

The Road to Austin, Part Two

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I'm more surprised than anybody by my sudden success. Readers to the past 13 issues of "Ex Austin Dispatches" know my travails at trying to obtain work in that fabled city – hence this zine's title to date.¹

The frequent favorable responses from prospective employers have come about through my laziest job search in nearly five years. I re-posted my resume to several employment Web sites, and arranged for some of the same sites to send the newest listings for technical writers, all for free. I just sat on my butt and waited for recruiters or hiring managers to contact me. Or, if a job looked interesting, I'd e-mail my resume and a cover letter with my recycled shtick most of you are familiar with. I seldom made follow-up calls to e-mail I initiated. Instead, I let employers call me first. Employers called more and quicker if they found resume on the Internet versus receiving the same version by e-mail.

I'm particularly surprised by IBM's quick response. In November, when I accepted my job at MCI WorldCom Developers Lab, IBM's San Jose facility was still pondering whether to hire me a month after my visit. Such delay was characteristic of a corporation once renowned for its bureaucracy.²

I didn't expect anything to happen even after my Big Blue interviewers and recruiter Dawn Murray at personnel service NTS/XXCAL pushed to get me to take a day off from MCI.³

Then on Tuesday, Murray called with the good news.

I had a coprophagous grin and the news to myself for about two hours until Murray e-mailed an offer letter. I wanted tangible, legally blinding proof until I told my MCI colleagues and broke my contract with SCB Computer Technology. The MCI folks were shocked and dismayed. Those at SCB, more so.⁴

I'll be working in Richardson until March 3, though. I emphasized several times yesterday that I was leaving a great job for an even better one, a nice way to leave. I hope to avoid bad feeling with my sudden departure, bad feeling that could hamper my career in the future. Losing my friendship with the barnburner over leaving Phoenix was bad enough.⁵

Anyway, my 2000 campaign succeeded while Steve Forbes' failed, alas. The magazine editor and incisive thinker ended his bid for the Republican Party presidential nomination after losing the Delaware primary. Apparently the du Pont dynasty was wintering out of state and couldn't make it to the polls.⁶

I wrote before that Forbes is a brilliant thinker, with a subtle understanding of how the world works and why, an understanding that rivals most Libertarian candidates. That alone would make him a great president. However, Forbes is also a terrible public speaker, with a bad habit of giving away the punch line before he finishes a joke.⁷

Unfortunately, the main effect of Forbes' departure is to leave less competition for front-runner John McCain.⁸

McCain must be stopped. He's too dangerous to be president.

McCain has a volatile temperament, which may be exacerbated by torture he received as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, if in fact he was tortured, instead of possibly being brainwashed or collaborating with his captors. He has admitted on "60 Minutes" to being a war criminal, who bombed women and children. He has repeatedly made bellicose foreign policy utterances, most outstripping even the Clinton administration in enthusiasm for its illegal and undeclared war against Serbia. If elected president, McCain will have

access to nuclear weapons. Everything we've worked for, everything we've hoped to achieve in life, could vanish in a mushroom cloud.⁹

Domestically, McCain was an indifferent student, reckless pilot, and unfaithful husband. He divorced his first, injured wife, who waited for his release from captivity, to marry a 25-year-old ex-cheerleader, Cindy Hensley, who later was caught embezzling from her own charity to support her addiction to painkillers. Hensley's father, James, who owns a substantial beer distributorship, has established ties to organized crime. Hensley, savings-and-loan owner Charles Keating, and developer Fife Symington backed McCain's early congressional career. Symington was elected governor of Arizona on a promise to run the state like his business; he later declared bankruptcy, was impeached, removed from office and convicted of financial crimes. Keating later embroiled McCain and four other senators in the "Keating Five" scandal when Keating persuaded them (through large campaign contributions) to pressure federal regulators to stop investigating Keating's S&L. McCain has flip-flopped on abortion, with most of the flops to the pro-abortion side, perhaps, as Ann Coulter pointed out, because he's an admitted war criminal and has little value for human life.¹⁰

Finally, volatile as McCain is, he lacks the ability to articulate a radical discontent of the status quo, certainly not as well as Alan Keyes (the last, best hope of the major party contenders) or of U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, a Republican/Libertarian representing the southern outskirts of Austin.¹¹

In fact, Paul, who adheres strictly to the enumerated powers in the Constitution, was the sole congressman to vote against a \$30,000 medal to commemorate the late Charles M. Schulz, according to The Dallas Morning News. Good grief!¹²

Schulz died on the day the last "Peanuts" strip appeared in newspapers. Talk about an ending! His demise lead many to wonder if he might've lived longer had he decided not to retire because of health problems.¹³

All drollery aside, I admired his work, though I think "Peanuts" faded from the Zeitgeist circa 1980, like much else; he was yet another contributor to my childhood who has died recently.

