

February 27, 1998

MEMORANDUM TO THE FILE

FROM: Bobbie Greene
RE: Piece in *The Washington Times*

On February 17, 1998, the attached item appeared in *The Washington Times*, apparently lifted from *The American Spectator*. I don't normally read either of these publications, but the story was brought to my attention by a colleague who found it in the White House clips. After some discussion with the press staff, it was decided that a public response would not be advisable. However, I do want it noted in the files that this article is patently false and contains not a shred of accurate information.

To begin with, I did not speak to the First Lady at all on January 21st, and did not make the trip to Goucher College. Although I was scheduled to go with Mrs. Clinton to Baltimore, our plans changed the day before and I remained in Washington. Furthermore, the article's description of the First Lady's demeanor and behavior runs counter to all the first-hand reports of those who traveled with her. Finally, those who accompanied the First Lady have stated emphatically that there were no phone calls from the president and none of the reported conversations ever took place.

Alice in Wonderland

"The explosion of interest in 'illegal leaks' leaves some conservatives feeling a bit burned," National Journal reports.

"The record of the independent counsel in the Iran-Contra matter will show a ceaseless pattern of leaking," asserts Elliott Abrams, who pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor in that probe.

"What about those damaging leaks from Anita Hill's FBI file that almost undid Clarence Thomas? The focus was only on the seriousness of the [sexual harassment] charge," Virginia Thomas, Justice Thomas's wife, said, adding: "Does it feel like 'Alice in Wonderland'?" At times, right now, yes, it does."

Different story

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton says she first heard about the Monica Lewinsky scandal from her husband on the morning of Jan. 21, but anonymous White House sources tell a different story.

"She first heard about it from news clips and Roberta Green [her deputy chief of staff] before leaving the White House" for a trip to Baltimore's Goucher College for a speech on race relations, one source told the American Spectator.

"She was upset, but not visibly so. Just chilly and withdrawn. It was not an enjoyable train ride to Baltimore." The president phoned the train three times, but his wife refused to take the calls.

"The only sign of emotion we saw was when it was reported on Friday that one of the gifts her husband gave to Lewinsky was the Walt Whitman book, 'Leaves of Grass.' She looked shaken, and said, 'He gave me the same book after our second date.'"

Rewards program

"For years, presidents have rewarded political fund raisers and donors with positions on boards and commissions, and even with ambassadorships. Clinton, however, has raised that practice to a new level," says U.S. News & World Report.

"Records show that more than one-third of his 564 appointments to boards and commissions in 1995 and 1996 were Democratic Party donors. The appointees, their families, and companies gave more than \$5 million to party candidates," the magazine said.

"Advisory committees for trade policy, on the Kennedy Center, on historic preservation, even the Library of Congress Trust Fund

Inside Politics



Board, have at least half of their members chosen from lists of party donors. Of the 99 members appointed to Clinton's four top trade bodies, 49 were donors. Between 1993 and 1997, these 49 gave \$5 million. While some critics call it selling out, other observers note that board members receive little or no pay, and some boards are innocuous."

Sinner strategy

An unidentified Democratic consultant who does work for the White House thinks he knows why President Clinton is waiting to explain his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

"What I think the calculation is, in Clinton's mind, is trying to figure out how much he has to confess to," the consultant told the Chicago Tribune's Roger Simon. "He is waiting to see what [independent counsel Kenneth] Starr develops. And at some point, it will be, 'I confess my sins, I ask forgiveness and I seek redemption.'"

No 'arrangement'

Hollywood producers Linda Bloodworth Thomason and husband Harry have been busy trying to help the Clintons out of their current mess. They even joined the first couple over the weekend at Camp David, reports New York Post gossip columnist Liz Smith, who said Mrs. Thomason recently told her:

"There are those Washington society matrons married to important men who want to sully the Clintons' marriage. They want everyone to believe that the Clintons have 'an arrangement.' That thought is preposterous."

