



### *Why Wasn't Chelsea Invited?*

The White House insists it isn't true, but the Montgomery County police officers who busted vice-presidential daughter **Sarah Gore** for underage possession of an open container of alcohol insist she and her friends tried to pull rank on them. Police officers called to the scene of a raucous party in Chevy Chase, Maryland, say that Gore, while not belligerent, repeatedly stated her last name, adding that her father is the Vice President of the United States. Her friends took things further, insisting the police officers were making a serious career mistake by issuing the Second Daughter a citation for the infraction, which carries a maximum fine of \$500. Immediately after the beer bust, police officers spoke about the teens' attempts to intimidate them, only to have the department later announce that the officers had been "mistaken" in their interpretation of events.

### *Dirty Business*

**Bill Clinton** is said by Judge David Hale to have used the Small Business Administration to his political advantage in Arkansas, and now it appears that Clinton is trying to do so again, this time at the expense of Republican presidential candidate **Phil Gramm**.

With the help of SBA staffers, the White House has compiled information from a 1988 investigation of Texas SBA officials who allegedly forced bribes from minority contractors in return for government work. Gramm was never a target of the formal investigation, but a number of his cronies and SBA appointees in Texas were. Reporters in Houston and Dallas say they have been approached by former SBA employees and local political gadflies claiming to have "dirt" on Gramm, only to find it's all material they've already used in past Gramm campaign coverage.

### *Judge Clark vs. Maureen*

When former Reagan national security adviser Judge **William Clark** spoke at the Center for Security Policy's October 17 "Keeper of the Flame" dinner in honor of **Ronald Reagan**, it reminded everyone why he had been the pro-life movement's favorite candidate for a Supreme Court seat. Clark's remarks focused not on foreign policy, but on Reagan's belief in prayer and his strong opposition to abortion. Although the "Evil Empire" speech is normally thought of as a major foreign policy statement, the passages Clark read from it showed it to be the speech that laid out Reagan's pro-life position. The 300 dinner guests applauded wildly, much to the dismay of **Maureen Reagan**, who sat at the dais, visibly miffed.

### *The Party of the People*

Among unreported visitors to the White House in late October were supermarket mogul **Ronald Burkle**, Ticketmaster President and CEO and Pearl Jam nemesis **Fred Rosen**, and California Democratic Party Chairman **Bill Press**. The trio flew in on Burkle's Gulfstream IV (apparently not the same Burkle-owned aircraft that became an issue in the San Francisco mayoral race when a disc jockey overheard candidate **Willie Brown** bragging he'd flown on it regularly, a claim denied by Brown supporter Burkle), and they were later spotted by the Prowler at Morton's in Georgetown on the eve of their meeting with Bill Clinton. They presumably discussed Mr. Clinton's re-election prospects in California, where the president has attended a fundraiser at Burkle's Greenacres estate in Beverly Hills and been hailed by Press as "California's best friend." It's not clear what tactical moves Press has in mind to boost his party's presumed choice, but only two years ago he got into trouble for linking Gov. **Pete Wilson** to New York's World Trade Center bombing.

### *What a Day for a Daydream*

America wouldn't give Minister **Louis Farrakhan** and his Million Man Marchers a national holiday for their Washington get-together, but staffers on Capitol Hill got one anyway. Most Senate and House offices allowed female employees to take the day off, without counting it against their vacation time. Meanwhile, the female employees of such progressives as Reps. **Maxine Waters** ("Mama Doc"), **Charles Rangel**, **John Lewis**, and Sen. **Carol Moseley-Braun** were told to come to work. Those who did have to work got one unexpected bonus, though—the easiest commute to Washington in recent memory. Apparently fearing the worst, most workers stayed away from downtown, which at high noon was as empty as a forgotten mining town.

### *Pope Vetoes White House Visit*

Vatican officials politely but firmly rebuffed what they interpreted as "unseemly" overtures by the Clinton White House for a papal visit to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue during **John Paul II's** recent trip to the U.S. A Vatican source says that the Pope was put off by Clinton's warm regard for Boris Yeltsin and what he viewed as the Clintons' shabby treatment of Mother Teresa during her visit to Washington two years ago.

### *Doledrums in New Hampshire*

Private campaign polling is showing that **Bob Dole** might meet his Waterloo in New Hampshire. Some of the numbers have *Manchester Leader* darling **Pat Buchanan** pulling off an upset in the Granite State's February primary, with newcomer **Steve Forbes** finishing a strong second. After only three weeks of saturating the state with television ads, Forbes saw his numbers jump from a 4 percent share to between 10 and 12 percent.

