



# Newsweek

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## THIS WEEK ONLINE

WEB EVENTS—FEB. 12-16

- 2.12 AMERICAN BEAT** takes on the Starbucks culture. Catch Gersh Kuntzman's column every Monday.
- 2.14** Check out **WEST WING STORY**, correspondent Martha Brant's weekly column on the White House every Wednesday.
- 2.14 COVER TALK** at noon, EST. Join Allan Sloan for a discussion about the Bush tax-cut plan. Submit questions online now.
- 2.15** Read the latest about Congress in **CAPITOL LETTER**, Bill Turque's Web-exclusive column, every Thursday.
- 2.16** Look for our new **ARCHIVES** of NEWSWEEK stories going back to 1993. Plus, Web exclusives.

### WEB EXCLUSIVE

## Then and Now | *Laffer on the Bush Tax Plan*



With Reagan: *Laffer* in 1978

**2.9 >>** The history of tax cuts, politics and prosperity couldn't be clearer. It was a tax increase in 1990 that cost Bush's father the presidency. Ronald Reagan was elected in 1980 on the promise of tax cuts. He was re-elected because he kept the promise—and the economy soared. I could go on and on, but the lesson is always the same: pro-growth tax policies do wonders for the economy and for the presidents who champion them. (Go online for *Laffer's* full piece.)

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## 'We're Getting Clinton Now as He *Really* Is'

**NEWSWEEK:** Was former senator Bob Kerrey's telling Bill Clinton lesbian jokes at a restaurant offensive to you?

**CAMILLE PAGLIA:** I defend the right of every American to tell offensive jokes in the worst possible taste. But what we're seeing here is what happens when the cocoon of the White House is stripped away. We're getting Clinton now as he *really* is.



**So this is the true Bill?**

I think it goes on all the time, him with Vernon Jordan. They golf and talk locker room.

**You seem like you'd enjoy a good lesbian joke.**

I like bawdy jokes, but I don't want to hear them at the next table if I'm having dinner at a nice restaurant. It's incredibly boorish behavior. (Log on for B. J. Sigismund's full Q&A.)

TEST YOURSELF

**THINK YOU KNOW WHAT'S NEWS?** Take our quiz to see how well you're keeping up with world events. The multiple-choice answers are on Newsweek.MSNBC.com.

**1]** Who said "Gratefully, I was never gagged, beaten or tortured ... I always had enough to eat"?

**2]** Which U.S. government agency did alleged White House gunman Robert Pickett say he had a grudge against?

**3]** Which well-known person turned himself in last week in connection with an alleged road-rage incident?

**4]** Which pop star announced a Web site featuring exclusive new songs to subscribers?

**5]** Because it was Republic Day, India's leaders reportedly believed at first that the Jan. 26 earthquake was actually something else. What?

**6]** What year did Necco's heart-shaped candies with messages first come to market?

TO TAKE THE QUIZ, LOG ON TO NEWSWEEK.MSNBC.COM

### BYLINES

## What Does 'Marriage Penalty' Mean, Anyway?

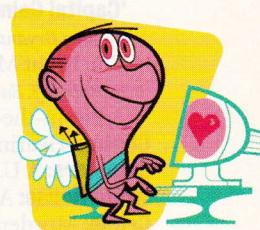


Lobbying for George W. Bush's tax-cut plan

Ask anyone who has struggled with a 1040 if combing tax law is off-putting, and you'll get a resounding 'YES!' That's why our team of experts is so special: **Robert Samuelson** and **Allan Sloan** can deftly dissect complicated proposals, **Jane Bryant Quinn** is masterful at analyzing the impact on you and **Howard Fineman** can navigate the rough political waters of a tax-cut debate. "Watching them get inside Bush's plan was really impressive," says Business Editor Eben Shapiro. Take a look at our cover story, on page 18. You're sure to agree.

## The Doctor Is In

**Brad Stone** knows a bit about online romance. In 1994 his girlfriend broke up with him via e-mail. "I was stunned by her choice of medium," Stone recalls. But he used the experience to launch his career, writing a piece about online breakups. Since then, cyberdating has gone mainstream. So much so that Stone's sources for his story on page 46 were more than frank about their experiences. "After a while, I started to feel like an online therapist."




## A New Global Voice

This week **Fareed Zakaria**, NEWSWEEK INTERNATIONAL's new editor, debuts his column, "World View," with a tough look at Fed chairman Alan Greenspan (page 39). Zakaria, formerly managing editor of Foreign Affairs, has written for a variety of publications, from The New York Times and The New Yorker to the Webzine Slate. "World View" will deal mostly with global issues as they relate to America. But almost any topic is fair game, Zakaria warns. "I have pet peeves," he admits. "And I think the best columns are those that bring together intelligence and passion."




