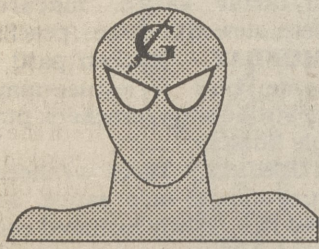


Ghostwriter



by Paul Rismiller

I've waited for President Clinton's much touted State-of-the-Union address before weighing in with my comments on the November Republican Wipeout and the Amazing Shrinking Presidency, on the theory that Bubba might just pull a rabbit out of his hat.

No such luck for Clinton and his leftist cronies.

In his over-long, disjointed speech, he said a lot of good things, attempting to co-opt the Republicans and their Contract with America... but the fact that those good things came from his mouth virtually rules out the possibility that he actually believes any of them. Like a reed in the wind, Bill floated all over the political spectrum, trying to please everybody, and effectively alienating everyone.

If we insist on electing men who will be the butt of national ridicule to the office of the presidency, why don't we just cut to the chase and appoint Rodney Dangerfield President-for-Life?

I mean, when he gets dissed by an innocent 10-year-old, my daughter Kristen, who referred to the Cracker-in-Chief as a "Meatball", you know the man is in serious trouble. It's almost enough to make me feel bad for the guy.

But I said almost. The fact is, no one but Bill and Hillary Clinton are responsible for the low ebb of the highest office in the land, with their transparent attempts to conceal their beliefs and true agenda. Despite the unsavory whining and sniveling of congressional Democrats, who point to Newt and the freshman Republicans, and of course, the American voters, who were obviously too stupid to allow them carte blanche to continue to fleece the country, the Clintons

Bubba blows the big one; voters about to ice arena

cut their own throats, and did a hatchet job on the Democratic party as a bonus.

Clinton has, in two short years, effectively turned his administration into a historical footnote.

The fact that the GOP has gained control over both houses of congress for the first time in 40 years cannot simply be laid at the feet of the Clintonistas...they announced to the world at large what they wanted to accomplish, and actually succeeded in turning congressional politics into a national race.

The Democrats are in a state of utterly hilarious denial. In fact, they're so distraught over the loss of their stranglehold on the House, they still haven't got the message that voters have been trying to send to Washington since 1988 - You must, finally, show some fiscal discipline.

That's what the Balanced Budget Amendment (and the all-important Super-Majority) are all about. The freshmen have foolishly accepted a promise that this will be brought to the floor next year. If the Democrats and "moderate" Republicans manage to defeat the Amendment, or effectively gut it by dropping Super-Majority, they will discover in 1996 that voters will be taking names and kicking butts.

It seems, moreover, that the Democrats are, as usual, going to breeze by the vital issues, and concentrate on what's really important (to them) - assassinating the character of that arch-demon - Newt Gingrich.

Thus we are treated to the spectacle of House Minority Whip David Bonior, latching onto a perfectly legal book deal like a pit-bull on a T-bone. Dave thinks taking money from Rupert Murdoch's media empire is a no-no. Does it surprise anyone that Bonior, not Newt, received a contribution from Murdoch's FOXPAC?

And on the rare occasions when the Demos aren't maligning the new Speaker, we get to see Dick Gephardt jockeying for position to challenge the corpse of Clinton in the '96 Primaries, by stealing the

ideas, if not the substance, of the GOP's Contract.

This is okay-dokey with me. I think Dick Gephardt has all the trustworthiness and character of the current occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Really.

The daily press in Luzerne county are ready to begin the death dirge for the arena if it comes to a vote. Apparently everyone agrees the voters, if given the chance, will spike the project. Boy, they're saying, are these pesky taxpayers stupid! So anti-progress!

Commissioner Frank Crossin has only postponed the inevitable by announcing he will vote for the referendum, thus putting a stake through the heart of this white elephant, only if it means higher taxes.

My only question is, if everyone is convinced the arena will be D.O.A. if left to the tender mercies of the voters, why have the local pols, and both papers, been so gung-ho for it? I mean, don't we elect these guys to represent us? Don't newspaper fancy themselves our defenders?

If the arena is such a hot idea, why isn't it a private venture? Oh, you mean put our own money where our mouths are? Nah, too risky!

I think the voters will do the right thing...they'll slap the fingers dipping into their wallets, and let the powers that be know, in no uncertain terms, that this turkey, and its subsequent, inevitable, payroll of half-wits and dumb cousins, will not be done on their dime.

And speaking of turkeys, the plan to bail out Mexico's economy is little more than backing up Wall Street investors who are supposed to know better. If you hand a Gold Card to a known check-bouncer, you are going to get burned.

But rather than lose their billions, they're lining up Uncle Sucker to back their bad loans, thus using our money to pay for their mistakes. In the meantime, the Mexican government arrogantly informs us how we are to accomplish this. Tell them, fat chance!

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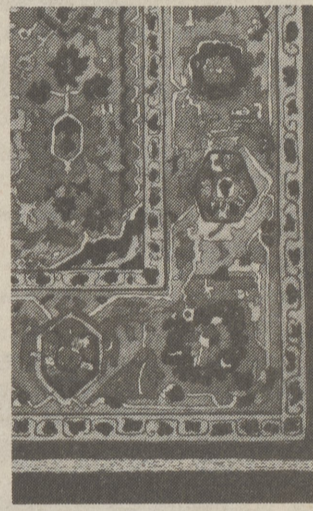
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Library news

Library displays special handmade quilt

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has on display in the office area a hand made quilt made by all 14 members of Junior Girl Scout Troop 645. The project is called Warm Up America. Each girl hand sewed a row of 10 blocks together and then machine sewed each row together. The completed top was placed over a layer of batting and a backing of muslin. Finally, it was hand tied to keep it all together. This quilt will be given to the Penns Woods Girl Scout Council, and be donated to local homeless shelters that serve families. By completing this project, the scouts have satisfied one of the requirements necessary to earn the Helping Hands patch.

Troop member of 645 are: Erin Sweptston, Jennifer Polachek, Jonelle Dickson, Helene Jayne, Michele Manke, Jamie Sulewski, Heidi Ellsworth, Rachel Kukoski, Diane Wertz, Lynn Kirkwood,

Lindsey Kelly, Shannon Rother, Danielle Zarambo and Cassie Mishanski. This quilt will be on display at the library until February 23.

The library will be selling valentines, to be hung in the library, from February 1 through the 14th. The valentines will carry messages from the individual donating \$1.00. Some suggestions for messages are: 'Reading a good book makes your heart skip a beat'; 'Love your library'; 'Open a book with your heart'; 'Happy Valentine's Day' or a special personal message from you to someone special. A dollar donation gets your message in print.

New books at the library: 'The Rocket and the Reich' by Michael J. Newfeld; 'Peenemunde and the Coming of the Ballistic Missile Era' is a story that starts at the German rocket development center at Peenemunde, a remote island off the Baltic coast. The

engineers were a brilliant cast of characters, with the creation of a technology valuable to Allied powers.

'Home Song' by LaVyrle Spencer is a powerful novel of a family whose future is imperiled by the past and asks the question, "Are there sins of the heart beyond forgiving?" Characters so credible we feel we've met them. Plots that explore contemporary domestic issues with a rare delicacy and lack of bias. Emotion that moves us repeatedly to smiles—and tears.

'Xanadu 3' edited by Jane Yolen is a science fiction novel that includes stories of fantasy and delight. Stories include 'Mollusk Dreams', 'East of the Sun and West of the Moon', and 'Champion'. We learn what the thrills of a roller coaster can do, we take a surprising journey through time and read a haunting tale of the power of harmony.

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