## Leader's Fixed Past

New doubts have arisen about **Leader**, **Bob Dole's** restless schnauzer and a leading prop in the Senate majority leader's presidential campaign. A former State Department official now says that improper influence was exerted on Leader's behalf at a dog show at the Bonjour Pet Grooming Boutique in Georgetown in 1989. The former official says her Lhasa

Apso was the clear favorite for a blue ribbon, but that was before a Dole operative and handler informed the judges that Leader was also an entrant. While it's not known, she says, whether the Senator himself was directly involved (neither he nor **Elizabeth Dole** attended the dog show), the judges promptly awarded Leader the blue ribbon. Few spectators agreed with the outcome. Bonjour has since moved, ham-

pering efforts to confirm the story, but it is further evidence that Leader's value as a campaign asset is now under a cloud. As reported here last month, Leader recently broke away from the Dole interns who were walking him, and ran across Constitution Avenue. Only with the aid of hot dogs purchased from a street vendor could they lure him back. The champ could not be reached for comment. □

## "Who is Harry Thomason?": A Day at the Travelgate Hearings

At one point during October 24th's politically charged House Government Reform and Oversight Committee hearings into Travelgate, ranking Democrat **Rep. Cardiss Collins** from Illinois inquired of her counsel, "Who is **Harry Thomason**?" The question said volumes about the degree to which the Travelgate fiasco has been glossed over by Democrats so far. Thomason, of course, is the Friend of Bill who was given the use of an East Wing office and a White House pass—and was also the driving force behind the wholesale firing of the Travel Office staff.

He is also the co-owner, with **Darnell Martens**, of an airline charter company called TRM, which made a bid to obtain a \$499,000 contract to inventory the federal civilian aircraft fleet. In February 1993 Thomason gave Clinton a memo, written by Martens, detailing the TRM bid. The president then made a handwritten notation on it: "These guys are sharp. Should discuss with Panetta and Lader." (**Leon Panetta** was then director of the Office of Management and Budget, and **Phil Lader** was deputy White House chief of staff. Senior adviser to the president **Bruce Lindsey** also met with Thomason and Martens about the business proposal.)

"We've demonstrated our capabilities to the President," the memo read, "by coordinating all aircraft activities for the Clinton for President Committee, the Clinton/Gore '92 Committee, and the Clinton/Gore Transition Team. Now we have an opportunity to make a substantive contribution to the deficit reduction plans."

Plans to hire TRM were dropped, however, after the Travel Office firings exploded into a political disaster. In a classic bit of "cover your backside," Panetta and other senior administration officials involved in the TRM talks then wrote memos in August to **Bernard Nussbaum**, then-counsel to the presi-

dent. The memos claimed no action had been taken on the TRM bid other than "a few meetings and memoranda."

Thomason, an obviously very busy man, is also the producer of the television show "Hearts Afire," starring special Clinton pal **Markie Post**. Like Thomason, the actress also became a valued White House consultant in the early months of Clinton's presidency after being invited to devise a plan to "improve the use of the White House as a tool for more clearly defining the philosophy, programs and goals of the president, the First Lady and this administration."

Yet another memo—a 10-pager entitled "The White House Project"—was written by Thomason and Post after they met with the likes of Lindsey, **George Stephanopoulos**, **Dee Dee Myers**, and **Mandy Grunwald**. The duo wrote, "The breakdown of long-range event planning has robbed the President and First Lady of a consistent, original style and identity for which they have always been known. It is imperative that we now create an environment in which their very original personal style, innovative character, keen intellect, and sincere appreciation for social, cultural and artistic endeavor and achievement can flourish."

The pair were greatly concerned by the scheduling and advance work at the White House: "Finally we should immediately hold a seminar for our advance teams on how to get the most appealing visuals from our events. . . . This is one of the few ways we can use members of the Hollywood community. We are assured the best and brightest art directors and set decorators would be glad to devote a day of their time to this project."

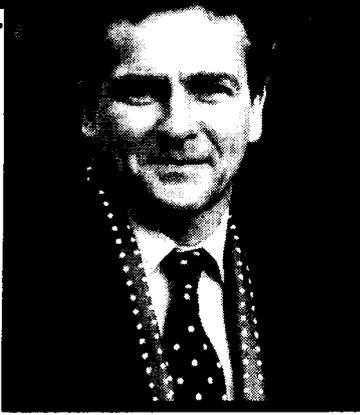
The concern about the advance teams raises a red flag for the oversight committee, since Post and Thomason conducted their staff interviews on April 30 and May 1, 1993—less than three weeks before the Travel Office staff was fired.

