hattaway** said that the campaign will set up shop away from the city to avoid distractions: "We want to set up camp near Boston, get our feet on the ground so the vice president can feel comfortable. ... This is part of our run-up to the debate." For his part, Bush is scheduled to arrive in Boston the day of the debate and depart later that night. Bush informal advisor **Ron Kaufman**: "Each politician has a different style, a different approach that works for him Being in seclusion for four days isn't always helpful. Bush has his own way." Bush aides maintained that the TX gov. will campaign in Midwest battleground states in the few days before the debate in Boston. Gore is planning a "light" schedule of campaign stops while he is in MA. Hattaway : "We hope to get out and see people a bit, but mostly we need to get ready for the debate" (9/26).

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13 MICHIGAN (18 EVs): Cheney Traverses Great Lakes Region

At a town meeting in Traverse City, **Dick Cheney** said yesterday that states bordering the Great Lakes "should take charge of making rules on diverting water from the lakes to the world's thirsty regions." Cheney sided with MI GOP Gov. **John Engler** and other GOP lawmakers who oppose giving the federal gov't the authority to make diversion decisions. Cheney, talking to reporters after the town meeting: "That's traditionally how we do things in the West and I would think that would be the best approach here." Cheney said that he "did not know whether it would be advisable to expand land-based drilling" under the Great Lakes. Cheney: "I simply don't know enough about what the potential is in the Great Lakes area. We'd have to have a debate over ... how much (oil or gas) is there, what value does it have, what environmental impact it would have." Cheney also talked about education and fielded questions at the event "before several hundred invited guests" at the Traverse Elementary School (Flesher, AP, 9/26). Cheney is scheduled to talk today to both the Sterling Heights and Troy chamber of commerce. **George W. Bush** is scheduled to arrive in the state on 9/28 for a fundraiser in Troy and on 9/29 for a stop in Saginaw. For his part, **Al Gore** is scheduled to appear at the Univ. of MI this morning to take questions from students in a forum that will be aired on MTV (Cain, *Detroit News*, 9/26).

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14 NEW JERSEY (15 EVs): Bush To Avoid Garden State For Greener Pastures? <!--END-story-hed-->

 Trenton Times' Goodman writes that "few will say it out loud," but NJ GOPers are "beginning to wonder" if **George W. Bush** is "ready to throw in the towel" in NJ. Bush has been "invisible" in the state since the GOP convention in Philadelphia. Although state GOP officials

say that Bush will campaign here "at least once" before the election, there are no t yet any official announcements that he will do so. Some GOP leaders "worry that if Bush gives the appearance" that he is giving up on the state, it will have negative effects on the Senate race here. ex-NJ Gov. **Thomas Kean**: "I don't know if they (the Bush campaign) are writing off New Jersey ... but they would be very foolish if they did. The Republicans have carried New Jersey in four of the last six presidential campaigns." The "problem" for NJ GOPers is that if Bush can not afford to campaign or spend money in NY, "that means he is off the TV screens" not only in NY but also in northern NJ and other parts of the state. GOP cmte member from NJ **David Norcross**, on whether it is too late for Bush to win and campaign in the state: "Is it too late? ... I don't think so. I think if we start to see some good numbers, the official schedule doesn't matter. We cab get the governor here in a hell of a hurry" (9/24).

Lieberman Not Gambling With Votes In AC

Joe Lieberman, campaigning at the Union Township Senior Citizen Center" yesterday, took **Al Gore's** Medicare proposal to seniors and "his ideas about the economy to union brick layers in hopes of solidifying" th e Dem ticket's lead in the state. During his trip to NJ, Lieberman was expressed support for union labor at a stop with brick layers in Atlantic City (AP, 9/26).

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15 NEW MEXICO (5 EVs): Clinton Raises Funds, Looks To Spur Dem Turnout

&nb sp; *Santa Fe New Mexican's* Hummels writes that Pres. **Clinton** wa s in NM yesterday to "help victims of domestic violence, stump for cash to support Democratic candidates and shop for jewelry." At a fundraiser in L a

Fonda, Clinton told donors, who gave \$1,000 to attend the event, about the "huge difference" between GOPers and Dems in the 2000 election. Clinton said **George W. Bush's** "offering a bigger tax cut, but one that leads to deficit spending." Clinton also "criticized Bush -- though not by name -- for not supporting such programs as clean-air standards, federal money for education and prescription-drug benefits for senior citizens." Clinton: "They're afraid that they'll acquire such market power that they'll be able to get (prescription drug) prices down to where they're almost as low as they are in every other country." More Clinton: "When **Al Gore** says, 'You ain't seen nothing yet,' that's not just a political slogan. ... I believe him, I really do" (9/26). Dem Party officials hope Clinton's visit would "excite Democrats and boost turnout. " A "strong showing in the overwhelmingly Democratic north is needed to offset Republican strength in the south and east" (Baker, AP/Albuquerque Journal 9/26).

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16 OHIO (21 EVs): Cheney, Man On The Streetsboro

Akron Beacon Journal's Hoffman writes, "continuing what looks like to be an all-out Republican effort to win over middle-class voters in Ohio," **Dick Cheney** yesterday visited the Cleveland Steel Container factory in Streetsboro. During the visit, his second in the state in 11 days, Cheney "sought to direct credit for the booming economy away" from the Clinton-Gore admin. and "toward his own nuts-and-bolts economic message." Cheney: "I would argue that our opponents on the other side place greater emphasis on Washington's role in driving that economy than, I think, is warranted." Cheney, who was dressed in a Cleveland Indians windbreaker, "then

launched into a review of the Bush campaign's latest focus, 'Blueprint for the Middle Class' that counters the economic policy document" that **Al Gore** released earlier in the month. Cheney: "We think it is extraordinarily important to take part of that (budget) surplus, which was created by the American worker and the American taxpayer, and give it back to the people who earned it... ... If we don't it will stay in Washington and it will be spent." Cheney was accompanied on the trip with his wife **Lynne** and his daughter **Mary**. After their stop in Streetsboro they toured another factory in Springfield (9/26).

Jackson Tries To Spur Voter Registration

Rev. **Jesse Jackson** "preached about the virtues of voting and the sins of indifference" yesterday as he campaigned for the Gore-Lieberman ticket in Akron. The "relaxed, legendary" Baptist preacher Jackson "was greeted by standing ovations" as he "stirred a crowd of 100 at Arlington Church of God and then mesmerized about 150 students" at the Univ. of Akron. At the end of his "rambling speech," Jackson "wanted a show of hands of nonvoters, then a volunteer with a clipboard signed them up to vote." When only three students came up to register to at the univ., Jackson has the students recite a prayer: "Lord, if I am lying (about being registered to vote), I hope I forget all the answers to my exams and my car has Firestone tires." Jackson was completing a four-day trip that included stops in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton, Xenia and Columbus (Oplinger, *Akron Beacon Journal*, 9/26).

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17 OREGON (7 EVs): Talks Education, Frogs At Elementary School

In a campaign stop in Beaverton, and his 3rd trip

to the Northwest in 6 weeks, **George W. Bush** held a question-and-answer session that was "designed by his handlers to give him a chance to show his knowledge of the issues." Bush spoke at the Bethany Elementary School where he warned against the "education recession" and "offered his prescription for improving public schools around the country." Bush "drew laughter several times" during the session and he "seemed to enjoy himself so much that he put up a mock protest when he was given the sign by his campaign staff that it was time to wrap things up." Before his speech, Bush visited with a 5th-grade computer class who students were using the Internet to learn about frogs. This exchange followed between Bush and student **Tyler Nelson**

Bush: "What are you learnin g here?"

Nelson: "Frogs eat their guts a s tadpoles."

Bush: "That's an interestin g description."

Nelson: "Well, they do" (Cain, AP, 9/25).

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18 WASHINGTON (11 EVs): Gore Lead Holds, Bush Stumps In East Of Cascades

The Elway poll, conducted 9/22-24, surveyed 400 regis. voters; margin of error +/- 5% (release, 9/25).

General Election Matchup

	Now	8/00	King Co.	E.WA	Men	Wom
Gore	44%	42%	44%	35%	38%	50%
Bush	37	34	36	42	41	33
Nader	4	3	-----	n/a-----		
Buchanan	-	0	-----	n/a-----		
DK/Other	15	19	-----	n/a-----		

Bush Stresses Western Roots In Eastern WA

Seattl e Post-Intelligencer's Connelly writes that **George W. Bush** "courted" Eastern WA voters last night by

"describing himself as a Westerner who backs property rights and understands what he described as 'hard-working, God-fearing, family-raising families.'" Bush, making his 8th trip to the state and his 4th trip east of the Cascades, Bush "dwelt on an issue that Republicans have fanned as a key to their hopes of a big majority" in the eastern part of the state -- his opposition to breaching the Snake River dam. Bush: "People have been able to make a living off rivers and at the same time coexist with nature, If George W. Bush become s president, the dams will not be breached." Bush, talking to about 2,000 Republicans gathered for an evening rally in a airport hanger outside of Spokane, is looking for "big majorities" in the eastern part of the state to balance traditional support for Dem candidates from urban areas in the western part of the state.

While Gore has made 16 trips to the state since '96, he has "spent only part of one day east of the Cascades" where he addressed the state Dem convention, "a gathering dominated by Western Washington liberals who spent much of thei r time bashing their proposed restart of a Hanford nuclear reactor." At the rally, Bush was "among friends" and said that he was raised in west TX, "emphasizing the 'west' part of the phrase." Bush: "When you are from the West, you understand independent-minded people. ... People who care about the land are hard-working families and ranchers of this part of the country" (9/26).

