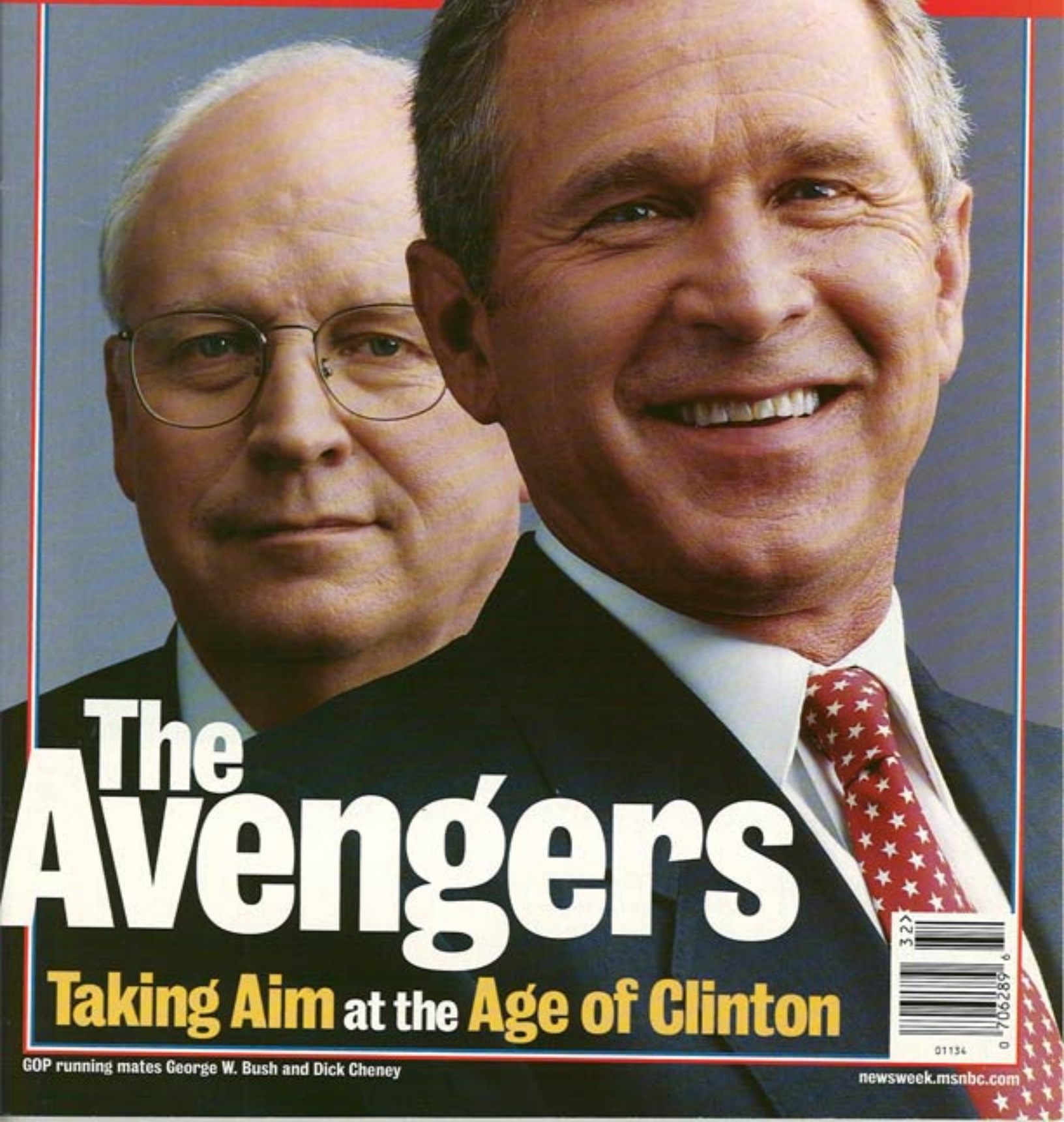


DEATH IN PARIS: THE FUTURE OF THE CONCORDE



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The Avengers

Taking Aim at the **Age of Clinton**



GOP running mates George W. Bush and Dick Cheney

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gasoline prices. More generally, Democrats saw the GOP ticket as Central Casting villains—wealthy white males from upper-income America—in the us-versus-them psywar they were already preparing to run. “They represent the men’s club view of the world,” said Shrum. “They couldn’t be more out of touch.”

