

Specifics, not character, swayed voters, analysts say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Future candidates take note: Going negative this year turned out to be no match for going specific. Showing compassion was imperative, and economic values worked better than family values.

Town meetings, talk-show TV, books and pamphlets of lofty plans — in all these ways candidates courted voters who insisted that politicians get serious. Which came first — people worried about the economy or presidential candidates who said they should be worried? Democrats say the first and Republicans the latter.

"The economy is not as bad as we've been told, and we were unable to push through that perception," Vice President Dan Quayle said in a campaign post-mortem. "That takes a strategy," he added.

Bill Clinton promised spending on jobs, education, training and infrastructure; he pledged to work for health care reforms and racial harmony. Many voters came to believe Clinton would make their futures more secure and many dismissed President Bush's relentless discussion of his rival's alleged character flaws.

"We made the election about the American people and their problems and less about politicians and who they are," Clinton strategist James Carville said Thursday on NBC's "Today" show.

"Their incomes were declining... They felt like the job base was deteriorating," Carville said. "A candidate that sticks to that will generally be more successful, and, I might add, an administration that sticks to solving those problems will be more successful also."

Interviews with voters leaving polling places found they placed low priority on issues such as

foreign policy, education, abortion and family values. Nor were voters interested in renewing conflicts over the Vietnam War. Marital fidelity and even honesty did not loom large in their calculations.

Bush didn't compile a pamphlet of economic proposals until September.

One disaffected Bush strategist complained that Clinton used his pamphlet — "Putting People First" — as a prop.

"Nobody read it, nobody knew what was in it," the strategist, who insisted on anonymity, said. Then he added, "We didn't have such a prop. That was more evidence of incompetence."

Bush was unable to quell the concerns of voters worried about job security. His economic proposals: cut the capital gains tax, cut the personal income tax rate, let voters check off a deficit-reduction box on their tax returns.

Bush's stump speeches roamed from lawyer-bashing to Arkansas-bashing to the end of the Cold War. Before he settled into a determined challenge of Clinton's character, he auditioned a whole series of issues that failed or backfired.

Chief among them were "family values," Republican attacks on Hillary Clinton, anti-abortion positions and other facets of the religious right agenda.

The GOP convention in Houston celebrated the kind of traditional family that fewer and fewer Americans recognize as their own.

"That was a terrible mistake the Republicans made down here," Carville said this week on ABC's "Nightline." The message was "we ought not like some people in society," he said, adding that was not exactly what financially squeezed voters were waiting to hear.



Americans could lose USAir controls in British Airways deal, officials say

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration said Thursday that a bid by British Airways to buy a \$750 million share of USAir could result in American investors losing control of the nation's sixth-largest airline.

The Transportation Department said the proposal would change USAir's operations, financial structure and management.

In an order asking for public comment on the transaction, the department said it would require "the merging of most business functions of the two airlines."

"Key decisions by USAir would require the approval of directors appointed by British Airways," the department said. "The transaction raises questions about whether USAir would continue to operate under the control of U.S. citizens."

A British Airways spokesman said in London that that airline "will cooperate fully with the proceeding and remains hopeful we will achieve a positive result."

Under the deal, British Airways would give financially struggling USAir a \$750 million cash infusion in

return for 44 percent of the airline's common stock and a 21 percent voting share.

Current law limits foreign ownership to 25 percent of voting stock. Overseas interests already own a 4 percent share of the airline, so the British Airways share would be limited to 21 percent.

A senior U.S. official, who commented on the condition of anonymity, said the concern over possible foreign control of USAir did not stem primarily from the financial or stock arrangements.

Nuns' deaths revive row over U.S.-Liberian ties

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Slayings of five American nuns trapped in the siege of Monrovia have revived bitterness about the U.S. role in Liberia.

"The Reagan government and the Bush administration have to share some of the responsibilities for what has happened," Roman Catholic Archbishop Michael Francis said in an interview.

He and others believe the United States has a moral responsibility to help end the country's brutal, nearly three-year-old conflict.

In Liberia-related developments Thursday:

- U.S. officials said Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, trying to install a radical regime in Liberia and perhaps exert influence on the entire region, had been funneling weapons to rebel leader Charles Taylor's group.

The officials said Libya had been involved in the conflict from the beginning and recently increased its arms shipments, using Burkina Faso as a transit point.

In November 1990, the Bush administration threatened to withhold aid to Burkina Faso if it did not stop supporting Taylor.

- The State Department announced it was recalling its ambassador from Burkina Faso to protest that country's arms shipments to Taylor's NPFL faction. Spokesman Richard Boucher said Burkina Faso had "actively undermined" the peace process in Liberia but declined to say where Burkina Faso got the arms.

- An AP reporter has spoken to Taylor fighters who say they received training in Libya and Burkina Faso.

Taylor in March 1991 invaded Si-

erra Leone alongside Siere Leonian rebels that trained with him in Guinea.

This year, Gambia accused Taylor of being behind the rebels who attempted a coup there.

Taylor began the war with an invasion from Ivory Coast on Christmas Eve 1989 that initially was a popular rebellion against a brutal and tribalistic military dictatorship.

Samuel Doe was an illiterate master sergeant when he seized power in a bloody 1980 coup, the same year Ronald Reagan won elections.

"Reagan's government gave half a billion dollars to Doe in the first four years, more than they had given in the entire history of this country" founded by freed American slaves in 1847, the archbishop, Francis, said.