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NATIONAL BRIEFING

19 HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN: Launches \$75K Ad Campaign Against GOP Leaders

&nbs p; The Human Rights Campaign announced 9/25 it will unveil a radio, TV and print ad campaign today calling on **George W. Bush** and the GOP leadership "to support hate crime legislation that recently passed the House and the Senate." The ads debut today and will target the following House and Senate members:

- Speaker **Dennis Hastert** (IL 14)
- Rep. **James Rogan** (CA 27)
- Senate Maj. Leader **Trent Lott** (MS)
- Sen. **Rick Santorum** (PA)
- Sen. **Rod Grams** (MN)
- Sen. **Spence Abraham** (MI)
- Sen. **Slade Gorton** (WA)

&nbs p; The \$75K HRC ad campaign will run for four days (release, 9/25).

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SENATE REPORT

20 CALIFORNIA: Feinstein's Doctor Approves Referral!

San Francisco Chronicle's Simon reports, Sen. **Dianne Feinstein** (D) "is scheduled to undergo surgery in San Francisco today " to repair an injury to her she leg received during a fall in Aspen, 9/1. Feinstein "suffered a compound fracture of her left tibia" and "severed the patellar tendon which connects the tibia to the quadriceps muscle." Feinstein: "There is no alternative to surgery. I've had three MRIs and what they've shown is deterioration. So I have to do it." Feinstein "officials would not disclose any details about the duration and location of the surgery." And according to campaign

staff, "Feinstein did not know whether the surgery would delay her campaign plans" (9/26).

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21 CONNECTICUT: Drumbeat Getting Louder? Philling In

GOPer/Waterbury Mayor Phillip Giordano criticized Lieberman for his unwillingness to debate and said it was "inherently wrong" to run for Sen . and Veep "if you can't hold both offices." More Giordano: "Every senatorial candidate deserves a debate. The fact that he doesn't have time because he's running for vice president is no excuse." Lieberman hasn't ruled out a Senate debate, but said he's focusing on the 10/5 VP debate, (Stone, *USA Today*, 9/26). [The veep debate] is an important debate and I obviously hope that my friends here in Connecticut will be watching," (Orin, *New York Post*, 9/26).

The Replacement?

CT AG Richard Blumenthal, the "most likely" replacement for Lieberman, "is seen as capable of keeping the seat in Democratic hands" (Stone, *USA Today*, 9/26).

Should Lieberman run and win races, CT Gov. John Rowland will appoint his successor. Both Reps. Nancy Johnson (R-06) and Chris Shays (R-04) are said to be on his short list, (Orin, *New York Post*, 9/26).

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22 DELAWARE : As Harsh As It Gets In Nice-Guy Race

Gov. Thomas Carper (D) "took advantage of a rare joint appearance" 9/25 "to step up his criticism of" Sen. Bill Roth (R) on health-care. Carper told the 100 doctors gathered for a candidates' forum in Wilmington "that Roth favors HMOs over physicians in deciding patient care and charged that the senator has failed to use his influence to help senior citizens with prescription drug costs."

Carper: "I support a real patient's bill of rights" (Barrish, *Wilmington News Journal*, 9/26) . In the forum hosted by the the Medical Society of DE featuring all statewide candidates -- the 2nd of 3 "joint appearances" between the two -- Carper started by "pointing" to his record on the health care. Carper then said Roth is the Senate's "top recipient" of HMO contributions. He criticized Roth for not backing "a real Patients' Bill of Rights": "The legislation Sen. Roth supports is an HMO-backed alternative to the Patients' Bill of Rights." Roth "said it would be nearly impossible to get a substantive Patients' Bill of Rights passed during an election year, but said" he could get "a bill to the President's desk following the November elections." Roth: "I want all people to have what I want for my family. ... That means making sure patients have access to quality care and a prompt independent review of denied claims by medically trained personnel, and the right to sue after the review process is completed" (Grant, *Delaware State News*, 9/26).

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23 FLORIDA: Kicked In The Grassley

&nbs p; IA Sen. Chuck Grassley (R) "was dragged into the middle of" the FL race "when a 2-year-old statement he made against" Rep. Bill McCollum (R-08) "was handed out by" Insur. Commis. Bill Nelson (D) in Bonifay 9/25. Nelson, on a 3-day Panhandle tour, "blasted McCollum , saying" he "tried to gut" the False Claims Act, which allows "prosecution of Medicare, Medicaid and other health fraud." Giving the charge "bite is a speech given on the Senate floor" Grassley in '98 -- a speech Grassley "did not budge from on Monday." Grassley described the Claims Act in '98 as 'the government's strongest and most effective tool against fraud.'" McCollum "wanted the law changed so hospitals would not be subjected to frivolous prosecutions." Grassley accused the American Hospital Assn, with McCollum's help, "of trying to destroy the law in an effort to protect itself from federal prosecution." Grassley "accused McCollum of misleadin g him while introducing legislation that would be

'devastating' into law" (Crowley, *Palm Beach Post*, 9/26). *Miami Herald's* Bousquet reports, in the '98 floor speech Grassley accused McCollum "of trying to 'gut' the anti-fraud law" on behalf of the influential healthcare lobby group. Nelson's campaign "distributed copies of Grassley's speech in Bonifay." In a statement 9/25 by Grassley's office "seemed intended to soften" the criticism: "Congressman McCollum in 1998 sought to protect constituent hospitals from what they saw as heavy-handed anti-fraud efforts. ... When Congressman McCollum comes to the Senate, I'm confident we will respect each other's views on this and other issues" (9/26).

McCollum spokesperson Shannon Gravitte: "The only person guilty of false claims is Bill Nelson." Gravitte said McCollum's legislation "had the support of the majority of" the FL delegation and "had one goal: to stop government overreaching that resulted in higher medical costs for seniors." Gravitte: "Bill McCollum believes strongly that when hospitals or doctors set out to defraud the federal government, they should be prosecuted to the fullest and punished accordingly. ... But he also believes that threatening heavy fines and incarceration for clerical errors on a complex billing form is unnecessary and unfair" (AP/*Tampa Tribune*, 9/26).

Shame On Both Of You

Both parties are "launching television attacks painting" McCollum and Nelson as "enemies of seniors." The "resulting blur implies that everybody's going to slash medicare and take away grandma's prescription drugs." Ads on behalf of both candidates "include distortions." McCollum's so-called cuts are actually "votes for smaller spending increases" than the proposed. McCollum spokeswoman Shannon Gravitte: "If you're getting an increase in funding every year, you can't say you're cutting Medicare." But when McCollum's ads charge Nelson "cozied up" to "insurance interests," the ad doesn't say that McCollum himself "has received at least \$95,000 from insurance companies" or that the NRSC has accepted more money than Dems "from drug and health industry interests." Nelson, on his "1990 vote to cut \$44-billion from Medicare," said that is was a vote "I'm proud of" because it was "part of then-President George

Bush's pal n to balance the federal budget" (Smith and Oppel, *St. Petersburg Times*, 9/26).

| Banking O n Corporate Friends For funds

McCollum has received tremendous support from "his longtime friends in the Banking industry" beause of his support for a "pending bankruptcy-overhall bill." McCollum, vice chair of the House Banking Committee, has gotten help from MBNA Corp., Bank One Corp. and other banking and financial corporations who are "pushing" for "bankruptcy overhaul." The McCollum campaign "targeted 16 companies that it hoped would make the maximum \$10,000 contribution this year," and over half of those "have a big interest in the bankruptcy legislation." Banks have given "48.5% of the McCollum goal for them, as of mid-August" (Mckinnon, *wall Street Journal*, 9/26).

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24 MICHIGAN : Neutralizing The Whole Woman-Thing?

AZ Sen. John McCain's (R) wife, Cindy McCain, campaigned 9/25 in MI for Sen. Spencer Abraham (R). C. McCain, joined by Abraham's wife Jane on a statewide tour, said Abraham was the only candidate for whom she plans to campaign: "This is the one campaign and the one race that I am leaving my home and my children for" (AP, 9/26).

| National Coverage -- Sort Of

MSNBC's Curry reports, VP Al Gore "will be wooing young voters at" an MTV Q-and- A with Univ. of MI students 9/26, but "citizens in their 70s are far more likely to cast ballots than 18-year olds." That's one reason Rep. Debbie Stabenow (D-08) "was at a senior center in Sterling Heights " last week touting "her support for making prescription drugs part of Medicare." Stabenow told the seniors: "I've taken on the drug companies. ... I'm on your side. That's what this election is all about, standing up to them." Stabenow "portrays the election as 'a choice between someone wh o has stood up to the drug companies and not taken a dime from them -- and someone who's been funded by them.'" While Abraham's "campaign has received

\$116,000 from pharmaceutical companies, Stabenow has received drug company support in the past," taking \$2.5K from Johnson & Johnson and Bristol Myers in her '96 House race. "More importantly, Abraham has been able to blunt Stabenow's use of the prescription drug issue by launching an advertising barrage proclaiming his support for a plan" sponsored by GOPers including Sen. McCain (9/26).

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25 MINNESOTA: Magnificent Seven, Or Dirty half-Dozen (plus one)?

Sen. Rod Grams' (R) campaign announced 9/25 that he "will accept invitations to seven debates." However, ex-Auditor Mark Dayton's (DFL) aides say Grams "needs to schedule more appearances before a greater variety of groups and more televised events." Dayton comm. dir. Sharon Ruhland said 4 of the 7 events Grams agreed to "are sponsored by business groups." And the list "doesn't include some of the traditional events" that attract wide TV audiences, "such as League of Women Voters debates. Grams spokesperson Kurt Zellers "noted that Dayton last week challenged Grams to eight debates," and that with 7, plus one already, Grams "has met that challenge." The events Grams said he will attend: 10/2 in Ham Lake sponsored by North Metro Chamber of Commerce; 10/2 by MN Utility Investors meeting; 10/11 in Minneapolis by Uptown Rotary and City of Lakes Rotary Clubs. 10/12 in Bloomington by MN Assn. for Rural Telecommunications; 10/13 in Apple Valley by River Heights Chamber of Commerce; 10/15 in Duluth by MN Public Radio; and 10/18 TBA by M (Minneapolis Star Tribune, 9/26).