"Almost everyone miscalculates [the Clintons'] marriage. It is an extremely private affair which has lasted 20 years. I mean, these are people who hold hands backstage and let go in front of the cameras — the exact opposite of

most public couples. Hillary and Bill are closest friends. And if you think about it, they don't have to 'make up their feelings for each other' — he's already elected."

Boxer's letter

Sen. Barbara Boxer, the California Democrat who is up for reelection this year, sent out a fundraising letter recently in which she accused the GOP congressional leadership of plotting to eliminate the minimum wage and Social Security.

"When I ran in 1992, I never guessed that the Senate would change so drastically just two years later. I never guessed that my voice and commitment would be needed just to stop the congressional leadership from dragging us backward into the past. Back to the days when America had no minimum wage. . . . Back to the days when we had no health insurance for our seniors," Mrs. Boxer wrote.

McCaffrey vs. Gingrich

White House drug policy chief Barry R. McCaffrey charged yesterday that House Speaker Newt Gingrich was playing partisan politics and being "irresponsible" in rejecting out-of-hand President Clinton's plan to reduce illegal drug use.

"I've got an enormous concern about this," Gen. McCaffrey told the Associated Press.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gingrich both talked about drug policy in separate radio addresses Saturday, with the speaker dismissing the president's long-term plan as a "hodgepodge of half-steps and half-truths" and saying he will ask the House to pass a resolution asking for the White House to withdraw it. He described it as the "definition of failure."

"This strikes me as this brilliant man Newt Gingrich conducting drug policy by what I

would have termed in my last life as 'ready, fire, aim,' said the anti-drug chief, a retired Army general.

Trump cards

Many Democrats think they have the Republicans on the run when it comes to approving a tobacco settlement, which, so far, is not a high priority for the GOP.

"What has happened is that Democrats in Congress have decided that they have found in the tobacco issue a political magic carpet they can ride to smashing victories in the November congressional elections. Republicans are divided and nervous," says New York Times reporter David E. Rosenbaum.

However, the GOP may have a trump card.

"Republicans are already talking big government. The intention of Democrats, they say, is to raise a large sum from the tobacco companies that the government can spend on a wide range of social programs."

Job creators

A new bipartisan political action committee announced its formation here yesterday to promote congressional candidates who support economic policies that encourage entrepreneurs.

The American Association of Entrepreneurs is being started by Jim Hoak, a Dallas businessman and venture capital specialist, and Jack Albertine, a veteran Washington business consultant. They are building a board of directors that already includes prominent businessmen such as William Farley, CEO of Fruit of the Loom, and John McCoy, chairman of Banc One Corp. The new PAC hopes to be able to contribute at least \$300,000 to help "entrepreneurial-friendly" candidates win their races this fall.

One of the PAC's other activities will be a rating system that will track the voting records of lawmakers each year. Mr. Hoak said the PAC would announce "the top 10 job creators in Congress and the bottom 10 job killers" this summer.

Confused

Marcia Clark, the O.J. Simpson prosecutor, was stumped.

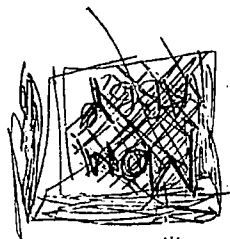
"Are you a Republican or Democrat?" asked Chris Matthews on CNBC's "Hardball."

"Oh, God! I forgot," Miss Clark replied. "I think I'm a Republican, but I never vote that way."

• Greg Pierce can be reached at 202/636-3285 or by e-mail (Pierce@twtm.com).

The Washington Times

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1998



Media watchers challenge sex, violence on TV news

By Robert Weller
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER A media watchdog group will ask the Federal Communications Commission to force four TV stations in the Denver market to curb sex and violence in their news as a condition of license renewal.

Since the FCC no longer requires TV stations to meet any criteria in how to handle news, such as the previous fairness and equal-time doctrines, the group is attacking the stations as threats to the public safety.

"We're asking the FCC to protect us. What these stations are broadcasting is harmful," said Paul Klite, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Media Watch.

