POINTS OF VIEW

'Willie Boy' is just another big-spending liberal

TOM BAER

Turn off the bubble machine. Please, won't somebody yank the plug on that damn thing?

The media have been grinding their organs till they smoke, gushing and gooing and billing and cooing over one William Jefferson Clinton, that unfortunate accident of history who became our 42nd president Wednesday.

The inauguration was required viewing on millions of American TV sets, including those in O&E country from the pricey abodes of Oakland Township to the modest bungalows of Garden City.

And there were plenty of local faces in the crowds that swelled Washington, D.C. At least two local groups, from Troy and the Farmington/Livonia area, strutted their stuff there.

If you were alive anywhere in America Wednesday, you couldn't help being aware of the baby boomer president.

Well, the fellow from Arkansas hasn't even been in office a week and already I am heartily sick of: his "new season," wife Hillary and her "role" in government, daughter Chelsea and her school, the sax and the Socks.

If you get the idea that I don't especially care for Clinton and his entourage, you're right. If you think this missive is going to be an anti-Clinton diatribe, right again.

It's the least I can do for our readership in the face of the suffocating media coverage of King Willie and his recent coronat. . ., oopr, I mean inauguration.

OK, Willie Boy won the election. Someone had to. Maybe he was the best of a mighty bad lot.

But gird yourselves, middle-class taxpayers, here come the big spending liberals — again. Ah, will we ever learn?

This man Clinton is about nothing if not symbolism. In his Wednesday Inaugural, he tried to out-Kennedy old John Fitzgerald himself. One TV network compared Clinton's address to JFK's in 1961, and Willie's was very nearly plagiarism in some parts.

So, Willie Boy wants to be another Kennedy and bring back Camelot. Lord help us all. I'll never forget what a Washington journalist wrote about the Kennedys: "They turned the White House into a whorehouse and they called it Camelot."

Let's fast-forward through some prosperous (Republican) times until we come to 1976 and the ascension to the presidency of Democrat James Earl Carter. Like Clinton, Carter was a Southern boy who was heavy on the symbolism.

But Carter was a one-term wonder, and no wonder. A religious crank right out of the 11th Century brought us to our collective knees, and the president couldn't deal with him.

Here it is, 12 mostly good (Republican) years later, and on the presidential scene arrives another Democrat with another liberal line.

Maybe George Bush didn't deserve to be re-elected. He botched the Gulf War going in and coming out. I mean, Iraq's Saddam should be dead or in jail right now, not plotting future wars of conquest.

Bush couldn't control a skidding economy. And he ran a stumblebum re-election campaign that's destined to become a chapter on how not to win in some future political science textbook.

And don't forget Ross Perot, the rich boy independent who drew off enough Republican votes to send Bush packing and Willie Boy rocking-and-rolling on his way to Washington.

For a number of reasons, Clinton is now the president. How long will he serve? Well, being sons of the South isn't the only thing Clinton and Carter will have in common, I think. They'll both be one-termers.

In the meantime, will somebody please tell that Hillary to keep her hands off our government? Her name wasn't on the ballot Nov. 3.

Tom Baer is the editor of the Farmington Observer. To leave a message for him, dial 477-5450.

Give President's vision a chance to succeed

HELEN NIEMIEC

Puh-leaze. Bill Clinton has been president for less than a week and already the bashing has begun. What happened to the 100-day honeymoon?

Colleague Tom Baer (see other column) pretty much calls Clinton the anti-Christ. It would be equally melodramatic to call Clinton a Messiah. He's a man and he's president of the United States of America.

The important distinction is that Clinton is the man with a vision who more people voting in November want to see for their country. It's Clinton's turn now.

We have no doubt that some of his plans rankle those who voted for other candidates. But that's not unusual. The entire American population didn't embrace the positions of Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan or George Bush just because they became the president.

And while all people won't agree on a particular president's policies, all would be hard pressed to say that anyone who served as president didn't do what they thought best for the country. Voters select the person who reflects their goals and solutions, rather than questioning whether a candidate has the country's best interests at heart. It's the road traveled and not the destination that is the point of contention for partisans.

Clinton's Inaugural Address reaffirmed what those of us who voted for him wanted: No one gets anything for nothing, but we who are working still are responsible for those who can't work; each of us is responsible for the ultimate success of our country; and all of us need to sacrifice and work for a country that is equitable toward all.

