

OPINION

Small Picture

by Kurt Hildebrand

editor

I got lots to talk about today, so stand by.

War is unhealthy for children and other living things department — The Pentagon really isn't going to try to protect the entire country using Strategic Defense Initiative, they are going to try to protect missiles.

I am really not very bitter about this. I feel it is better to disappoint a bunch of missiles than it is to disappoint a bunch of people. Especially, since it is going to cost us a couple of hundred billion bucks. I would be really depressed if I made that kind of investment to pro-

tect myself only to find it wasn't going to work. Kind of like spending \$300 for a condom with holes in it.

From the Jesse, we never knew you department — the Reverend Jesse Jackson is number two in the race for the Democratic nomination for President and is breathing down Michael Dukakis's neck as they come around the far stretch. Gephardt is out — that is what happens when you haven't any eyebrows and you try to run for president. Speaking of out, I might have missed it, but when did Paul Simon drop out of the race, or did he.

From the Equal Time Department — George Bush is going to win the

Republican nomination and then be implicated in Iran-Contra — isn't that special.

From the Picture This Department — *Penthouse* is going to print a series of photographs of Deborah Murphree (the *Sun's* spelling), the New Orleans prostitute who brought Jimmy Swaggart low.

This is the kind of market I would like to see expanded myself. Women who seduce preachers and then become famous and milk the situation for all its worth. I'm sorry, that was terribly sexist. From the information I have, it was the other way around for the most part.

The fact of the matter is that no one would care what these guys do or when they do it if they didn't make such a big

deal when anyone else does it.

I mean talk about playing The Preacher and the Prostitute.

From the A Peace of the Action Department — American troops remain in Honduras awaiting a trip home. I am against sending troops anywhere unless you are going to put them to work. I remember when I was in the Navy, all we ever did was go around in circles, we never got to have any fun.

Well, Reagan went to all the trouble to send more than 3,000 airbourne troops to Honduras to take care of some trouble, and now he's pulling them out, because there apparently isn't going to be any trouble. Well, I have a little job for them. While it looks like

we can't use them in Nicaragua, there is this dude in Panama who looks like he could use a dose of gunboat diplomacy.

From the Samson & Delilah Department — Here's a tale of international intrigue with a sort of biblical twist. This guy named Mordechai Vanunu left his home country with a roll of film which contained pictures of Israel's nuclear capability. He proceeded to give these pictures and an extensive description of said nation's nuclear capability to the *Sunday Times of London*. He then met a girl named Cindy who led him out of Britain with the promise of sexual favors and into the hands of the Mossad in Rome. Talk about safe sex.

private i

by Seamus Brennan

opinion editor at large

It would appear inevitable that George Bush will be elected President in the coming national elections. As in years past, the discord, disarray in the Democratic party is not the sign of healthy, constructive dialogue, but the historical phenomenon of a party fragmenting, doing

the dreaded destructo-dance, gaining the momentum needed to explode, Hindenburg-style, live, in front of the tv cameras. (something you can tell your grandchildren, "I saw it happen...")

It has indeed degenerated into a confused mass, has lost sight of the unifying ideal, central theme which orders,

tames, the powerful conflicting desires of individual special interests into a cohesive political entity. It is true that the Democrats hold a commanding majority in Congress, however, the reason for their success in this area also doubles as the prime factor they fail to field a successful national candidate. It is not difficult to perceive, broadening your ideological base to the extent that Democrats have done; your appeal on a sub-national, state level

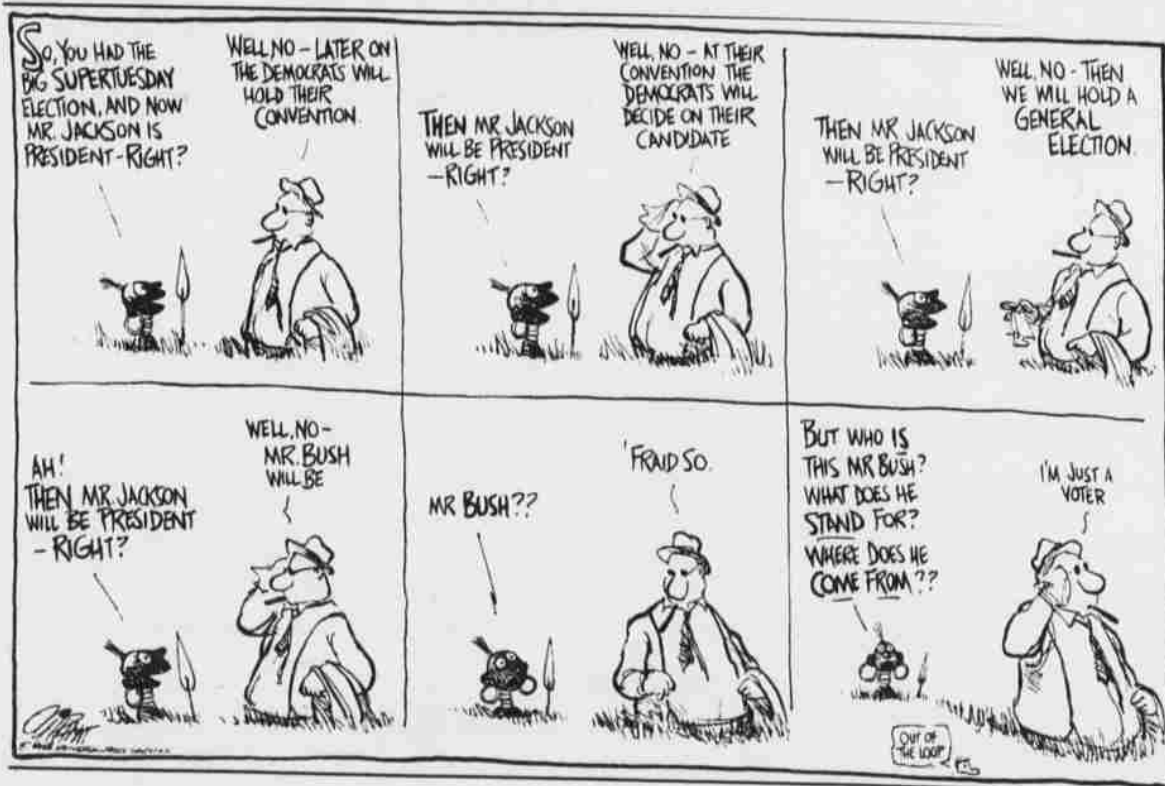
is easier to fine tune, respond to locally powerful interests. Trying to reconcile those competing claims on a national level becomes a confused nightmare.

If it would be possible for the Democratic Party to restore its national appeal, questionable, it would involve (deja vu- I heard it in '80 too) a search for ideas and principles beyond the very simple, very old, and, in the long run, not very intelligent theory of attract-

ing a constituency by promising a federal government which pays everyone's way (Come on kids, get on the bus, its free!!).

The Republican party, on the other hand, has demonstrated a politically advantageous solidarity in forming ranks behind George Bush. This may or may not demonstrate a greater political unity as much as it exemplifies the reflexive reaction of the herd to close ranks when faced with confusion, complete and utter.

What kind of president George Bush will prove is anyone's guess. I would suggest that Bush, a malleable, imitative sort of figure, might find it helpful to remember the promise which lay at the heart of Reagan's 1980 ascendancy, the promise to substantially reduce the size of the federal bureaucracy. It is a task Reagan failed to accomplish. If George Bush desires to step out of the Reagan shadow, he could begin at no better place than this glaring Reagan failure.



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