The four commercial VHF stations are KUSA, the NBC affiliate; KCNC, CBS; KMGH, ABC; and KWGN, an independent. Mr. Klite's group monitored news broadcasts on the four from 1994 through 1997 and came up with a "mayhem index," the percentage of news about crime, disasters, war and terrorism in each news show.

On KWGN, 45 percent of the news monitored concerned violence, according to the report. KUSA had 47 percent, KCNC had 54 percent, and KMGH had 55 percent.

The report also criticized the stations for providing limited coverage on important local issues, including elections, the environment, education, arts, poverty, children and AIDS.

The group said it will file a challenge with the FCC today, asking it to deny new licenses for the stations unless they limit violence and sex in their news pro-

grams.

Mr. Klite and other media critics regard the license challenges as a national test case.

"It's a very historic thing. Nobody has ever done this before: go after all the major stations in a town. It could give the FCC a chance to send a message to the broadcasters," said Danny Schechter, who wrote "The More You Watch, The Less You Know."

Jack MacKenzie, news director of KCNC, questioned how Mr. Klite's group classified stories. For example, he said, would the Monica Lewinsky investigation be a sex story even though it involves allegations of perjury by President Clinton?

"We have a lot of people who give us advice on how to cover the news. And we take a lot of it seriously. We do have a public license, and we do have to take it seriously," Mr. MacKenzie said.

The other stations had no immediate comment when contacted by the Associated Press.

A study of eight major markets by the University of Miami, including New York City, found twice as much crime news as political news on local TV, and 15 times more crime news than education news.

Mr. MacKenzie said his station has its own process of determining how much coverage to give crime stories that includes "whether the story is representative of the community or just another event that kind of just happens. We absolutely run all our stories through a filter."

He said the success his station has makes it possible to give up valuable advertising to run nonstop coverage of disasters like Denver's October 1997 blizzard.

Justice addresses legal-scientific conflicts

cal question did not determine the answer to the legal question."

Other scientific issues arising in the courts today include the validity of a "sexual psychopathy statute," the potential toxicity or carcinogenic quality of chemicals and the reliability of a polygraph (lie detector) test.

Justice Breyer went on to cite forthcoming cases that involve scientific proof of paternity, the scientific validity of DNA sampling, voiceprints or expert predictions of a defendant's "future dangerousness."

Federal courts commonly review, he said, questions of a drug's safety, the risks of nuclear waste disposal, the potential of toxic leaks and the effect on wildlife from building a dam.

In a news conference afterward, Justice Breyer said that in the past, the creation of a specialized "science court" — much like a tax court or administrative court — had been proposed to handle cases involving scientific claims.

"There wasn't a practical way to form something like that into a useful policy tool," he said, noting that the idea is moribund now.

Justice Breyer said the court's "right to die" ruling last year, in which it rejected assisted suicide as a fundamental constitutional right, involved a complex question of how far medical technology can reduce or eliminate the risk of dying in severe pain.

That was a significant scientific fact that was important background, he said, though "the medi-

the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Scientific experts must live with that, he added, "even if doing so means, from time to time, what is, from a scientific perspective, an incorrect result."

Justice Breyer also mentioned what scientists already know: There can be divided opinion on many scientific evaluations or predictions.

He said the goal of jurists is to search for law that recognizes scientific validity and bars unreliable science from the courtroom.

Celebrating its 150th year in the city where it was founded, the AAAS has held hundreds of conference sessions, many of them grappling with how science often is misunderstood or manipulated.

By Larry Witham
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

PHILADELPHIA — The growing number of scientists who testify in court or give expert opinions must accept that untrained judges and juries have the final say on their findings, a Supreme Court justice told scientists here yesterday.

Justice Stephen G. Breyer added that a possible solution to scientific "truth" being lost in courtroom justice is a new "pilot project" in which judges draw on an expert panel set up by science organizations.

"Any effort to bring better science into the courtroom must respect the jury's constitutionally specified role," Justice Breyer told

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