The disparity is quite evident at the Bloomfield Hills-Pontiac border. A number of volunteers at the Baldwin Avenue Human Resources Center in Pontiac come from the Birmingham-Bloomfield area and note how economic position can drastically change by driving just a few miles up Woodward.

Bloomfield Township mother Shirley Gach devotes her time to increasing awareness of homosexuality and AIDS, begging for programs to help sufferers and their families. She campaigns for tolerance and understanding, from a system that has turned its back on those who are "different." Ms. Gach speaks from experience, as a grieving mother.

These are issues that can't be put off any longer. The deficit needs to be addressed before our economic system collapses, leaving us resembling the former Soviet bloc countries that we now pity. A plan isn't ready today, but the deficit tripled in just the last four years. And the savings and loan scandal didn't lighten the deficit burden. We don't need a Band-Aid here, we need some major surgery.

And if raising taxes will solve the deficit and put the country on firm economic grounds for our children, is it too much to pay?

The next generation is finally being addressed, in terms of proper education and counseling programs; a look at crumbling roads and buildings, so those costs aren't passed on like a spirited game of "hot potato"; and the environment.

For those of us who will retire in the next century, it will be a source of great comfort to know that the Social Security system is in good shape (even though it's been tapped over the last few years to put a dent in the growing deficit) and that there is some plan that will address health services. The next generation of senior citizens shouldn't automatically become the new poor because of mismanaged government.

Clinton has a big agenda. A lot needs to be done, and we'll need to pay the price for years of neglect.

Sniping at Clinton or his wife, Hillary, doesn't add to the robust discussion of issues and what our country needs to become. The Woodstock generation is in power now, and it's time to dream of a better world, a notion that we all toyed with in the 1960s but didn't have the wherewithal to implement.

It's going to be a rough ride but getting ready to cope in a new century is never an easy task.

Helen Niemiec is a reporter for the Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric. To leave a message for her, call 644-1100 Ext. 214.

RK VS EXCIMER LASER*

FOR MYOPIA

The Castleman Eye Center announces a **Free Seminar** presenting the most advanced techniques for the treatment of both **nearsightedness and farsightedness.**

ARE YOU A CANDIDATE FOR RK OR THE EXCIMER LASER?

- ☐ YES ☐ NO 1. My prescription has not changed very much in the past few years.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO 2. My eyes are healthy and normal except for being nearsighted or having astigmatism.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO 3. I have mild to severe myopia.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO 4. I have difficulty wearing contacts.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO 5. Glasses are uncomfortable and difficult to wear.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO 6. My job will not permit me to wear contacts or glasses.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO 7. I believe I look my best without glasses and cannot wear contacts.
- ☐ YES ☐ NO 8. Have you been told you are too nearsighted for surgical correction?

SCORING: A "yes" answer to any of these questions, may indicate you are a candidate for RK, the Excimer Laser or Corneal Shaping.

To learn more, we invite you to a free seminar, on Thursday, January 28th at 6:30 p.m. Leading authorities in each of these procedures will discuss options specific to your needs. Patients who have had RK and the Excimer Laser will be present to share their experiences.

Novi Hilton
21111 Haggerty Rd.
Novi, MI

Call 1-800-999-7772
For a reservation
6:30 P.M.

Limited Seating
Refreshments

*The Excimer Laser is presently classified as an investigatory device by the FDA.

WALLSIDE

THE WINDOW THAT WILL PROTECT YOU FROM OLD MAN WINTER!

Replace Those Old Drafty Windows With WALLSIDE Vinyl Replacement Windows With Ford Glass

Starting From...

$199

PER WINDOW INSTALLED
5 Window Minimum Order
Wood Removal

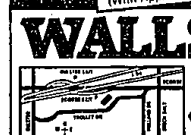
FREE IN-HOME SERVICE INCLUDES LABOR & MATERIALS FOR 35 YEARS

BUY TODAY

NO PAYMENTS OR INTEREST TILL MAY '93
100% Financing Available (With Approved Credit)

FOR A FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE
Call 292-4400
CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-521-7800

WALLSIDE WINDOW FACTORY & SHOWROOM



27000 Trolley Industrial Dr., Taylor, MI 48180

VISIT OUR NEW SHOWROOM TODAY