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26 MISSOURI : No WH Coattails Here

&nbs p; AP's Charton reports that Sen. John Ashcroft (R) and Gov Mel Carnahan (D) "have spent millions of dollars on advertising bashing each other as out-of-the-mainstream extremists." Yet the race

remains in a "dead heat." And polls show the undecided bloc remains at 10%. And Al Gore's surge in MO "hasn't helped Carnahan," nor has the erosion George W. Bush's lead "seemed to have dug into Ashcroft's numbers. " Univ. of MO at KC prof. Dale Neumann: "So as the presidential race relates to the Senate race, it may truly be the tail wagging the dog, with Carnahan and Ashcroft as well known and perhaps more popular or disliked than Gore and Bush" (9/26).

When Do The Rules Apply?

Carnahan is running a TV ad using videotape of Ashcroft on the Senate floor, "even though a Senate rule prohibits making political use of such footage." But that rule only applies to someone in the Senate's employment, although some GOPers argue "Carnahan should follow it anyway." GOP staff dir. for the Sen. Rules and Administration Cmte Tamara Somerville: "This is really quite remarkable. It's the first instance I'm aware of where a Senate candidate has so flagrantly violated the Senate's rules." Carnahan spokesperson Tony Wyche said "the campaign was not aware of the rule because Carnahan isn't in the Senate. He said Carnahan will continue running the commercial" (Murphy, *Kansas City Star*, 9/25).

Back To Reality?

Carnahan said 9/25 that he would "bolster Social Security and Medicare and pay down the national debt before providing money for tax cuts." Speaking to the *Kansas City Star*'s editorial board, Carnahan criticized Ashcroft's plan for a \$4T tax cut, saying it "would leave no money for other essential steps." Ashcroft, who first proposed the plan when considering a WH bid, has dropped it in favor of a series of tax cuts (Kraske, *Kansas City Star*, 9/25).

How Flexible Will He Be ?

Addressing the MO AFL-CIO, Carnahan said Ashcroft's flex-time proposal "would end up hurting workers. Carnahan said the "flex-time legislation would give employers a means to avoid overtime pay." The group has endorsed Carnahan. Ashcroft spokesperson David James said the proposal "would help working families set more flexible schedules" (Grebe, AP, 9/26).

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27 MONTANA: Under Protest

The DSCC asked MT television stations 9/25 "to stop airing a commercial attacking" farmer/rancher Brian Schweitzer (D) for his stand on prescription drugs. DSCC attys Mark Elias and Brian Svoboda , in a letter to station managers, said the ad by the MT GOP "contains false information and should be pulled." The ad charges Schweitzer is "using drug company contributions to run his TV ads," trying to tie him to pharmaceutical donations received by the DSCC. Elias and Svoboda "point out that the commercial referred to in the GOP ad is not a product of the Schweitzer campaign." MT GOP exec. dir. Mike Kiedrowski "acknowledged" that the Dem ad is not a Schweitzer ad, but said it still benefits him "so the GOP's characterization is correct" (Anez, AP, 9/26). GOpPer: Sen. Conrad Burns

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28 NEVADA: Ensign Asks For Ad Drop

&nbs p; Ex-Rep. John Ensign (R) is "again asking" NV TV stations to "pull an ad he says makes false statements about his position on the abortion issue." The NV Dem Party began airing the ad over the weekend and will spend \$250K to keep it on the air over the next two weeks. The ad says that on a recent TV show "Ensign said even an 11-year-old rape victim and her family should have no choice." Ensign's camp said he never made such a statement, but Dems stand by the ad (Crowe, Reno *Gazette-Journal*, 9/26). When asked about abortions for 11-year-olds who became pregnant from rape, Ensign said: "I believe that helping them find a home for that baby is the best thing for them psychologically. And that's why, even with my own daughter, I would do the same for my own daughter. And I would hope that's exactly the choice she would choose." The DSCC is also helping pay for the ad (Morrison, Las Vegas *Review-Journal*, 9/26). John Ralston

writes the "inevitable exchange of legal threats" over ads has come and they are "mostly designed for media consumption" (Ralston Report, 9/25).

Bernstein Releases New Prescription Drug Ad

Atty E d Bernstein has a new ad out, produced by Struble Oppel Communications:

Announcer: "Deceptive ... that's what community pharmacists call John Ensign's plan to increase drug company profits. It forces seniors to pay twelve hundred dollars before it helps, allows drug companies to decide what medicine you can have, and let's them set the price. Bernstein's plan covers all seniors, is voluntary, guaranteed through Medicare, and lowers prices for everyone. The Ensign plan, back by drug companies. The Bernstein plan, supported by senior groups. Who do you trust?" (release, 9/25).

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29 NEW JERSEY: Manna From New York

Two days after NY Sen candidates Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) and Rick Lazio (R) banned soft-money ads, the Republican Leadership Council "has shifted its sights across the Hudson River" and is aiming at Jon Corzine (D). The RLC spent \$1M on pro-Lazio ads in NY and unveiled a new radio spot 9/25 that "sharply attacks Corzine," claiming he "is having trouble with the truth" regarding his charitable contributions. The 60-second spot is expected to run five days at a cost between \$75K and \$100K. It's the first commercial to run on behalf of the "cash-strapped" Rep. Bob Franks (R-07). GOPers said "it could signal more help to come as outside interest groups" turn from NY. But the ad has "raised eyebrows among campaign watchdog groups, which cited federal laws that prohibit

coordination between campaigns and outside issue advertising." Franks is a member of the RLC's Advisory Board. The RLC's board will meet 9/27 to discuss what to do with the money earmarked for NY. The arm of the RLC that paid for the ad is registered as a nonpolitical "527" group and not required to list its donors until next month. That lead Corzine spokesperson Tom Shea to remark: "Given the close ties between Bob Franks and this group, he should do all he can to assure the voters of New Jersey that neither he, his staff, his consultants nor his contributors are commingling the activities of the Franks campaign and the RLC" (Hassell, Newark Star-Ledger, 9/26)

Philadelphia Inquirer's Turcol reports, Franks' +campaign aides "said they hoped the low-budget counterattack would keep Corzine on the defensive" and Franks "on voters' radar screens" until the TV campaign starts. But, the ad's "sponsorship drew criticism from members of the Corzine camp, who said it was hypocritical for Franks to accuse" Corzine of concealing his finances while accepting help from the RLC, which "does not disclose its donors." Franks campaign manager Charlie Smith responded: "Jon Corzine is running the most expensive soft-money campaign in the history of American politics, and he's spent \$50 million to date without disclosing the sources of his campaign funding" (9/26).

If They Could Vote Each Other Off, The Network Would Run It

One of two network TV debates between Corzine and Franks "has fallen through." What was "expected to be their first debate" 10/8 on the CBS affiliates in NY and Philly "could not be arranged as hoped, and the stations were unwilling to set up another date," according to Corzine spokesperson Tom Shea. The debate "has been rescheduled that day at" a cable TV network, News 12 NJ, and will be telecast live for subscribers. That "leaves only one debate to be broadcast on TV network affiliates" -- taped 10/20 and aired 10/22 on NBC's affiliates (Siegel, AP/Bergen Record, 9/26).

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NEW YORK : Vegas Odds On The Ban Lasting: 4,000,000,000,000-to-

30^{1?}

The soft-money ban agreed upon by Rep. Rick Lazio (R-02) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) "appears to be crumbling before it began." For the ban to stay in effect, independent groups supporting both candidates would have to stay off the airwaves. But "at least one influential group on each side said it would disregard the deal" and "feel free to promote its own interest in the campaign" (Drinkard/Kiely, *USA Today*, 9/26). The "first signs of a crack" came yesterday as Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) was in town to "herald it as a model for the nation." A group supporting Lazio's candidacy, VA-based The Emergency Committee to Stop Hillary Rodham Clinton, "said it will not comply without the agreement and plans to air an anti-Clinton media campaign after the World Series." Lazio manager Bill Dal Col responded to group with a letter "urging the group to abide by the deal and 'sit on the sidelines'" (Saul, *Long Island Newsday*, 9/26). The group is affiliated with the Conservative Leadership PAC, which was listed as among those that "agreed to hold their advertising fire if Clinton signed the soft-money pledge" (Drinkard/Kiely, *USA Today*, 9/26).

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO, which supports HRC's candidacy, said it too "won't be bound by the agreement, although it has no plans to run ads" in the race (Saul, *Newsday*, 9/26).

Agreement Or No Agreement, I'm Still Raising Soft-Money!

HRC said yesterday that regardless of her agreement with Lazio, she would "continue to help raise soft money for the Democratic Party." HRC said she had made promises to help the party raise money before 11/7, and that her deal with Lazio had no effect on her pledge. HRC: "I'm going to fulfill my remaining obligations to the Democratic Party in the coming weeks, to fulfill the commitments I have made to help raise money they believe is important in using in other races" (Murphy, *New York Times*, 9/26).

FNC's Herridge, on the HRC-Lazio soft money deal: "Despite the ban, Mrs. Clinton says she will still raise soft money. So who won?"

Analysts say this round appears to go to Rick Lazio. ... Some analysts believe Lazio pushed for the deal ... to force Mrs. Clinton on to the defensive because some observers argue Lazio may have turned off some voters with his aggressive debate tactics. ... One political observer believes Lazio may win in the right here, right now category, but cautions Mrs. Clinton has a lot of time to raise hard money " ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

FNC's Dick Morris: "She has taken the hit for the state dinners, she has taken the hit for the sleepovers and now she can't use the money" (9/25).

