

OFF TO THE ELEPHANT RACES:

John Guess

Fear and Loathing and All the Clout Money Can Buy...

I just finished reading the debut of *WheatBread*. Very, very interesting paper. The Editor and I go back a long way—no, I'm being too diplomatic. Randy Mack was my bitch for a year and a half. He was responsible for editing my columns, trying to sell my brilliant prose to the local Woosta publications, and sticking up for me at cocktail parties. He served an important purpose, and I am returning the favor by writing for his publication what is undoubtedly the most well-read item written by any Clarkie all year (doubt me? Well, idiot, it probably took you, what, .08 seconds to decide to read the column just because my name graced the header? Put it down, I dare you.)

In case you're wondering why you're reading my opinions, let me refresh some memories and introduce myself to the freshies: I'm John Guess, conservative political pundit of Clark University. As an alum, I am no less dangerous than I was when I wrote for the *Sca-slut* every week for the sole purpose of slamming Clinton, MassPIRG, women with hyphenated last names, and the stupid, knee-jerk liberals I went to school with. Put quite simply, I am the most entertaining and interesting person that a select few of you were fortunate enough to know. Admire me.

I'm in law school right now, and am in line to become an incredibly wealthy, high-powered lobbyist someday, which I suppose allows me to live up to the "triumphant" billing of my return in last month's issue. However, I'm not feeling incredibly triumphant at the moment. As I write this on February 29, 1996, the Republican party is a mess, and the draft-dodging adulterer whose fat ass is in the Oval Office is probably good for another four-year term. Since a John Guess column would not be such without a bit of political brilliance, here's a breakdown of life at the GOP.

The biggest problem is Bob Dole. Here is a man who has not had a new

idea since before most of you were born, and he is being rallied around by the Republican establishment as the candidate to beat Clinton. Mind you, the man has a complete inability to articulate a coherent vision of where to take America into the 21st century. Want proof? Ask a Dole supporter what policies President Robert Dole would implement if he won, or what direction he would take the country in on various issues. Expect a blank stare or an answer like "Buchanan's too extreme and Alexander's too liberal."

Worse yet, in examining Dole's record, it's clear that he's not a conservative: witness the flipflops on taxes, which he's raised 14 times as a Senator, affirmative action, welfare, and whether or not to accept a campaign contribution from a group of gay Republicans (for whatever its worth, I'd have kept it). By the way, in case you're wondering why so many prominent Republicans have rallied behind Dole, it's an ugly tale worth telling. In Dole's 335 years as a Senator (give or take 300), he's done lots of favors for various big-wig politicians: you know, I'll incorporate an ice-skating rink or interstate highway in your state if you promise to support and help me when I run for president.

The problem is, there's no great alternative to Senator Straddle, and that's why the race has become so hopelessly confusing.

Pat Buchanan is the best of the bunch and the candidate I support because of his views on illegal immigration (put up an electric fence and watch 'em sizzle), the death penalty (one appeal + one loss = one lethal injection = huge taxpayer saving savings), taxes (cut and flatten 'em), the United Nations (the real evil empire) and foreign aid (for christ sakes, why are we giving our hard earned tax dollars as aid to nations who end up voting against us anyways? Kill it!).

However, his view against free trade and in support of tariffs are stupid. I despise the idea of having to pay 20% more for a new Toyota, and am insulted by the justification that it's for my own good (note to American manufacturing executives, of which none of you will become because you're too busy studying liberal one-way-ticket-to-unemployment arts: build better products, and consumers will come). Buchanan also has a poor image due to some stupid comments he's made about Jewish people and about women being better off in the home. Bottom line—he probably doesn't beat Clinton, but I'd sure love to see the two debate.

Forbes' flat tax is a neat idea, and he's solid on term limits and trade. Otherwise, I don't see much difference in the social platforms of Steve Forbes and Jesse Jackson, which is downright scary. Lamar Alexander is probably our best hope against Slick Willie, but I've grown to resent his constant insults of Buchanan and conservative ideals in general (he also always has to find a way to list his fucking resume in every debate he participates in, which makes me want to strangle his skinny, Tennessee-red neck).

Basically, the problem with the Republican party is we lack a good candidate. Newt's doing a great job leading the House, and hopefully that can bide some time until the party gets its act together or until Dole finds a personality.

I'm done bantering. If any active, socially concerned liberals out there (comment specifically geared toward the 2 Clarkies that fit in this description) or any bulletin-board geeks would like to bash or praise me, please feel free to email JGUESS. Like Barney tells us, "Make New Friends and Keep the Old; One is Silver and the Other's Gold."

I love you, man.

[Editor's Note: You're still not getting our beer, John.]

Guess Again



From the Hill

Just When You Thought It Was Safe to Open a Clark Publication...

John Guess wrote for *the Scarlet* for 18 months. He didn't miss an issue for three straight semesters. When he interned in Washington DC for a semester, he still published, through the magic of email. His column, "Guess Again," was the most read, most loved, most hated, and most debated feature in decades of *Scarlet* columnists. He also had a weird intermittent column with Larry Norman called "Guess Who Scored," which featured trivia questions, pizza reviews, jokes about DAKA employees, and which was run in the Sports section.

He was the host a political talk show with the unlikely title "Hot Politics." The show started on CCN, and quickly moved to WGMC, Channel 3, where it was broadcast after the evening news. The show was a live debate show, and was co-hosted by Sociology Chair Robert Ross. The show lasted one semester, as WGMC defrauded Guess' fledging "Terrific Triangle Productions."

Guess is attending Pace University, and is still an abrasive loudmouth who's loving every minute of it.