On the darker side of entertainment, the band Kiss announced in a Valentine's Day press release that it will disband after a farewell tour – the final kiss-off, so to speak.¹⁴

Meanwhile in New York, jeers abounded at Hillary Rodham Clinton's official Senate campaign announcement. Lucianne Goldberg cattily dismissed her "cheap pumps." There's the accusation she made a seemingly insensitive remark about Jews in her speech. There's her cringe-inducing attempt at a Noo Yawk accent, even though that dialect's been in decline for years. And there was the drubbing over playing the Billy Joel song "Captain Jack." Not to mention the crap she'll take from Rolling Stone, whose critics have always despised the Long Island piano man. She's already lost James Woods.¹⁵

Then La Clinton received a free breakfast from a diner in upstate New York and left without leaving a tip to the waitress, a single working mom. Which makes the first bitch the political equivalent of Mr. Pink from "Reservoir Dogs."¹⁶

She's got a tough run ahead, if movies like "Boiler Room" are anything to go by. Young New York punks full of aggression and greed run stock scams out of a Long Island "chop shop." Among the cast: Scott Caan, son of James. And yes, Scott's a chip off the old man's shoulder. No cattle futures, though.¹⁷

¹ EAD No. 4 (Mar. 24, 1999).

² APSB, 101; EAD No. 10 (Nov. 22, 1999); Kobler, 285.

³ Cringely, Robert X. [Mark Stephens] Accidental Empires: How the Boys of Silicon Valley Make Their Millions, Battle Foreign Competition, and Still Can't Get a Date, rev. ed. New York City: HarperBusiness, 1996: 122.

⁴ EAD No. 5 (June 1999).

⁵ EAD No 6 (July 1999); Wolff, Judy. "Re: Holiday Plans." E-mail to Dan Eisler. 15 Nov. 1999.

⁶ APSB, 66; EAD No. 7 (August 1999); "Forbes' Farewell." WSJ 10 Feb. 2000: A18; Mosely, Leonard. Blood Relations: The Rise and Fall of the du Ponts of Delaware. New York City: Atheneum, 1980.

⁷ EAD No. 7; O'Beirne, Kate. "The Saga of Steve: Forbes in His Second Try." NR 21 Feb. 2000: 36.

⁸ World Almanac and Books of Facts 2001. Ed. Beth R. Ellis et al. Mahwah, N.J.: World Almanac Books, 2001: 48.

⁹ Kocher, Robert L. "Attitude Channeling and Brainwashing." Laissez Faire City Times 30 Jan. 2000. <<http://www.zolatimes.com/V3.17/attitude.html>>; Raimondo, Justin. "Kosovo and Presidential Politics." Antiwar.com 16 Feb. 2000 <<http://www.antiwar.com/justin/j021600.html>>; Raimondo. "Will the Real Coward Please Stand Up?" Idem. 29 Sep. 1999 <<http://www.antiwar.com/justin/j092999.html>>.

¹⁰ Bowden, Charles. "Honest to a Fault." GQ Nov. 1996: 392; Coulter, Ann. "I've Seen Enough Killing to Support Abortion." Jewish World Review 22 Feb. 2000

<<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/coulter022200.asp>>; Dougherty, John, and Amy Silverman. "Haunted by Spirits." PNT 17 Feb. 2000: 22-23+; Lynch, Michael W. "The Good Soldier." Reason Jan. 1999: 36-42.

¹¹ "Arthur, Chester Alan." "The Only Libertarian in Congress." Liberty Jan. 1997: 37; Barone, Michael et. al. Almanac of American Politics 2000. Washington, D.C.: National Journal, 1999: 1549-1552; Lowry, Richard. "The Allure of John McCain." NR 27 Sep. 1999: 36 ("Beneath his famous bluntness lurks a trimmer."); Slivka, Andrey. "Keyes in the Basement." NYPR 8 Mar. 2000, online ed.

¹² Washington Bureau. "Texas' 'Dr. No.' Fights Medals for O'Connor, Schulz." DMN 16 Feb. 2000: 6A.

¹³ AP. "'Peanuts' Cartoonist Charles Schulz Dies." DMN 13 Feb. 2000: 1A.

¹⁴ "'KISS' Farewell Tour Could Bring in \$40 Mil." AB Feb. 2000: 1.

¹⁵ Nina Burleigh. "You've Changed, Hill. How Much Have We?" NYO 14 Feb. 2000: 5; Dante Chinni. "Hillary's Problem is Hillary." CSM 10 Feb. 2000: 11; Mark Francis Cohen. "Small Tawk," TNR 5 Oct. 1998: 11; Drudge, Matt, and Julia Phillips. The Drudge Manifesto. New York City: New American Library, 2000: 98; Hemlich, Adam. "Heimytown." NYPR 16 Feb. 2000; Rush, George et. al. "Woods Recalls the Lust Generation." NYDN 10 Jan. 2000 sports final ed.: 18; Wild, David. "Billy Joel: The Rolling Stone Interview." RS 25 Jan. 1990: 34.

Goldberg posted her comment at www.lucianne.com on 10 Feb. 2000, but it is no longer available online.

¹⁶ Alvarez, Maria. "Experts Say That's Egg on Her Face." NYPO 21 Feb. 2000: 3; Reservoir Dogs. Dir. Quentin Tarantino. Written by Tarantino. Miramax Films, 1992.

¹⁷ Adams, James Ring. "The Ties That Bind." TAS Aug. 1994: 40; Boiler Room. Dir. Ben Younger. Written by Younger. New Line Cinema, 2000.