

The Recorder

Opinion Page

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Starboard Views



By Al Woodson



Starboard winds, tacking to port

Ships log: Friday, Sept. 6. Location: Adrift in a sea of promises to expand government programs. Situation: Skipper Clinton's top adviser overboard in whirlpool of kinky sex. Citizen Dole says Clinton is stealing his sheet music. Helmsman Newt absorbs Democrat charges of extremism. Weather: Stormy seas ahead.

General quarters: The Democrats' Chicago convention closed last week revealing a panic-stricken re-election campaign attempting to deal with an embarrassing controversy that ran counterpoint to the convention's "family values" theme of cherishing children and

strengthening the family. The hypocrisy was painfully plain for all to see; Clinton's primary advisor, Dick Morris, who drafted the family values script, had been exposed as having a year-long affair with a "\$200-an-hour prostitute." The sleazy details of Morris' foot fetishes and kinky sex are cited in the "Star," a supermarket tabloid, backed up with factual documentation.

So now, this administration has given us yet another scandal: "Hookergate." It would be surprising except this latest revelation is so typical of this president's record. It brings to the forefront the issue of "character," a quality that Rep. J.C.

Watts (R-Okla.), described in his address to the Republican convention as "doing the right thing when no one is looking."

Once again it exposes Clinton's lack of judgement in choosing teammates, many of whom have resigned in disgrace and are doing jail time. The Sept. 2 edition of "Time" magazine states the character case more crudely, "How stupid can people be? ... Clinton's opponents simply believe he has got people conned: They should know he's a slime ball, but it hasn't sunk in."

This writer observes that Clinton exhibits a remarkable See **STARBOARD, Page 8**

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capacity for empathy, but, it's phony. He speaks of his desire to "give a tax break to middle income Americans, rein in big government, balance the budget, make abortion safe, legal and rare, oppose racial quotas, fight tobacco interests who target children, fight crime and drugs and preserve mainstream values."

He doesn't mean a word of it; in Chicago he promised to spend more to expand government, across the board, on every new program he can dream up, but with a zero credibility, who can believe him? Can you?

In governing, Clinton has given us just the opposite. The biggest tax increase in history, cuts in national defense while expanding social programs, a veto of the first balanced budget in 26 years, a veto of the ban on partial birth abortions, supporting preferences based on race, accepting tobacco "soft-money," and disarming the nation's drug fighting forces.

As for mainstream values, "bird of a feather" Dick Morris and Clinton's own straying from his vows, with his affair with Gennifer Flowers, plus an alleged sexual assault on Paula Jones, blows that issue out of the water. While it's true that most Americans recognize that Bill Clinton is a classic morally flawed human being; that he has no mainstream values and doesn't give a whit about "doing the right thing" whether anyone's looking or not, at

present, he's up in the polls and it looks as if he might be re-elected.

This is a mystery more about us as a people than him as a person. Have "we the people" become the "village idiots?"

The Democrats are on a track of building a bridge to the future, but it's the left track not a right one. A new spike in that track is the idea of "targeted taxbreaks." Clinton promises to target windfalls to young families with children and all things "educational" (he hopes with the help of Congress). Targeting is the new form of discrimination, it represents a new morality based on government's perception of need, not fairness; on big-brother ideas of cultural engineering, not freedom; on the philosophy of moral relativism, not constitutional absolutes of human rights and individual freedoms.

If you do not fall into the qualifying category, you're unmarried, completed your education, have no children or have passed the child rearing years; do not despair. You can still be a target — a target for higher taxes to pay for the giveaways.

In July 1992, candidate Bill Clinton said, "... President Bush hasn't fought a real war on crime and drugs. I will." Well, he hasn't; according to the 1995 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA), in the war on drugs, Clinton tuned out, turned off and dropped out. The report revealed that illegal drug

use by minors soared 78 percent between 1992 and 1995. Cocaine use, by kids, is up 166 percent from 1994 to 1995 and LSD use by youths is up 183 percent. In a rare moment of truthfulness, White House Senior Advisor George Stephanopoulos said, "The President has kept the promises he meant to keep."

Here's a clue to where this bridge is heading: It's interesting to note that the Communist Party of the U.S., for the first time in its history, is not running a candidate for President. No need to, they've endorsed Bill Clinton.

Galley gossip: Seaman Salty reports a bumper sticker spotted on an 18-wheeler going south on I81: "First Hillary, then Gennifer, now us!"

Ships log: Godspeed until next time.

Sources: "The Washington Times Daily," "Human Events," "NRC Rising Tide" and "Time" magazine.