Time For Some "Straight Talk"

Lazio and McCain appeared together in Battery Park in lower Manhattan where the former presidential candidate "praised" Lazio and HRC for their "historic " agreement to ban soft money. Even though the agreement doesn't ban direct mail or get-out-the-vote efforts, McCain referred to the agreement as an example that "should be followed by "every federal campaign in America . . . including the presidential campaign" (Eltman, AP/Albany Times Union, 9/26).

McCain also said at the appearance that the "deal came just in time because several groups were prepared to begin raising and spending soft money on behalf" of Lazio, who "has not raised any on his own soft money." McCain: "I know that there were people who were prepared to give unlimited amounts of money to the Lazio campaign, because I've talked to them." Lazio spokesperson, Dan McLagan, said he did not know "which groups" McCain was referring to, adding that the congressman was not raising soft money" (Murphy, New York Times 9/26).

In a letter, McCain and Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI) "challenged all candidates for federal office" to "forego all soft money spending in their campaigns." Read a portion of the letter: "In the same spirit that motivated the Lazio/Clinton agreement, we respectfully encourage you to attempt to make a similar agreement in your race. Specifically, we urge you, in cooperation with your opponent, to reject any efforts by political parties to use soft money to run independent radio or television advertisements in an attempt to influence your race, and to appeal to independent

organizations to refrain from doing the same" (release, 9/25).

Soft-Money Opinions

New York Times editorial: "the soft-money deal is important because once again it flies in the face of the argument in Washington that no one really cares about campaign finance reform. Of course if voters did not care, Mr. Lazio and Mrs. Clinton would not have done this deal. Once they adhere to it, their example can pave the way for real reform enacted in Washington" (9/26).

Albany Times Union editorial: "Wariness, and then some, is in order. This voluntary ban on soft money shows every sign already of being destined to fail" (9/26).

You've Got A War Hero, I've Got A Nobel Laureate

While Lazio campaigned with McCain yesterday, HRC appeared with Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel and later Rep. Tom Lantos (D-12), who -- like Wiesel -- is a Holocaust survivor. HRC and Wiesel called on the Palestinians "to remove anti-Semitic references from their school books." HRC's appearance with -- and subsequent endorsement by Wiesel -- was an "appeal" to the "key" Jewish voting group (Birnbaum/Haberman, *New York Post*, 9/26). Wiesel had earlier told the *Daily News* he "would endorse neither Clinton nor Rep. Rick Lazio for Senate," but said yesterday that "he had changed his mind." Wiesel: "I support her fight, I support her ideas and ideals, and I support her, period."

After HRC's appearance with Wiesel, she appeared with WA Gov. Gary Locke (D) -- "the nation's first governor of Chinese descent" -- at a preschool in Queens and later at "the nearby Chao Zhou Restaurant." After that appearance she moved on to a nursing home in Jamaica, Queens, where she "shook hands with Holocaust survivors" while Lantos tied Lazio to former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich." Lantos: "You can have a clone of Gingrich or you can have a stateswoman of remarkable proportions." Later, HRC drew "titters" from some of the audience when she said Lantos was kvelling (bragging) about his children, but mispronounced the word as "kuh-velling" (Lewin, *New York Daily News*, 9/26).

No Wonder Bush And Lazio Don't Appear Together

New York Post's Birnbaum and Hardt Jr. report that Lazio's campaign is considering a "massive phone-bank effort -- to convince Al Gore voters to pass up" HRC and "pull the lever for the GOP Senate hopeful." A "high-placed source close to Lazio" said that Gore's big lead over Bush has the Lazio campaign "considering how to 'forge a Gore-Lazio alliance.'" One plan being floated about is "hitting" undecided voters and Gore supporters with "a flood of calls in the days leading up to the election" (9/26).

Bush: Definitely Not Popular Here

New York Times' Hernandez writes on the campaigns being run by NY GOPers "that are increasingly at odds with the policies" of Bush. Commented one NY GOP strategist: "When you look at the Republican national platform, it is not really helpful to us. ... It's much more conservative than we want to be. It's not as conservative as it was four years ago, but it's clearly a platform that was not drafted with New York in mind." But while Bush may not help state GOPers, many "see some reason for hope on the ballot this year." The optimists in the party hope their fortunes will be "bolstered" by a "strong showing" by Lazio, "as well as by the antipathy many voters feel toward his opponent" (9/26)

What Can We Expect This Time?

HRC and Lazio will debate for an hour 10/8, from 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M., "from the CBS Broadcast Center in Manhattan." WCBS-TV political reporter Marcia Kramer "will serve as moderator throughout the hour." On the panel: Joyce Purnick of The New York Times; Gregg Birnbaum of The New York Post; Lars-Erik Nelson from The New York Daily News and Jeff Greenfield from CNN. The debate will be "simultaneously" be cablecast nationally on CNN "and it will be available for viewing online at <http://www.cbsnewyork.com/main/home/index>" (release, 9/25).

Rough Release Watch -- "Folded Dollar Bills"?

One of the guests on the lists the WH released was Jim Levin, "former owner of 'The Doll House' strip club in Chicago." Levin, whose club "relied heavily on so-called 'lap dances' to boost its revenue stream" -- also is listed as having given a \$5,000 check for

HRC's soft-money PAC New York Senate 2000. The check was given when Levin and "a guest named Kristy Swanson attended the White House dinner celebrating the new Millennium on New Year's Eve, 1999." Said Lazio spokesperson Mollie Fullington: "The Clintons have turned the people's house into a Motel 1600 and placed a taxpayer-purchased mint on the pillow of people like Jim Levin. It certainly seems that access to Mrs. Clinton is for sale. We're curious as to whether Levin's \$5,000 contribution came in the form of folded dollar bills" (Release, 9/26)

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31 RHODE ISLAND: Bakst Says Weygand Won First Encounter?

Providence Journal's Bakst writes, if you watched Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R) and Rep. Bob Weygand (D-02) on Channel 10 9/24, "you now know why Weygand has been so eager to debate." The 30-min session, at 6:30 am, was the first of 8 joint broadcast appearances. Weygand "came across as surer of himself and of the material." Chafee "sounded more tentative." Both "showed a decent grasp of the issues, but Weygand had the clear advantage in terms of projecting leadership." Chafee "often came across as warmer than Weygand. But Chafee also displayed a disconcerting habit of sitting ramrod straight, expressionless, staring ahead, when Weygand spoke. ... As soon as the taping was over on Friday, I mentioned this phenomenon to the senator, and by yesterday, when I ran into him again, he said he had heard from plenty of people about it" (9/26).

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32 UTAH: Hatch Cruising With 33 Point Lead

A *Deseret News* poll, conducted 9/18-21 by Dan Jones & Assoc. (R), surveyed 613 adults; margin of error +/- 4% (9/24). Tested: Sen. Orrin Hatch (R) and atty Scott Howell (D).

General Election Matchup

Hatch	59%
Howell	26
Others	6
Undec.	10

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33 VIRGINIA : Soooo, We Meet Again

Sen. Charles Robb (D) and ex-Gov. George Allen (R) "came out swinging Monday in the second of two back-to-back debates held just 16 hours apart." The candidates "interrupted each other, accused each other of distortions and misrepresentations, and proved that they have very different ideas about what a Senator should be." From the beginning, the lunch-time event sponsored by Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, "was more contentious and free-wheeling than" the 9/24 TV debate (Davis, *Lynchburg News and Advance*, 9/26).

They've Got Serious Issues

Robb (D) and Allen used their second TV debate "to focus on issues dear to Northern Virginians -- transportation, gun control and education--while giving" statewide voters a "preview of the broad themes likely to dominate" the campaign. Robb "presented himself yesterday as a conservative on issues such as foreign policy and defense and a progressive on social concerns." Allen "highlighted a record that included tax reductions, abolition of parole, changes in the state's education system and economic development." In the 9/24 VCU debate, "abortion was one of the key issues. However, "it was hardly mentioned" Monday (Shear/O'Hanlon, *Washington Post*, 9/26). Robb "pushed his stand on education, Social Security and tax relief." Allen "championed his call for tax cuts and a Social Security lockbox." Both "took constant shots at the other's positions." In his opening statement, Robb brought up abortion: "I suspect George would like that issue to disappear." Meanwhile, Allen "used his opening statement to bring up transportation": "The aggravation of

transportation back-ups isn't going to end overnight. ... He (Robb) laid the groundwork for today's traffic jams" (Davis, Lynchburg News and Advance, 9/26).

Richmond Times-Dispatch's Bradley reports, Robb and Allen "revisited many of the themes raised during their" VCU debate. Each "criticized his opponent's stance on issues ranging from gun control to Social Security. Each accused the other of airing distorted" TV ads to get elected. "But it was education that continued to emerge as the contest's dominant theme" (9/26).

Norfolk Virginian-Pilot's Nuckols/Fiske report, Allen said "he will continue to push for billions of dollars in federal tax relief even if anticipated surpluses fail to materialize." He "also said he will not oppose the expansion of his signature education tax credit in order to provide more relief to low-income families." Robb "responded by lecturing " Allen "on budgetary restraint": "Don't talk to me about fiscal responsibility unless you're willing to practice fiscal responsibility" (9/26).

Still Some To Be Won

FNC's Wilson, on undecided VA voters: "The polls show that about 11 percent of the voters in the Commonwealth of Virginia are undecided. If the polls are accurate, Robb needs virtually all of those undecided voters to come his way if he is to retain his seat" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

Kicking A Man When He's Vulnerable

New Republic's Crowley writes, Robb, "considered the most vulnerable incumbent in either party -- is a figure of derision on both sides of the Potomac and both sides of the aisle." The DSCC "calls Robb 'our number-one priority,' which is not a compliment. It wasn't always this way. Fifteen years ago, Robb was Al Gore's political twin: a young, up-and-coming Southern Democrat with a first-rate political pedigree who gained prominence by urging his party to abandon its old liberal reflexes. ... Since those days, however, the Chuck Robb story has gone from fairy tale to tragicomedy" (10/2 issue).

