

◆ **And if you believe that . . .**

House Republican leaders are distributing a strategic plan for the fall campaigns that . . . contains handy tips on what to say when and where. . . .

When asked about drugs and crime, Republicans should say: "Until President Clinton took over the White House, America was winning the war on drugs."

—*Washington Post*, July 31, 1998

◆ **Social Security activism**

The hordes had descended again. . . . Everyone was hoping against irrational hope to be the one to beat the 80 million-to-1 odds and win a \$292 million [Powerball] jackpot. . . .

But people should go for a sure thing, argued 75-year-old Allan Pan, who chose a lottery line as the place to pass out fliers promising a "fast and sure track to financial independence."

It's a complicated investment program that seems at a glance to involve sending money to the organizers, then persuading other people to do the same until everyone gets rich.

—*Washington Post*, July 30, 1998

◆ **Which explains why Chelsea ended up at Sidwell Friends after her dad won the lottery**

Fantasies about what to do with the quarter-billion [Powerball] jackpot seem not to vary by income, sex, race or age . . . : a better house, a better car, the chance to give some money away, to travel to exotic locales.

Almost invariably, people mentioned that they would move their children or

grandchildren into private schools.

—*Washington Post*, July 30, 1998

◆ **Congress should take the test**

Maryland's new high school graduation tests will rely more heavily than most states on short written answers and essays. . . . Below are a few sample questions used to develop the new tests. . . .

1. Read the U.S. constitutional amendment below. Describe an example of its application in the history of the United States.

Amendment 10: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

—*Washington Post*, Aug. 23, 1998

◆ **Vacation from what?**

A lobbying group for Germany's unemployed said it would press for six weeks of vacation pay each year—the same as Germans with jobs—at a series of nationwide rallies Thursday.

There are about 4 million unemployed in Germany, some 10 percent of the work force. Under Germany's social security system, those without work can receive welfare support almost indefinitely.

—*Washington Post*, Aug. 4, 1998

◆ **The Cookie Monster**

The nation needs a presidentially appointed food czar to oversee the patchwork of food safety regulations, a governmental advisory group said today.

—Associated Press, Aug. 20, 1998

◆ **Actually, under the current laws we will address it as a government**

The 19-year-old daughter of Gov. George Pataki's running mate was charged with possession of a small amount of marijuana, state police said Tuesday. . . .

Both Pataki and [Sara] Kenney's mother, former Rensselaer County District Attorney Mary Donohue, have admitted to experimenting with marijuana when they were college students.

"What my daughter did was wrong, and she knows that," Donohue said in a statement. . . . We will address this as a family."

—Associated Press, Aug. 25, 1998

◆ **Artists, run for your lives**

"By the time I leave the chairmanship," [National Endowment for the Arts chairman William J.] Ivey said, "the Federal role in the arts should be equal to our role in the Department of Defense."

—*New York Times*, Aug. 30, 1998

◆ **They've been reading the *Weekly Standard* on national greatness**

The medium-range missile that North Korea test-fired for the first time this week may not have been the only piece of hardware the secretive Communist state sent into the air. . . . North Korea may also have sent up its first satellite. . . .

It is not clear why North Korea would put a satellite into orbit, given the nation's dire financial problems, and some U.S. officials speculated it was more an effort to bolster national pride.

—*Washington Post*, Sept. 5, 1998

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