The NEWSWEEK Poll shows that the ground for such attacks is shaky. Voters were divided (40-40) when asked whether a Bush-Cheney administration would be “dominated by an old guard”—though of course some voters might regard that as a good thing. But only a third of those polled (35 percent) think the restoration presidency would be “influenced too much by Big Oil.” In fact, the Bush camp was hoping that Gore would be lured into focusing on such pointillistic, issue-by-issue attacks in search of individual nodes of votes. “You’ve only got a certain amount of time in this game,” said one top adviser, “and the more

time they spend going negative, the less time they have to pull Gore out of the hole Bill Clinton has put him in.”

Still, as Gore hunkered down in North Carolina to consider his own presidential options, he was said to be eager for the unexpected chance to attack a generation-long Republican record. He was keeping his own counsel on his veep preferences. Some Democrats urged him to look for a state to secure, such as Florida or Illinois. Others urged him to pick a youngish running mate. The idea was to draw a contrast with Cheney (who is 59 but looks older) and to amplify Gore’s own image of New Economy savvy. Hot names late last week were familiar to the Great Mentioner: Sens. Evan Bayh of Indiana, John Kerry of Massachusetts and John Edwards of North Carolina. Gore is expected to decide this week and announce it early next week.

Cheney got good reviews as a man of substance, but the critics—some Republi-

cans among them—raised questions about how he was chosen. Bush had picked him last spring for the delicate task of “vetting” running mates. In the end, Bush decided that the man he wanted was the gatekeeper himself. Suddenly, Bush himself had to take over a hurried and at times seemingly perfunctory process with the last-minute assistance of his father—who had given a thumbs-up to Cheney long before. Democrats questioned the former president’s influence, and even some Republicans grouched about a stacked deck. At least 11 other contenders had spent weeks gathering data and filling out forms—only to submit them to the man whose inside track rendered their labors moot.

In fact, Bush told NEWSWEEK, he’d first become impressed with Cheney last summer, during sessions in Austin to help brief Bush on issues. Unbeknown to other briefers, Cheney would arrive a day early and spend the evening at the governor’s

Party Brought to You by ...

Besides nominating a presidential candidate, Republicans will be feted at a dizzying array of parties, fund-raisers and soirees—many thrown by corporations and trade groups with political agendas of their own. A selective list:



Golfing the Internet

Sponsor: AT&T

Burns Golf Gala: A must-do event for the telecommunications crowd, this fund-raiser benefits Sen. Conrad Burns of Montana, who chairs a subcommittee that oversees the industry.

The Stakes: AT&T is locked in fierce lobbying battles over the future of Internet

access and efforts by the Baby Bells to break into the long-distance market. AT&T gave \$1 million to the convention, and its general counsel, James Cicconi, is a top Bush fund-raiser.

Pill Happy

Sponsor: Leading pharmaceutical manufacturers

Celebration of Biopharmaceutical Innovation: Reception at Philadelphia’s historic (1812) Academy of Natural Sciences.

The Stakes: In the partisan battle over a new Medicare benefit for prescription drugs, the pharmaceutical industry has lined up with the GOP and against Democratic proposals for lower-cost

drugs. Benefit to the GOP for the Y2K election cycle: \$7.4 million.

Impress Me

Sponsor: SmithKline Beecham

Afternoon at the Barnes Foundation: Chic party

at a private museum on the Main Line that boasts one of the world’s finest collections of impressionism.

The Stakes: Same as the rest of the pharmaceutical industry. SmithKline is a Philadelphia-based corporation, and one of its lobbyists in Texas, Andrea McWilliams, is a leading Bush fund-raiser. The Barnes bash was her idea.

Country Roads

Sponsor: General Motors

Buffet Concert: Featuring country star Hank Williams Jr. **The Stakes:** This year’s soaring gas prices have GM and other automakers worried about the Fed’s imposing tougher fuel-economy standards for light trucks and SUVs. GM

is well positioned to argue its case: its top lobbyist, Andrew Card, just happens to be co-chair of the GOP convention.

Mambo Kings

Sponsors: Giants of the entertainment industry, including the Motion Picture Association of America and the Recording Industry Association

Latin Musical Gala: Late-night bash at Shampoo, a Philly nightclub, featuring Grammy Award winner Jon Secada (“Just Another Day”).

The Stakes: Hollywood is looking for tax credits for U.S. filmmakers, and just about everyone is upset about freebie downloaders like Napster, which threaten sales and royalties.

The Ayes of Texas

Sponsor: Enron, the Houston-based energy conglomerate

Cocktail Party: Honoring this year’s Texas delegation.

The Stakes: Enron chairman Ken Lay is a major Bush supporter and firm gave \$250,000 to help underwrite the convention. Policy concerns include electric-rate deregulation, corporate taxes and tort reform, one of George W’s pet causes.

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PHOTO BY DAVID N. BERKOWITZ FOR NEWSWEEK