

"If everybody
minded their own
business," the
Duchess said, in
a hoarse growl,
"the world would
go round a deal
faster than it
does." "Which
would *not* be an
advantage," said
Alice...

Alice in Wonderland

“‘At some point, shortly before or after the year 1990, there should come a sharp change in the national mood and direction.’ Readers will forgive me if I quote these words from a book I wrote in 1986 called *The Cycles of American History*. I do so because the 1992 election vindicates a hypothesis about the cyclical nature of American politics - a hypothesis that a far more eminent historian, my father, expounded in the *Yale Review* in 1939.” Arthur Schlesinger Jr., *The Wall Street Journal*, 12 November, 1992.

Change. As maligned as the word has been over the last several months, there is no question that the next four years will reflect a different approach to governing. *Observations* is preparing a time capsule to mark the beginning of the Clinton/Gore administration and the end of the Reagan/Bush era. It will be unsealed in 1996 if Clinton is not re-elected or when his second term ends in 2000.

Book

The New York Times Best Seller's List:

Sex by Madonna (Warner Books)

Music

Rock album:

Erotica, Madonna

Gothic/hard rock:

Psalm 69, Ministry

Alternative:

Copper Blue, Sugar

Soul:

411, Mary Kay Blige

Techno:

Something Good, Utah Saints

Country:

Ingenué, k.d. Lang

Hip-Hop:

3 Years, 5 Months and 2 days in the Life Of...

Arrested Development

Art

New York:

Museum of Modern Art

Matisse

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Magritte

Chicago:

Art Institute of Chicago

The Ancient Americas: Art from Sacred Places - A celebration of the meeting of native Americans and Europeans.

Los Angeles:

Museum of Contemporary Art

Judy Fiskin's *Some Photography (1973-1992)* - A selected survey of 47 black and white photographs of aesthetic decisions between vernacular architecture, pop culture and art.

Los Angeles County Museum

Parallel Visions - Modern and Outsider Art - Paintings, drawing and sculptures from the United States and Europe during the 1920s and 1930s.

Washington, D.C.:

National Museum of American History

First Ladies Dresses/A Political Exhibition - Re-installed and re-interpreted to consider the role women played in the White House.

National Gallery of Art

The Chandler Pohrt Collection - Objects belonging to Native Americans.

Dallas:

Dallas Museum of Art

Camille Pissarro's *The Impressionist and the Cities*.

Minneapolis:
Walker Art Center

Public Address: Krzysztof Wodiczko - Photographs of political projections onto buildings across the world.

Television programs

60 Minutes - CBS
Cheers - CBS
CBS Sunday Movie (Sinatra—Part 1) - CBS
(top three, according *The Wall Street Journal* on 12 November)

Cover of Vanity Fair

"Cool Candy - What Does Candice Bergen Value Most?"
"Annie Leibovitz Salutes a Few Good Women"
"On the Trail of Medellin's Cocaine Lord"
"Exeter Blues - The Scandal and the Prep School"
"The Book on Michael Caine"

At the movies

Passenger 57
Under Siege
A River Runs Through It
(according the *Variety* - week of 6-11 November)

Fashion

Grunge and the ubiquitous black

Most popular world leader

???

Country to watch

China

Computers

486 chip - "people have more loyalty to their software than to their significant other."

Dow Jones Industrial Average

3240.06 (ending week of 6 November)

Interest rates

Long Bond at 7.75% (week of 6 November)

Dollar

Record lows against German Mark and Japanese Yen

Demographic trends

Urban population:

187,051,543 people

Rural population:

616,583,300 people

Women

Women in the Supreme Court:

One

Women in the Cabinet:

Three:

Barbara Franklin, Secretary of Commerce

Lynn Martin, Secretary of Labor

Carla Hills, United States Trade Representative

Pet in the White House

Millie (A springer spaniel)