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John Scott

Says Paglia, "It's like 'Temptation Island'. It's going to be a whole running series. 'Bill Clinton's Sexual Adventures'."

## 'We're Getting Clinton Now as He Really Is.'

**Camille Paglia discusses Bill Clinton's Sexual Personae**

By B. J. Sigismund  
NEWSWEEK WEB EXCLUSIVE

Feb. 10 — As usual, Camille Paglia is perturbed. At the moment she's angry over news reports that former Sen. Bob Kerrey was telling lesbian jokes in front of Bill Clinton and others at the New York restaurant Babbo last week.

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"Gays and feminists are far too sensitive about what they feel are defamatory stereotypes out there."

— CAMILLE PAGLIA

MIND YOU, THE openly gay Paglia is not offended by the gags themselves. "Gays and feminists are far too sensitive about what they feel are defamatory stereotypes out there," says the author of "Sexual Personae" and "Vamps and Tramps." But she thinks the incident shows Clinton's true colors. "We're getting Clinton now as he *really* is." NEWSWEEK's B. J. Sigismund checked in with the speed-talking academic and took a few notes.

**NEWSWEEK: What about this incident offends you?**

**Camille Paglia:** Number one, I'm a free-speech militant and therefore want to defend the right of every American to tell offensive jokes in the worst possible taste. Satire is absolutely crucial to democracy. But what's interesting about it to me is what we're seeing here. I voted for Clinton twice and then got very disillusioned. What we're seeing here is what happens when the cocoon of the White House is stripped away. Clinton was used to having conversations surrounded by a phalanx of secret service and his luxurious, Versailles-like daily mode of living. We're getting Clinton now as he *really* is.

**So this is his true self, in your opinion?**

I think it goes on all the time. He and Vernon Jordan go out on the golf course and they talk locker room. They exchange locker-room tidbits about potential women marks. Like 'who's hot, who's not, who's great at this, who's not so good at that.' We've just never had a chance to overhear the kind of raunchy talk he's used to having with men. Now he's doing it in Babbo. For the first time, we're getting the reality. The



media dropped the ball on the Monica Lewinsky thing in so many ways. Everyone acted as if it was just a momentary slip with Monica. Give me a break! There were women going in and out of that White House. Now I'm enjoying myself so much with Denise Rich and her 42-inch bust. It's like "Temptation Island." It's going to be a whole running series. "Bill Clinton's Sexual Adventures." How many ways can Bill Clinton now embarrass his wife?



**Let's get back to the jokes. How did you feel about them as a lesbian? Is there anything wrong with a good lesbian joke?**

I believe that gays and feminists are far too sensitive about what they feel are defamatory stereotypes out there. Like the protests over "Basic Instinct" in 1992. I thought they were ludicrous. We cannot have political consciousness constantly dictating the free give and take of everyday life. I would reject anyone saying, 'Oh, it's offensive to lesbians.' But I have to say, what we are seeing is that behind the PC liberal facade of so many politicians who fawn all over women's rights, groups and issues, there's still the same old opportunistic Don Juanism. There's still a predatory attitude of powerful men toward women who are dazzled by their positions. It's an epidemic in politics. It's male voraciousness with female witlessness, exhibitionism and self-proffering for ritual sacrifice. As Henry Kissinger said, power is the ultimate aphrodisiac. It would take a saint among these men to resist the women of every age flinging themselves at their feet.

**Would this line of joking ever be appropriate?**

I loved Howard Stern's stuff about lesbian dial-a-date. I thought it was phenomenally funny. It was very radical, and it was 10 years ago at this point... I like dirty jokes and bawdy jokes. I want to hear them. But I don't want to hear them at the next table if I'm having a professional dinner in New York at a nice restaurant. It was inappropriate for where they were....

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If we had two guys drinking at a bar and trading stories, that's the right place for that. Sitting in a bar, not in a professional setting with a well-known woman professional, [former deputy White House counsel] Cheryl

• [Live Talk Lineup](#)

Mills, who's the one  
who [allegedly]

warned them they were talking too loud. Obviously she  
was concerned about Clinton's reputation, and it  
certainly sounds as if she wasn't in on the joke. I think  
it's incredibly boorish behavior. Clinton is a boor. And  
he's a hypocrite and a misogynist. It's not that it's an  
offense to lesbians here. I think it's an offense to  
civilization.

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