

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Anderson, South Carolina 29625 September 10, 1992

Dear Mr. Lamb:

- I am one of your faithful viewers - you are doing a great job!
Keep up the good work! I look forward to "Journalist Round-table" -
and would appreciate your getting some answers I'd like to know since
the questions are on my mind during this Presidential race (enclosing article.)
- I Have any of the Bush sons served in any war - as in service
at any time?
- II Where was Pat Buchanan during Viet Nam - or Newt Gingrich?
- III During Republican Convention the theme seemed to be "Family Values".
How about the entertainers who were invited to be on the Program?
Lee Greenwood is on his fifth marriage - Tangi Tucker has
recently had a second child with no marriage in her plans -
isn't Gerald McRaney on his third marriage?
- IV Why was Barbara Bush so "glaring" in her ice-cold
response to Judy Woodruff (Mrs. Neil - Lehrer)
when Judy ask her about the rumors of George Bush having
had an affair? Mrs. Bush said that question should
not have been ask in White House. Why not?? If Clinton was
ask, why not George Bush? Bush is a candidate also! (I
understand this subject is not allowed in interviews with Mrs
Bush now - her instructions)
- V Why doesn't George Bush endeavor to improve the problem
of violence in this country by having his "Physical Fitness
Advisor", Arnold Schwarzenegger, change his movies to better
themes? The "Terminator" pictures have had some negative
effects on children and young people - why doesn't the President
start at the top?
- VI Having had Hurricane Hugo in D.C. we know how terrible it is
to have a natural disaster hit a state and we feel for the people
in south Florida and Louisiana - and we are helping them. We
can't help but notice the difference in help from George Bush
in 1989 (Hugo) and 1992 - an Election Year. He left his golfing
and sailing a week after Hugo to come fly over the area with Sen.
Coryell (R-SC) - we had to borrow 32 million to help our recovery.
No promise of complete financial support and aerial services
indignity! What a contrast!
- Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Oops! Pat Buchanan was only kidding

Some columnists are deadly serious. Others like to kid around, have some fun. And that's what I like best about Pat Buchanan, the columnist-politician. He's a prankster at heart.

If you watched his speech at the Republican convention, you heard him say: "I do believe that the right place to be now, in this presidential campaign, is right beside George Bush."

He went on to say what a terrific leader Bush is. And he issued this warning:

"There is a religious war going on in this country for the soul of America. It is a cultural war as critical to the kind of nation we shall be as the Cold War itself, for this war is for the soul of America."

And who does Buchanan choose to lead us in this religious-cultural war to save our national soul?

George Bush, of course.

That's what I mean about Buchanan being a real card. There he stood, hailing Bush as the defender of our national soul.

But it seems like only yesterday that he was telling us that Bush was some kind of klutz.

Let us look back:

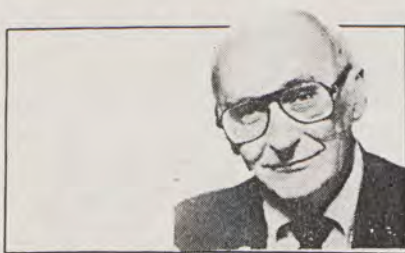
Dec. 10, 1991: "We Republicans can no longer say it is all the liberals' fault. It was not some liberal Democrat who declared, 'Read my lips! No new taxes!' Then broke his word to cut a seedy back-room budget deal with the big spenders."

Dec. 19, 1991: "His (Bush's) economic program consists of a rebate of 85 cents a day and going to J.C. Penney and buying four pairs of socks."

Jan. 23, 1992: "George Bush has run up back-to-back \$300 billion deficits and we have had virtual zero growth since he has been president."

Feb. 27, 1992: "Bush wanted the names and addresses of our church donors. Imagine our churches becoming agents for the IRS. Now Bush says he didn't really mean it - just like when he said: 'Read my lips, no new taxes.'"

Feb. 28, 1992: "It's George Bush himself who is taxing and spending your future away."



By Mike Royko

March 24, 1992: "Many of George Bush's top political advisers show up in Justice Department files as foreign agents. Bush strategist Charles R. Black, registered agent, firm represented a Japanese official. Communications director James H. Lake, registered agent, Japan auto parts. Republican Chairman Richard N. Bond, registered agent, government of Panama. No wonder Michigan has lost 73,000 jobs."

April 17, 1992: "They (Bush and Dan Quayle) are in their own little cocoon up there, making decisions that are killing industries and hurting people."

May 12, 1992: "... I do think that any country, to remain a country, to call itself a nation has got to defend its borders... I'm calling attention to a national disgrace. The president of the United States is not doing his job of enforcing the laws."

There was much more. Why, he even used the one word that is most revolting to Bush's admirers: "Wimp."

In those days, he gave Dan Quayle a few slaps, too. He once said that he didn't feel like bashing Quayle, "because I don't want to be charged with child abuse."

But now, it turns out, he was just putting us on, pulling our legs, giving us the old verbal hot-foot.

And he's so good at it because he does it deadpan, as the best pranksters always do.

For example, Monday night he was bashing Bill Clinton for being an all-round moral lowlife. And he brought up Vietnam.

"When Bill Clinton's time came in Vietnam, he sat up in a dormitory in

Oxford, England, and figured out how to dodge the draft."

By now, just about everyone knows that Clinton, who opposed the Vietnam War, managed to avoid taking part in the Vietnam War.

But what made Buchanan's mention of it so droll was that Buchanan, who supported that war, and was young enough to have served, also sat it out. He says he had a bad knee, and I believe him, and I'm pleased that his knee recovered sufficiently for him to jog several miles a day.

And when he made his Clinton-the-draft-dodger remark, he knew Dan Quayle was sitting in the audience. Quayle, who fought the war with a typewriter in Indiana.

Buchanan also knew that George Bush's sons found ways to avoid those nasty fire fights. As did some of Buchanan's fellow war-hawk conservatives, such as Newt Gingrich, who has said he had more important things to do, such as going to grad school.

Pat also is fully aware that many of his closest conservative chums used family or political clout to shun contact with those Viet Cong meanies.

What a card he is.

And in the next breath, he was taking a poke at Albert Gore for something or other. Al Gore, who had the political clout to duck the conflict, but instead chose to serve in Vietnam.

See? When an expert roaster like Buchanan gets his one-liners going, you can't win.

Finally, Buchanan has a skill unique to only the very best pranksters: keeping a gag going for a long time.

He did it for months. No, more than that. For years. Yes, he's been going on about George Bush's failings almost since Bush took office.

But now it turns out he was kidding. Bush is his choice to save our national soul.

Or could he have been kidding us about that?

With a great kiddier like Pat, you never know.

Mike Royko is a nationally syndicated columnist with the Chicago Tribune. *an interesting article!*