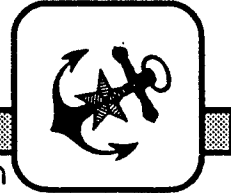


Opinion Page

MAY 31, 1996

Starboard Views

By Al Woodson



Personality disorder or missing link

Ship's log: Friday, May 31, 1996: Location: Sailing through the Paula Jones straits. Situation: Skipper Clinton claims he's in the military on active duty. First Mate Dole resigns post to seek Skipper status. Helmsman Newt calls Clinton "untruthful" (translation - liar) on national TV. Weather: Storms and rough seas moving in.

General Quarters: Stanley Renshon, a professor of political science at the City University of New York, in his book "High Hopes: The Clinton Presidency and the Politics of Ambition," presents a disturbing diagnosis of Bill Clinton that seems to capture the essence of the man.

Renshon is convinced that Clinton suffers from psychological disturbance known as the "narcissistic personality disorder," a disorder he describes as "characterized by, among other things, a pervasive pattern of grandiosity; a need for admiration ... a sense of entitlement; interpersonal exploitiveness; and arrogant, haughty behaviors or attitudes."

In a review in "The Washington Times Weekly" of Renshon's book, Dr. Richard Restak said, "High Hopes' has the potential to become one of those rare books that defines an era or a personage — of a president who future historians may justly conclude exemplifies many of our culture's core values." The author, along with many inside and outside government, doubts that Clinton "has a clear, relatively consistent set of core ideals, values or principles." Obviously, what we have here is the possibility of a culture

and a president whose core values is the absence of core values.

A country or a president with no core values is scary. Bill Clinton's veto of the ban of partial birth killings could just be considered pathetic but for the fact his action is so offensive to the sensibilities of most Americans. The horrible procedure is akin to those in Dr. Mengele's Auschwitz Procedures Handbook.

The President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and America's seven Roman Catholic Archbishops sent Clinton a strong rebuke for his failure to end, what they say is the "most heinous act to kill a tiny infant just seconds from taking his or her first breath outside the womb."

Other religious leaders including Billy Graham and Pope John Paul II joined in sharply rebuking the president for his veto.

Clinton now finds himself in the company of other narcissistic personalities like Fidel Castro, Saddam Hussein, Daniel Ortega and the Ayatollah Khomeini all of whom have been condemned by the Holy Father.

"Washington Times" writer Paul Bedard said, "Cardinal Bernard Law of Boston, one of the most influential American Bishops says Clinton should resign."

Linda Bowles, writing in the May/June issue of "Virginia Conservative Magazine" said, "The President has implied that the partial birth abortion is used only in cases of dire necessity — but that is a deception. Data

readily available to the President show that as many as 80 percent of these killings are 'purely elective,' meaning there is no medical basis for them."

In a letter to the President from the Bishops, a letter she describes as 'unprecedented and provoked by Clinton's literal sentence of death on healthy infants and his lawyerly trickery in trying to justify himself,' the Bishops stated, "It was instructive that the veto ceremony included no physician able to explain how a woman's physical health is protected by almost fully delivering her living child and then killing that child in the most inhumane manner imaginable before completing the delivery." This is almost unbelievable, but true!

Back to core values, Restak stated, "Already, social commentators have suggested that Americans have reached a time in our history when we no longer care about the integrity of our leaders, a time when many of us are infatuated with a superficial charm that masks ruthlessness and ambition, a time when we want a leader 'like ourselves?' who is obsessed with the entertainment media and glitz, a time when leadership translates into glibness and a facility in mouthing empty expressions of concern for other people's pain and misfortunes."

If these commentators are correct and we have reached a point in our history when human life has so little value, that people like Clinton masquerading as a leader, can sign away innocent life with the stroke of a
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pen and turn the miracle of birth into infanticide, then the country is in real deep trouble.

This writer believes the country has not reached that low point; that most Americans are compassionately pro-life; that they have a real concern for a bright future and only God can make the choice of who lives and who dies. I also think science should take a real long hard look at Clinton, in case he isn't a narcissistic personality, but he just might qualify for equal status as the "missing link" between mankind and the pithecanthropus!

Galley Gossip: Seaman Salty says, "Much has been said about what America stands for. Let's not forget some things that America won't stand for."

Ship's Log: John Warner called on Democrats and Independents to make him the Republican nominee for the senate. Democrat leaders say "stay out of it." They would rather face Jim Miller in November. Godspeed until next time.

Sources: Stanley Renshon, Dr. Richard Restak, Paul Bedard, "The Washington Times Weekly," Linda Bowles, "Virginia Conservative Magazine," E.C. McKenzie, Wings Books.

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