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34 BATTLE FOR THE SENATE: Do Dems Have A Better Shot Here Than The House?

Los Angeles Times' Hook writes, "as election day nears, a surprisingly large number of Senate seats are competitive, and Democrats believe that their chances of capturing the majority -- or at least whittling the GOP's 54-46 advantage -- are brighter than they were a year ago." The outcome "hinges on a lively and diverse array of contests around the country" -- from the high profile NY SEN race "to less well-known but equally intense face-offs" in MI, MN, MO and MT. The races are "shaped to some degree by issues peculiar to each state" -- like Sen. Bill Roth's (R-DE) age, for example. "But there are also powerful political crosscurrents buffeting every competitive contest. Working for the Republican majority is the strong economy that makes it harder to beat incumbents. ... But the prevailing policy agenda is working for the Democrats. The issues dominating campaign debates are ones the public tends to associate with Democrats -- health care, education and Social Security among them." In this enviro, "one dynamic is clear: If Democrats have any chance of narrowing or erasing the GOP Senate majority, vulnerable GOP incumbents such as Roth are must-beat targets."

"Fueling Democratic optimism are key strategic and tactical shifts" that GOP candidates have made in many tight races, including MO and MT. Said NRSC spokesperson Stuart Roy: "Most of our Republican incumbents are talking about prescription drugs and Social Security." However, "hardly any Senate Republicans are campaigning" on George W Bush's proposed \$1.3T tax cut. "Instead, many are promoting the targeted tax cuts that President Clinton has thwarted, such as reducing the taxes for married couples and eliminating the estate tax."

But even as Dems "have benefited from the issues agenda, their prospects in some states have suffered because of a lack of high-profile candidates or because of divisive primaries." Both these factors "have come into play" in MN, "putting in jeopardy the party's chances of unseating" Sen. Rod Grams (R). He was once seen as the

GOP's "most vulnerable incumbent" but he got a "big break" when ex-Rep. Tim Penny (D-MN) dropped out of the race, setting up a "bitter" primary among lesser-known Dems. "Gram s still may lose, but his reelection chances have improved." Several other "vulnerable" GOP incumbents have "emerged stronger" than expected, including Sens. Rick Santorum (R-PA) and Spence Abraham (R-MI).

"Ironically, a victory" by the Dem pres. ticket "could deal a blow to the party's Senate numbers." Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT) "is heavily favored to win reelection in his state." If Lieberman wins both reelection and VP, CT's GOP gov., John Rowland, "would choose his successor, presumably a Republican." Some CT Dems are "urging Lieberman to allow the party to replace him on the Senate ballot. So far he has refused, but he has until late October to change his mind" (9/26).

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GOVERNOR REPORT

35 MISSOURI : A Talent For Speaking

&nbs p; Rep. Jim Talent (R-02) and Treas. Bob Holden (D) yesterday faced off for their first debate. Talent "branded" Holden "part of a failed establishment" while Holden "warned that Talent would risk the state's future by radically changing course." The debate took place in a "packed auditorium at Southeast Missouri State University," where the "nominees made clear that they differ widely on everything from road-building plans and school vouchers to prescription drugs and partial-birth abortion." But both candidates "largely retained the polite tone that has characterized the race" as the debate did not get personal, "and the candidates shook hands before and after."

Holden and Talent are "trying to woo undecided voters" and to "some in the audience, Talent, a lawyer, seemed faster on his feet,

explaining his proposals in rapid-fire fashion. Holden spoke slower and repeated some of the same lines he uses in his TV ads." If Talent is victorious 11/7, he would "be the first urban governor in two decades and the first from St. Louis in more than 50 years." The five other candidates for governor on the ballot "were not allowed to participate in the debate" (Young, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 9/25

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36 NEW HAMPSHIRE: A Debate In Vermont?

Gov. Jeanne Shaheen (D) and ex-Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R) went after each other for their school funding plans yesterday during their first debate. Shaheen: "What Gordon Humphrey is offering are phony promises and numbers that don't add up, that would threaten the future education of our children." Humphrey: "Four years into the education funding crisis and still no solution, still no plan. Gov. Shaheen has no plan. I have a plan. It has details."

The 30-minute debate took place in a "cramped television studio across the border in Vermont" and "kicked off a string of 10 scheduled debates." Like the primary campaigns, school funding "dominated" as the subject of choice, and "both candidates yesterday predicted it would overshadow anything else during the campaign's remaining weeks."

Reporters were "initially prohibited" from watching the taping but the ban was withdrawn "within a half-hour" of the debate. The debate will be shown "in its entirety" 10/2, "one hour before the candidates appear live for the season's second debate" (Cousineau, *Manchester Union Leader*, 9/26).

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37 UTAH: Leavitt In Low 50s, But Orton Still Trails By 16 .

Debate Shocker -- Candidates Believe Education Is Important!

Leavitt, Orton and Independent American candidate Jeremy Friedbaum, improving education is of prime

importance. Orton said the "big question is how to improve education while reducing taxes." Leavitt said he plans on taking care of "seven problem areas plaguing education." These are "textbooks, class size, teacher pay, getting information to parents via the Internet, accountability, reading, and increasing graduation rates among minorities." Friedbaum said he plans on giving parents direct control of the funds for education (McKittrick, Ogden *Standard-Examiner*, 9/26).

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38 VERMONT: Money Matters

Gov. Howard Dean (D) won the jackpot last week with a "whopping \$270,000 donation" from the DNC, which "swelled" his campaign war chest to \$631,163. DNC spokesperson Jenny Backus said the contribution was due in part to "uncertainties of a three-way race and what was expected to be a 'divisive' campaign." But even with the financial windfall, Dean has still spent "almost \$350,000 so far on media, more than either one of his opponents have at their disposal to date." Dean's opponents, '98 candidate Ruth Dwyer (R) and Progressive Party candidate Anthony Pollina, "are way behind Dean in the money race and said they expected not to catch up." Pollina is held at a \$300,000 cap because he took public financing, "of which approximately \$262,000 is money from the state." So far, Dwyer has "amassed" almost \$300,000, \$80,000 of which came from the RNC (Schmaler, *Rutland Herald*, 9/26).

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39 WEST VIRGINIA: Citing Energy Shortage, Gaston Endorses

Ex-Gov. and current head of the College Board Gaston

Caperton (D) endorsed Rep. Bob Wise (D-02) in his bid to unseat Gov. Cecil Underwood (R), saying: "One this that concerns me the most is, I don't see the enthusiasm, the energy, the belief that we can do it. More Caperton: "It's a matter of leadership. I'm not here to be critical of anybody. Governor Underwood is a fine man. I'm not here to criticize Governor Underwood. I'm here to endorse the person I think is better for the job." Caperton, who "was reputed" to have helped Underwood "behind the scenes" in his 1996 election as governor, as several of his "top aides joined Democrats for Underwood that year." Caperton responding to a question about "the change" in support: "The difference is, I've known Bob Wise virtually all my adult life. I trust him and I believe in his commitment to West Virginia," (Kabler, *Charleston Gazette*, 9/26).

Caperton also pointed to Wise's economic plan for the state as a primary reason for his endorsement: "West Virginians, more than almost any people in the world, know how important a job is...Bob Wise's plan is a great plan." Underwood spokesman Rod Blackstone, in response: "Maybe the reason Gov. Caperton thinks it is a decent plan is because so many of the ideas in there are things we're already doing," (Bowling, *Charleston Daily Mail*, 9/26).

A fundraiser last week for Underwood drew the support of "several elected Democrats" from Logan and Mingo counties, despite "a resolution passed" at the state Democratic convo...calling for the party to take action against members of state and county executive committees who support Republican candidates," (Coleman, AP, 9/26).

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IN THE STATES

40 NEBRASKA : Sky-High Job Ratings For Both Senators

An *Omaha World-Herald* poll, conducted 9/12-14 by RKM Research and Communications, surveyed 986 regis. voters; margin of error +/- 3.1% (9/26). Tested: Sens. Bob Kerrey (D) and Chuck Hagel (R).

Job Ratings	Hagel	Kerrey
Approve	75%	66%
Disapprove	9	20

"Kerrey and Hagel were in agreement that they cannot automatically transfer the positive feelings toward them to others. Kerrey is doing all in his power to help" ex-Gov. Ben Nelson (D) succeed him in the senate, and "Hagel has put in an all-out effort to elect" AG Don Stenberg (R) to that same seat, including cutting a TV ad (Kotok, *World-Herald*, 9/26).

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41 NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR '01: If Little Pascrell Departs, McGreevey Will Be Stand P-alone

Woodbridge Mayor Jim McGreevey (D) on 9/25 "came one step closer" to running unopposed in the Dem Gov. primary when Rep. Frank Pallone (D-06) "announced that he would not seek the nomination." The announcement "leaves only" Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-08) as a possible candidate. Pallone, on his withdrawal and McGreevey: "I think he'll make a great candidate. I supported his candidacy four years ago in the primary, and I see no reason he should not have another run at it." McGreevey said the Pallone endorsement was "a substantial building block toward a unified Democratic front" for the primary, (Tedeschi, *Bergen Record*, 9/26).

Rider U. political scientist David Rebovich, said the failure of Sen. Robert Torricelli to mount an effective

challenge shows McGreevey's strength: "If Toricelli couldn't knock him out of the box, certainly these other people couldn't." Dem state chair Tom Giblin: "I think it (Pallone's endorsement) is great news and it definitely makes it easier for Jim McGreevey as it appears he has a virtual lock on the gubernatorial nomination," (Donohue, Newark *Star-Ledger*, 9/26).

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Hotline EXTRAS!