Given that the Travelgate hearings have centered in part on Thomason's central role in the fiasco, the White House had a full damage control team in place at the oversight committee hearing. Spotted pacing the halls and lurking in the committee Democrats' anteroom was White House spokesman **Mark Fabiani**, one of whose tasks was to manage the revelation that a close friend of the president had been maneuvering to grab a piece of lucrative White House business.

Fabiani was distributing copies of the original TRM bid memo that bore Clinton's handwritten notation to talk to Panetta and Lader. This was nothing more than a last-minute attempt to fake *glasnost*, for the memo had been withheld from congressional Republican investigators until that very morning.

As if to underscore just how politically explosive the Travelgate scandal is to the Clinton White House, Attorney General **Janet Reno** even tried a last minute maneuver to postpone the hearings until after the trial of former Travel Office director **Billy Dale**, whom the Justice Department has accused of embezzling Travel Office funds. Oversight committee chairman **Bill Clinger** denied the request.

One person who knows how explosive the hearings might become is career Justice Department lawyer **Faith Burton**. As the designated Justice Department liaison for the hearings, Burton has apparently been acting politically on behalf of the White House. California Rep. **Henry Waxman**, who ran the Democratic side of the oversight committee hearings, sent an aide into the audience to confer with Burton, who's no stranger to partisan machinations. As an assistant for **Sheila Foster Anthony**, Vince Foster's sister and from April 1993 to February 1995 an assistant attorney general for legislative affairs, Burton was caught leaking sensitive Justice Department documents to Democratic committee staff. □



## See No Evil

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

**H**oward Kurtz, the *Washington Post* reporter whose beat is media, has come up with a howler to be placed atop another howler and savored. The other day, when President Clinton committed one of his episodic blunders on the campaign trail (howler *numero uno*), most of the press assigned to his travels were off chomping down peppers and tortillas at a Mexican restaurant (howler *numero duo*). Had a Reuters reporter not foregone the enchiladas, the world might never have discovered that our great big lovable lug of a president remains as much a lug today as when he first tripped into the White House over two and one-half years ago.

In Texas he confided to an audience of high-toned Democrats that, *Aw shucks, fellers*, "Probably there are people in this room still mad at me at that [1993] budget because you think I raised your taxes too much. It might surprise you to know that I think I raised them too much, too." Tee hee—Yuppie humor.

Now that this narcissistic revelation has reverberated through Washington, the town's political seers are agape. Republicans and Democrats alike blew up at the untutorable greenhorn in the White House. First he blamed Democrats on the Hill for forcing the huge tax increase on him—a patent lie. Then he blamed the Republicans—another lie. Yet why was the press downing Mexican

cuisine during Clinton's Texas speech? For that matter, why did most of the national press ignore the story a few weeks back when the Clintons' third White House counsel in less than three years suddenly left?

I have the answer. The Washington press corps has seen enough Clinton buffoonery. This is not only the most corrupt White House in history, it is the most incompetent. Our patriotic press is embarrassed. They are averting their gaze. The realization is sinking in that the Klinton Klutzes have been moving from pratfall to gaucherie to pratfall again since the last inaugural ball, and the klutzes are not getting any better.

The very day Clinton blurted out his admission that his 1993 tax increase was excessive (October 17), his White House Travel Office directed the press plane that accompanied Air Force One to Texas to the wrong airport! Air Force One landed at Kelly Air Force

Base. The press plane landed at San Antonio International Airport. Do you remember back in May of 1993 when the White House fired the entire White House Travel Office because of what it called "gross mismanagement"? Well, is this latest blunder an improvement? After firing the professional bureaucrats in the Travel Office, the Clinton administration demonstrated its knack for abusing power by prevailing on the FBI to allege criminal misbehavior to these innocent men.

The Clinton crony who effected the firings was the Hon. David Watkins, then White House Assistant to the President for Management Administration. Presumably in May of 1993 he was the genius who thought up the accusation of "gross mismanagement." A full seven months after the firings he consented to an interview with the General Accounting Office. According to the GAO report, "Watkins did not set any specific performance expectations with Mr. Dale [Travel Office head]. Mr. Watkins expected Mr. Dale to continue to run the Travel Office in the early months of the administration, but did not give him any specific goals." Then he fired Dale and his associates for "gross mismanagement" with criminal behavior implied.

This is what Watkins himself told the GAO! Moreover, according to the GAO report, Watkins "does not know if any Financial Integrity Act reviews were done of the Travel Office in the past two years. He is not familiar with the Financial Integrity Act." And there is more: "Mr. Watkins does not know the



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