He said the U.S. government ignored the fact that most of the money lined the pockets of Doe and a clique from his Krahn tribe, while Doe oppressed the nation of 2.3 million people, killing opponents, and winning U.S. approval for rigged elections in 1985.

In return, he said, the United States had carte blanche to use Liberia as a CIA listening post through Voice of America installations and the Omega navigation plant, one of the world's six biggest ship-tracking stations that the archbishop said also was used to monitor Soviet satellites.

"All we have to show for that period is arms, arms and a big army they (the Americans) helped train," Francis said.

In Washington, U.S. officials said that at the time of the Doe takeover in 1980, the United States had the option of "cutting and leaving or trying to work with him."

Sex can be a headache for some, doctors say

LONDON (AP) — "Not tonight honey, I'll get a headache" is more than an excuse for people who truly suffer from sex-induced headaches, doctors say.

A new Danish study reassures those who get headaches only after orgasms that they may have a temporary problem.

The syndrome, known as benign coital headache, or orgasmic cephalgia, has been well-known among headache specialists for years. Little is known, however, about why

orgasms trigger headaches or the likelihood of recurrences.

The study is published in the Nov. 6 issue of the British Medical Journal.

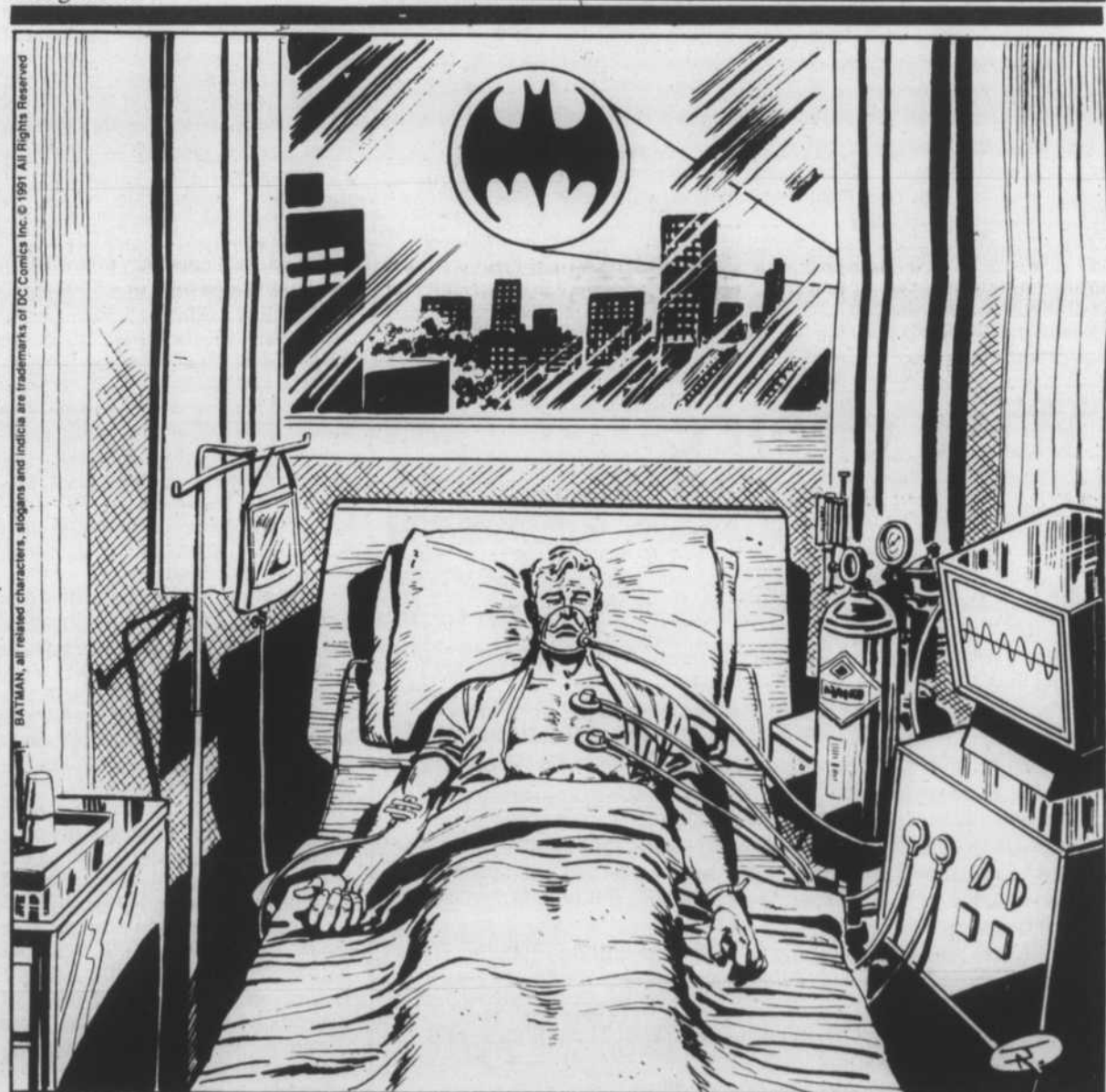
"If a patient with migraine or tension headache once has an episode of benign coital headache, he or she is at great risk of having recurrent attacks," said Dr. John Ostergaard, an investigator at the University Hospital of Aarhus.

"Other patients, not ordinarily suffering from headache, can be reassured about the favorable prognosis of this disorder," he said.

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