42 IN AD SPOTLIGHT: No Education AD Recession Here

The latest ads in NationalJournal.com's Ad Spotlight include:

- Bush For President (multiple states): George W. Bush's campaign released an ad touting his new campaign theme -- America's "education recession."
- Republican National Committee (AR, FL, IA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MI, MO, NH, NM, OH, OR, WA, PA, WI, WV): The RNC supplements Bush's education week with an ad critiquing the "education recession" under Clinton-Gore.
- Carnahan For Senate (MO): Gov. Mel Carnahan (D) rails against Sen. John Ashcroft's (R) education record in two recent spots.
- Easley For Governor (NC): Democrat Mike Easley took his turn in releasing a positive education ad similar to one aired by his opponent, Richard Vinroot (R).
- AFL-CIO (NC 08, other House districts): The AFL-CIO has released an ad targeting members of Congress who voted against an ergonomic standard proposed by OSHA.
- Cantwell For Senate (WA): In an ad that aired before her

primary win, Maria Cantwell (D) highlights her newspaper support.

- Lazio For Senate (NY): Rep. Rick Lazio (R) uses two 15-second ads to hit first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) on education and taxes.
- Marshall For Congress (GA 08): Ga.-08 hopeful Jim Marshall (D) says in an ad that insurance "bureaucrats" who "delay or deny medical care" should be "held accountable."

For these and other ads, as well as a searchable database of ads going back to '97, click NationalJournal.com's Ad Spotlight.

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POLL UPDATE

43 CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP: Bush Lead Expands Just A Bit

Conducted 9/22-24, surveyed 985 regis. voters; margin of error +/- 3%. Subsample: 718 likely voters; +/- 4% (release, 9/26). Note: Gallup began "phrase 1" of their tracking poll on 9/4 and has continued to release results of their rolling 3-day sample. For more on this poll, click here.

General Election Matchup

LVs Only	9/22-24	9/21-23	9/20-22	9/19-21	9/18-20	9/17-19	9/16-18
Bush	47%	47%	45%	42%	41%	43%	44%
Gore	44	46	48	50	51	49	48
Nader	2	1	1	2	3	3	2
Buchanan	1	1	-	2	1	1	-
DK/Other	6	5	6	4	4	4	6

RVs Only	9/22-24	9/21-23	9/20-22	9/19-21	9/18-20	9/17-19	9/16-18
Gore	46%	46%	47%	49%	50%	50%	49%
Bush	42	43	43	41	39	40	40
Nader	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
Buchanan	1	1	-	1	1	1	-
DK/Other	9	8	8	7	7	7	9

LVs Only	-----GOP-----			-----Ind-----			-----Dem-----	
	9/22-24	9/21-23	9/22-24	9/21-23	9/20-22	9/19-21	9/22-24	9/21-23
Bush	89%	90%	41%	41%	40%	34%	9%	9%
Gore	7	7	39	40	43	48	85	87
Nader	-	-	5	5	3	6	-	-
Buchanan	2	2	1	1	1	4	-	-
DK/Other	2	1	14	13	13	8	6	4

Would Would Better Handle The Rising Price Of Gas And Fuel Oil

	LVs 9/11-13		RVs 9/11-13	
Bush	42%	42%	38%	40%
Gore	39	37	40	38
Same (vol.)	3	5	3	5
No Opinion	16	16	19	17

How Worried Are You That Price Increases In Various Fuels Will Cause Financial Hardship For You in Coming Months

	LVs	RVs
Very Worried	22%	22%
Somewhat Worried	38	38
Not Too Worried	26	25
Not At All Worried	14	14

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44 VOTER.COM/BATTLEGROUND: Bush Picks Up Two Points Sunday Night

Conducted 9/19-21, 24 by the Tarrance Group (R) and Lake Snell Perry (D), surveyed 1,000 likely voters; margin of error +/- 3.1%. Note: In this tracking poll, 250 likely voters are sampled each night, except Fridays and Saturdays. The results below reflect the most recent four nights of

survey data (release, 9/26). For more on this poll, [click here](#).

General Election Matchups

Trend	9/19-24	9/18-21	9/17-20	9/14-19	9/13-18	9/12-17	9/11-14	9/10-13
Bush	44%	42%	43%	42%	40%	41%	41%	41%
Gore	41	41	38	39	39	37	39	39
Nader	3	2	3	3	4	4	4	4
Buchanan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Undec.	12	13	14	14	16	17	15	15

All Wht Oth

4-Way	All	Men	Wom	Wom	Wom	Married	Single	Fav/Unfav
Bush	44%	49%	39%	44%	15%	51%	30%	60%/32%
Gore	41	37	45	41	60	36	51	57 /34
Nader	3	4	2	2	1	1	5	
Buchanan	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	
Undec.	12	9	14	12	21	10	11	

Direction Of Country		Generic Cong. Ballot		Generic Prez Ballot	
Right Direction	47%	Republican	41%	Republican	44%
Wrong Track	41	Democrat	36	Democrat	40
Unsure	12	DK/Other	23	DK/Other	16

Clinton Job		Clinton As A Person	
Approve	57%	Approve	28%
Disapprove	40	Disapprove	62

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45 ZOGBY: Bush Up 2 Overall, Down 2 In Great Lakes Region

Conducted 9/20-23, surveyed 1,003 likely voters; margin of error +/- 3.2% (release, 9/26). For more on this poll, [click here](#).

General Election Matchup Cent/

	All	East	South	GrLkes	West	Dem	GOP	Ind	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Bush	44%	38%	53%	39%	47%	15%	83%	37%	31%	47%	48%	43%

Gore	42	47	38	41	38	73	9	40	54	38	40	44
Nader	3	2	3	4	5	3	1	8	3	5	3	2
Buchanan	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
DK/Other	11	12	5	13	9	9	8	15	12	10	9	10

	All	Men	Wom	-\$15K	\$15-25K	\$25-35K	\$35-50K	\$50-75K	\$75K+
Bush	44%	52%	37%	30%	35%	39%	41%	58%	48%
Gore	42	36	47	62	52	47	41	33	42
Nader	3	4	3	3	4	4	5	3	3
Buchanan	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
DK/Other	11	9	12	14	10	9	12	5	6

Generic Cong. Ballot	Cent/						
	All	Men	Wom	East	South	GrtLkes	West
Democrat	39%	34%	44%	39%	37%	41%	40%
Republican	37	44	31	32	45	33	41
DK/Other	24	21	26	29	19	27	20

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46 ICR: Gore Up By Six

Conducted 9/20-24/00; surveyed 680 likely voters who voted in '96; margin of error +/- 3.7 (release, 9/26).

WH 2000 Match-Up (w/leaners)

	All	Men	Wom	NEast	NCent	South	West
Gore	46%	40%	52%	57%	38%	48%	43%
Bush	40	45	36	37	41	41	42
Nader	4	6	2	2	5	3	6
Buchanan	2	3	2	-	3	2	4
D/K	5	3	6	2	7	5	4

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47 WIRTHLIN WORLDWIDE (R): Define Irony. GOP Poll Shows Gore Up

Conducted 9/22-25, surveyed 713 likely voters; margin of error +/- 3.7% (release, 9/26). For more on this poll, [click here](#).

General Election Matchup		Direction of Countr	
Y			
Gore	43%	Right Direction	45%
Bush	42	Wrong Track	46
Nader	2	DK/Other	9
Buchanan	1		
Undec.	11		

Single Most Important Problem Facing U.S. (Net Results Only)

Social (crime/health care/education etc.)	59%
Pocketbook/Economy (taxes/inflation/energy)	10
Political Cynicism (Clinton/pols etc.)	4
Foreign Policy/Peace (nat'l defense)	3
Other	19

Do You Think [xxx characteristic] best describes	Gore	Bush
Stands for Personal Independence	39%	43%
Strong	38	42
Has High Ethical Standards	37	42
Makes Me Feel More Secure	39	43
Thinks Like Me	39	39
Gets Things Done	35	41
Tide Too Closely To Special Interests	40	33
Has A Clear Vision About Where U.S. Should Go	39	39
Cares About People Like Me	44	39
Gives Me Peace Of Mind	38	40
Honest	36	39
Has New Ideas	37	41

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PEOPLE

ESPY: Even The Judge Thinks This Sentence Is Harsh

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Tyson Foods exec. Archie Schaffer was sentenced 9/25 "to a year and a day in prison and a \$5,000 fine for attempting to illegally influence" ex-Agr. Sec. Mike Espy in '93. Schaffer, who is expected to appeal : "Obviously, I'm disappointed with what the judge felt he had to do, but it was not unexpected." Schaffer, "prosecuted under the 1907 Meat Inspection Act," told friends and supporters afterwards that "everything is going to turn out OK." U.S. District Judge James Robertson said that "probation and a \$10,000 fine would have been more appropriate but that his hands were tied by the federal sentencing guidelines that Congress put in place in 1984." Robertson: "It is not a bribery case. No quid pro quo was charged or proven. I cannot conclude that his role was minimal, but I do find his role minor." All six members of AR's congressional delegation have called for Pres. Clinton to pardon Schaffer (Barton, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, 9/26).

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49 GUINN: Gov. Denies Attempt To Eliminate Opponent

NV GOP Gov. Kenny Guinn "has denied reports that people involved with his campaign offered a job to" ex-Las Vegas mayor Jan Jones (D) so long as she "stayed out" of the '98 gov's race. Guinn: "I made it very clear to everybody that there should be no talk about anybody having any kind of opportunity in a Guinn administration that hasn't been elected. I can assure the people of the state that not one person, not one, was offered or even talked to about a job until after the election." But *Las Vegas Sun* columnist Jon Ralston writes in his new book, "The Anointed One: An Inside

look at Nevada Politics," that Guinn advisor Sig Rogich attempted to "eliminate Jones' candidacy by offering the post of Nevada Gaming commission chairwoman." Ralston: "The governor is simply wrong" (Radke, *Las Vegas Sun*, 9/25).

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50 DRUDGE: Welcome To Matt

Washington Post's Weeks interviews Internet gossip hound Matt Drudge about his new book, "Drudge Manifesto." The book is "Herky, jerky. Not networky. Part rant, part rave. Part delete, part save." "Drudge Manifesto" is a "loose cannon that fires grapeshot at contemporar y media companies and the people who work for them." Sometimes it "makes no sense; other times it makes all too much sense." Drudge "shoots flares into the sky over NBC, CBS, ABC anchors and talk show hosts" as well as prominent "media execs." Drudge says he wants to work for nobody except himself: "I'm best left alone." He discusses in his book what it was like to grow up in DC, "delivering the *Washington Star* in Takoma Park (MD)." Drudge says he would "stop at the first park bench, read and critique the whole paper and rewrite the headlines and stories in his imagination." Drudge: "What a place to grow up in. I walked the streets. Aimless teen. Young adult. Studying the power I believed emanated from every building. Negotiated in every restaurant. Congregated on every corner." Drudge does have fans and "millions of readers," including notables "such as Mary Matalin" and *Salon's* Camille Paglia." Drudge writes that, while "American reporters consider me beneath them," they "all work for me." Drudge: "If Maureen Dowd's good, I run her. If she's not, I don't link to her." Drudge does maintain that "he is sane." He says he weathers the "relentless 24-7 online life" with "meditation" (9/26).

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51 KENNEDY: JFK Jr. Book Reaches Half Mil At Auction

Ed Klein, author of "The Kennedy Curse," was able to reach "an estimated \$500,000" at a 9/25 auction, but is having trouble finding a publisher. The book will likely "dwell on the death of John F. Kennedy Jr." as well as other Kennedy family deaths. "A deal is expected to be hammered out as early as today." Some publishers "dropped out of the auction yesterday as the price accelerated." Larry Kirschbaum, chair of Time Warner Trade Publishing: "We're Kennedy-ed out." Said Bill Thomas, Doubleday publisher: "I'm not in the market for any third-rate, gossipy books" (Kelly, *New York Post*, 9/26).

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52 PRESS PASS: It Was The Best Of *Times*, It Was The Worst Of *Times*

The *New York Times* received an "extraordinary 1,680-word note from the editors" 9/26 saying that its coverage about "fired Los Alamos physicist Wen Ho Lee" "was flawed." The note, dubbed "The Times and Wen Ho Lee," said that an "internal review" had discovered "some things we wish we had done differently in the course of the coverage to give Dr. Lee the full benefit of the doubt." Lee, initially charged with "59 counts of breaching national security," was eventually "released from nine months of solitary confinement" 9/13 following a guilty plea "to one count of mishandling nuclear secrets." *Times* editors: "As a rule, we prefer to let our reporting speak for itself. In this extraordinary case, the outcome of the prosecution and the accusations leveled at this newspaper may have left many readers with questions about our coverage. That confusion and the stakes involved, a man's liberty and reputation convince us that a public

accounting is warranted." More *Times* editors: "Nothing in this experience undermines our faith in any of our reporters, who remained persistent and fair-minded in their newsgathering in the face of some fierce attacks." The *Times* says it has "dispatched a team of reporters to reinvestigate the case" and documents: "Our coverage of this case is not over" (AP, 9/26).

New Republic Goes Subliminable

Readers of the *The New Republic* "might notice" something "different" in the 10/2 cover: in the "solid red bar that appears on the cover of every issue are the barely visible words 'Don't Trust Arafat.'" Editor Peter Beinart said the hidden message was "a response to the media obsession with subliminal advertising" in the wake of the George W. Bush "rats" ad. Beinart: "If everyone was suddenly venting their deepest darkest obsession in subliminal ways, why not us? It's a humorous caricature of our position" (Kuczynski, *New York Times*, 9/26).

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53 NEWS BAZAAR: Masseur Rubs Gore And Bush "Back-To-Back"

Joe Menichini, owner of the Keystone Massage Therapy Center in Kingston, PA, "was standing in his center during the first day of business on Sept. 5" when he was approached by Secret Service agents from the campaign of George W. Bush, who was in town that day. Menichini said he was then introduced to Bush, "who inquired about the possibility of receiving massage therapy." Menichini: "He usually gets one once a week. He was on the treadmill when I walked in. He's in good shape." Menichini, who was "nervous" while giving Bush a massage, said Bush was "really nice" and had a "fantastic sense of humor." Menichini: "He was very genuine. He said the massage was unbelievable and made him feel like a

million dollars. I told him that he was my first client and he said he was always happy to contribute to a new enterprise." On the "very next day," Al Gore received a massage from Menichini's therapy center. The Gore campaign had "booked an appointment weeks before." He said Gore received the "massage in his suite at the hotel shortly after his plane landed." Menichini said Gore "talked for the first five minutes but he was really tired and just relaxed because it was late." Menichini: "We did them on back-to-back days and it was definitely an honor" (Venesky, Wilkes-Barre, *PA Citizen's Voice*, 9/26).

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54 POLICE LOG: Mayor Charged With Assault And Battery

Scottsville, VA, Mayor Christopher Long has been charged with assault and battery" by Steven Meeks, a Scottsville businessman. Meeks says Long "shoved him" following a 9/22 argument "about a table outside Long's restaurant, Caffè Bocce." Long says he never "touched Meeks" and maintains that "there's no credibility to this story." Meeks said that Long "had set up a table outside Caffè Bocce, despite town regulations curbing that kind of activity." Long contends that he set up the table "for a customer suffering from cancer and that he does not consider himself above the law." Meeks, who unsuccessfully ran for Town Council in May and was "charged with election fraud," said someone of Long's "standing should know better" (Savodnik, *Charlottesville Daily Progress*, 9/26).

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55 CAREER TRACK: Czwartacki Moving To Greener And Hook Pastures

Greener and Hook has announced that John Czwartacki,

press sec. fo r Sen. Majority Leader Trent Lott, will join the DC-based communications firm as a partner at the end of the 2000 congressional session. Co-founder William Greener III on Czwartacki: "His professionalism and renowned communications skills will be invaluable to our expanding client base." Czwartacki, who was comm. dir. for ex-Rep. Bill Paxon (R-NY) and spokesperson for the House GOP Conference, called the post "the opportunity of a lifetime" and said: "I look forward to continuing to assist my Republican allies and maintaining close contact with my friends in the Washington media" (release, 9/25).

A Wendy Forecast

Wendy Balazik has joined the Sierra Club as the group's Media Coordinator. Balazik most recently served on the legislative team of TX Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D). Prior to that, the native Virginian worked for Sen. Chuck Robb (D-VA) (e-mail, 9/25).

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MEDIA MONITOR

This Morning

"GMA" hosted Al Gore. "Washington Journal" hosted National Journal's Mark Murray, Time's Elaine Shannon, and Fmr . NATO Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Wesley Clark. Click [Earlybird](#) for a complete listing of guests on last night's political shows.

On Top Of The World, From The Land Down Under

NBC's primetime Olympic viewership has been "disappointing," but "Today" has "won the gold" in Nielsen ratings. Last week was the "forth-most-watched week" in the show's 49 years. (Philadelphia Inquirer, 9/26)

Rain In Spain

Tim Russert, on NBC's "contractual decision to air" baseball instead of the debates on October 3rd: "I'm praying for rain."

And CBS has announced that debate viewers will have the option of hearing the exchanges en Espanol, simulcast via "the second audio program" or SAP (Shister, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 9/26).

Dave Answers The Critic s

David Letterman commented last night on his mention in a recent *New York Times Magazine* article on political humor and the late shows in last Sunday's *Times Magazine*. **Chris Kelly**, an ex-"Late Show" staff writer, now head writer of "Politically Incorrect," says Letterman is "a nonvoting Republican" (Sella, 9/24).

Letterman: "I'm characterized in the article as 'a nonvoting Republican.' ... Nonvoting Republican. Now when I heard this, frankly, I was insulted. I found both of these things insulting. ... Alright, let's take it one at a time. The nonvoting issue. OK, I voted in my first election and I believe -- because my memory, you know I was on the pump too long, so I just, I don't, I don't know. I'm doing the best I can. So, I believe I voted in my first election. I would have been 22. I registered to vote and voted in Muncie, Indiana when I was a student at Ball State. ... I voted in 1968. That was my first election. I voted in 1968. And also, that's when elections were, we had like an ugly, awful war going on. It's not an election about who's banging intern s you know. This is like 1968. ... That was my first election. I was very excited and I voted in 1968. I believe I voted in 1972. Now here things get a little hazy because shortly thereafter I move to California and I don't recall ever reregistering in California and frankly that really kin d of coincided with my

"A kiss doesn't last forever." --
CNN's **Bill Schneider**, on **Gore's**
dip in the polls, "IP," 9/25.

<!--|-->

cocktail waitress days. A lot of stuff got by me that I wasn't really paying attention to in those days."

Letterman, on his voting record: "I'm not saying that my voting record is perfect. ... I've missed a few because I feel like -- and I don't even know what the policy is -- but I'd feel stupid voting out of ignorance, if in fact you can feel stupid about being ignorant. I just don't know. I'm not saying I showed up for every election because, some of them -- I just don't know what's going on, so I think, 'Well, maybe I don't want to.' Do you know what I'm saying? I'm not going to go in there and just pull the party lever." Letterman, after proving, citing his New Caanan, CT voting record, that he voted in elections from 1988 through '96: "I've established, yes, I do vote."

Letterman, on whether he's a GOPer: "I am not a Republican. No, I am not a Democrat. I have never registered with party affiliation, yet I have voted, and I believe I have voted for both Democrats and also Republicans. Am I either one? Absolutely not. Ladies and gentlemen -- I am an American. ... It goes on to say here the reason that I am a Republican, according to the article, is because at some point I was quoted as saying that I found **Rush Limbaugh** entertaining. Well, that's true. I've listened to Rush Limbaugh's show and I do. He's entertaining. He also happens to be a giant bag of gas, but he's entertaining. He's an entertaining bag of gas. ... Summing up -- do I vote? Absolutely. Is it a perfect record? No. Do I vote? Am I registered currently? Yes and since 1984. Am I a Republican? No. Rush Limbaugh is a bag of gas. There you go ("Late Show," CBS, 9/25).

Boys Will Be Boys

What follows is the transcript of a voicemail left for FNC's **Brit Hume** from ABC's **Sam Donaldson**, after Hume wore a bow tie during a broadcast of SR. It was aired by a bemused Hume at the end of the roundtable last night. Dan is

apparently anti-bow tie:

ABC's **Donaldson**, on **Brit Hume**'s choice of neckwear:
"I'm shocked. We all know that our business is going down-market. We all know that we will stoop to almost anything to gain viewers. We all know that we've given up all the respectability that over the years we have tried to accrue to ourselves as serious, solid newspeople. But a bow tie? A BOW TIE? Am I correctly informed? I, myself, have not seen this. It's a sight I don't want to see. My brilliant successor, who carried on, and even eclipsed whatever little prestige I might have accumulated in that [White House] beat, and then went on to fame and fortune as the anchor the Fox network -- a bow tie? The **George F. Will** of his era? I shed a tear. What has happened? Goodbye, my son. May God go with you. I cannot" ("Special Report," FNC, 9/25).

Jerry Calls Christiane On The Carpet

"Politically Incorrect" Producer **Jerry Nachman**, on CNN's Amanpour speech at RTNDA: "Christiane gave a very stirring, stem-winder speech about how we have lost our way. It was a terrific speech where she talked about the de-emphasis on international news and the fact that we are not investigating like we used to investigate and that we are trivializing news, and that was fine. Then, all of a sudden, she says -- and I am going to paraphrase this ... she said something like 'And how did we,' meaning the journalists there, 'allow someone like George W. Bush, with his qualifications, to get this far along in the electoral process?' That's a direct quote. ... Some eyebrows went up [in the RTNDA newsletter 'Shop Talk'] and said, 'You work for CBS news, you work for CNN and you're married to a former Clinton administration spokesman.' And to be fair ... we've got another candidate out there who three professional prosecutors said should be investigated, so why not question his qualifications?" ("O'Reilly Factor," FNC, 9/25).

O'Reilly Against The World!

LA Times' Rosenberg wrote a review of the new O'Reilly Factor book Monday, "in the ridiculous style of ... [the] book written by Bill O'Reilly, ridiculous host of 'The O'Reilly Factor,' a ridiculous interview series on the Fox News Channel." Rosenberg characterizes it as "214 pages reading like they were written by someone who had spent the night drinking 214 cups of coffee," and criticizes the style of its composition, writing, "he miraculously stretches this rubber band of self-adoring thoughtoids into something the length of a book" (9/25).

As you may imagine, O'Reilly fired back in his inimitable style.

FNC's **O'Reilly**, on the sales of his book and the "media elite": "What is happening here is not about commerce, or ratings. It is about raw power. For many years the elite media controlled what you saw on the television news. A very few men decided what stories would be covered and how they would be presented. That is all over now, and the power of decision is being handed back to the American people where it belongs. Because networks like Fox News Channel have the time and the inclination to give you a wide variety of fact and opinion, the stranglehold on information that the elite media once had is gone. But that is not going down well. *LA Times* writer Howard Rosenberg fired the first salvo, writing a vicious piece attacking the Factor book. By the end of the story old Howard was almost hysterical. Take it easy, Howard, it's only a book! No need to raise your cholesterol level. Of course I expected the attacks, because the elite media does not want powerful voices outside of its control. ... I think the Factor TV program will soon be number one in the cable news world and the Factor book has a shot at topping the *New York Times* bestseller list in a couple of weeks. Howard Rosenberg and other agenda-driven pundits can't stop the wishes of the American people" ("O'Reilly Factor," FNC, 9/25).

Laugh Track

David Letterman: "We're operating on a delay, which means that these jokes that I'm going to tell you bombed about 20 hours ago in Australia. ... NB C is showing us videotape of the games that took place nearly a day before. If NBC were more behind the times, they would be CBS." On the Clintons: " I see where President Clinton and his -- you remember President Clinton? Ho w many of you? -- he and his lovely wife are looking for an apartment here in New York City, Pied-a-Terre. I believe it's French. Pied-a-Terre. And I thought, 'Well, good.' I thought, 'Well, good luck Tubby when they see that impeachment on the application.'" Letterman, on the theft of Bush's campaign secrets: "Al Gore is being accused of stealing George Bush campaign secrets. That's like stealing the blueprints for Firestone tires." On O.J.: "O.J. Simpson apparently has bought a house in Miami. Yeah, until the deal closes he's staying with the Gonzalez family. ... O.J.'s girlfriend, good gig by the way -- don't you read the papers? -- she says now that O.J. went nuts and burglarized her home. Now here's wha t O.J. says. He says, 'Nope. She gave me a key, I went in and did some wash , and I took out the trash.' He's amazing. He's always got three alibis. . . . But we do know for a fact that O.J. went to her house and obviously she was not home because she's still alive" ("Late Show," CBS, 9/25).

Jay Leno on the Olympic drug problems: "As you probably heard, some Bulgarian weight lifters were sent home from the Olympics. I guess their medals were taken away or something ? George W. Bush said today that he sympathizes with the Bulgarians, becaus e like him they don't speak English very well and have a history of drug abuse." More Leno, on Bush: "It's been a rough week for Bush and it's onl y Monday. MSNBC's Brian Williams asked Bush point blank, flat out, he asked if he had dyslexia. Bush said, no, he does not have dyslexia. He said he eats three big meals a day." More Leno, on Gore: "More problems for AL Gore. ABC News reporting that

there is a spy for Al Gore working in the Bush campaign. I guess the spy was easy to spot because he was the only one over there who knew what he was doing" ("Tonight Show," NBC, 9/25).

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<http://slate.msn.com/MovieReview/00-10-05/MovieReview.asp>

CULTUREBOX Judith Shulevitz

Alan Wolfe Turns Evangelical 01:24 PM

<http://slate.msn.com/code/Culturebox/Culturebox.asp?Show=10/5/2000&idMessage=6213>

KEEPING TABS Jennifer Mendelsohn

Olympic sex shockers, plus other tasty tidbits from the tabs. 12:30 PM

<http://slate.msn.com/keepingtabs/00-10-05/keepingtabs.asp>

SPORTS NUT Jeremy Derfner

Are you ready for the Microsoft Mariners? 04:00 PM

http://slate.msn.com/tagteam/entries/00-10-05_90955.asp

THE WEEK/THE SPIN Michael Brus

Three years in jail ... do I hear more? And more takes in the news.

04:00 PM

<http://slate.msn.com/Spin/00-10-02/Spin.asp?Show=10/5/2000>

THE BREAKFAST TABLE Dahlia Lithwick and Tony Mauro

Justice Rehnquist's annual violation of church and state. 03:30 PM

<http://slate.msn.com/code/breakfast/breakfast.asp?Show=10/5/2000&idMessage=6217&idBio=204>

CHATTERBOX Timothy Noah

Matt Drudge, Internet Snob 02:43 PM

<http://slate.msn.com/code/chatterbox/chatterbox.asp?Show=10/5/2000&idMessage=6215>

EXPLAINER Emily Yoffe

How Does a Tax Break Work? 01:52 PM

<http://slate.msn.com/code/explainer/explainer.asp?Show=10/5/2000&idMessage=6214>

DEAR PRUDENCE

Do we tell dad about his wife's affair? Plus other questions on manners and morals. 12:30 PM

<http://slate.msn.com/DearPrudence/00-10-05/DearPrudence.asp>

OMNIVORE Inigo Thomas

More takes on JFK Jr.'s life and death, plus other news in arts and culture. 12:30 PM

<http://slate.msn.com/Omnivore/00-10-02/Omnivore.asp>

STAMATY

Gore snatches defeat from the jaws of victory. 12:30 PM

<http://slate.msn.com/stamaty/00-10-05/stamaty.asp>

THE BOOK CLUB A.O. Scott and James Fallows, Christopher Caldwell, and Sarah Lyall

Ishiguro's latest "isn't a mystery. It's a hoax." 12:06 PM

<http://slate.msn.com/code/BookClub/BookClub.asp?Show=10/5/2000&idMessage=6212&idBio=205>

DIARY Thomas Beller

That party from Eyes Wide Shut? Last night I was there. 10:00 AM

<http://slate.msn.com/diary/00-10-02/diary.asp>

SLATE LINKS

Columnists, reviews, transcripts, and gossip on the Web. 10:00 AM

<http://slate.msn.com/SlateFavorites/99-04-29/SlateFavorites.asp>

INTERNATIONAL PAPERS Seth Stevenson

Tofu consumption plummets in Japan, plus other news from around the globe. 10:00 AM

<http://slate.msn.com/InterNatPapers/00-10-05/InterNatPapers.asp>

POLITICS Chris Suellentrop

Is Gore a pathological liar? And other campaign stories from around the Web. 07:15 AM

<http://slate.msn.com/code/politics/politics.asp?Show=10/5/2000&idMessage=4349>

TODAY'S PAPERS Scott Shuger

Peace Prospects--Not Albright 04:36 AM

<http://slate.msn.com/code/TodaysPapers/TodaysPapers.asp?Show=10/5/2000&idMessage=6203>

CARTOON INDEX

Slate's debate cartoons. 12:01 AM

<http://slate.msn.com/CartoonIndex/00-05-09/CartoonIndex.asp>