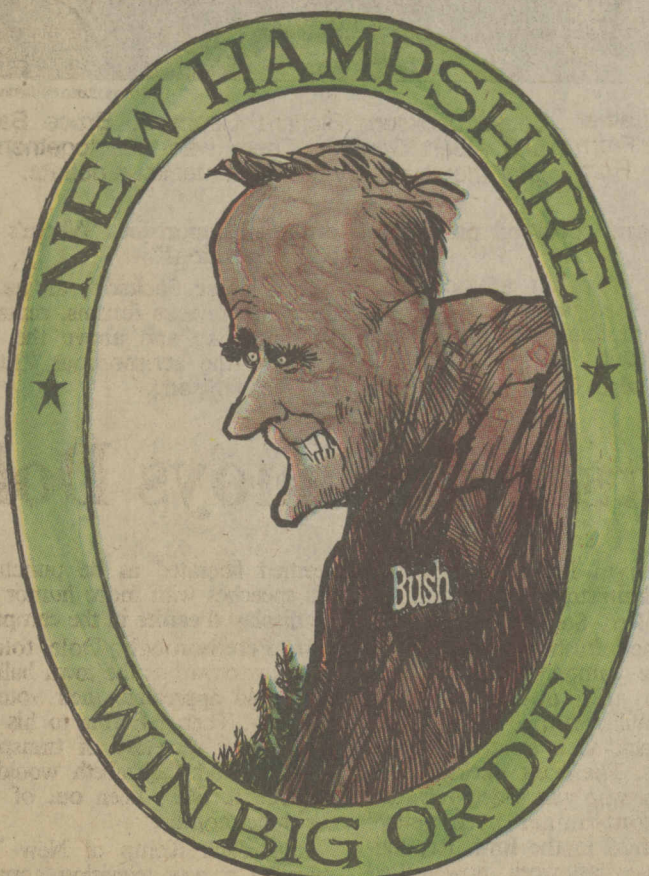


Campaign '88

NEW HAMPSHIRE: 'On the bounce'



Right now George Bush is being discussed in the same sentence with dead meat.



Robertson played Joshua to Bush's Jericho.

Symbolism is all, and Vice President George Bush beamed the first signal of the post-pig-pen presidential derby when he fled Iowa for Nashua, N.H., last Monday night.

He left in a hurry after taking an electoral pasting from Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole and a Southern-born televangelist who once claimed the power to discuss inclement weather systems with the deity.

Yes, Bush got out of town before Pat Robertson was finished with the loaves and the fishes. By late Monday night, television savants poised in front of their "Decision '88" sets in Des Moines were shooting the wounded.

The insider's term these days is "the Iowa bounce," which is what you get when a statewide caucus system everybody ignored before 1976 emits results from its adorable little town meetings.

The bounce in New Hampshire could be picked up Tuesday morning at the state Capitol in Concord, where Republican victor Dole thrilled the peach-cobbler set by touring the basement cafeteria with his wife, Elizabeth.

"It's called working the room," a woman with a look of a motor vehicle department lifer told her seat-mate.

Below the Capitol dome, a gaggle of reporters waited in vain for New York Rep. Jack Kemp, who spent 69 days and \$745,149 in Iowa to earn 11 percent of the GOP vote.

Once the darling of "the Reagan Revolution," Kemp is now one primary short of becoming Reubin Askew. That morning, Kemp changed his mind about speechifying due to lack of journalistic interest, as Dole was scheduled to give a foreign-policy address to the New Hampshire legislature.

No, really. As reporters played the bounce, Kemp was in Concord looking to get media spill-over from Dole. And, one step down the political food chain, the scene was almost enough to make you weep for a millionaire.

Former Delaware Gov. Pete du Pont IV (91 days in Iowa, \$560,000 and 7 percent of the vote) trolled for TV time beneath a statue of Daniel Webster.

"They said the Wright brothers couldn't fly," said du Pont, grounded.

The New Hampshire primary used to be a watershed in American politics. Candidates would spend a year or two in and around the state, building organizations, name recognition and momentum.

Now, everything that happens in Iowa changes everything that will happen in New Hampshire. And fast.

Steve Daley / *WAGNELL*

Candidates like Bush and Illinois Sen. Paul Simon have eight days to rally support. New Hampshire used to be a forced march. Now it's a raid.

Quickly, here's a bipartisan look at "the Iowa bounce" as it is being explained in the Kollege of Political Knowledge, or the bar of the Sheraton Wayfarer Hotel in Bedford, N.H.

On the Democratic side, Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri is bumped in the right direction by virtue of winning in Iowa. He'll be able to raise some money, and you'll have to figure out how to spell his name, and distinguish him from former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, won't you?

Simon gets a short hop and an error because the expectation-builders figure he should have triumphed with the folks next door in Iowa. Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis gets a bounce, sort of, because he finished third behind a pair of Midwesterners.

Jesse Jackson got 11 percent and respect, which in politics is like having a prom date with a great personality. Babbitt ought to think about that governor's seat Evan Mecham has been warming for him. The media's onetime darling is nobody's baby now.

Gary Hart? This is a man holding his family hostage on the campaign trail. It's no longer even funny.

The Republicans are a political train wreck, and thus are having all the laughs.

True sophisticates will tell you the Democrats got no Iowa bounce at all because nobody pays any attention to their race after Robertson played Joshua to Bush's Jericho. On caucus night, the networks didn't get around to the Democrats until the Robertson putsch in Iowa had been explained by everyone but Rev. Andrew Greeley.

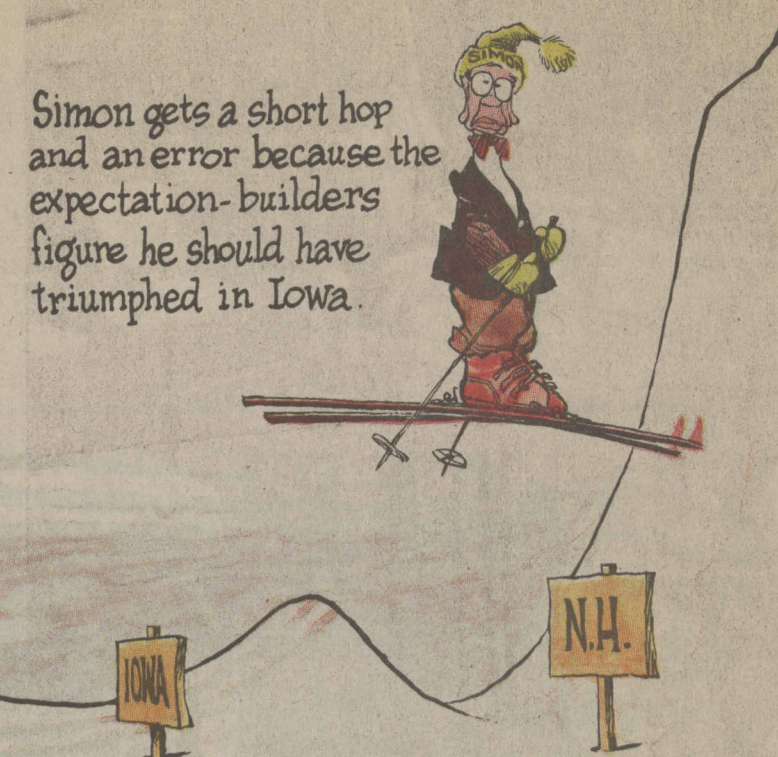
With the New Hampshire vote two days away, Bush is being discussed in the same sentence with phrases like "death knell," "do or die" and "dead meat."

Dole is trying to look presidential, which means he can't threaten to punch anyone's lights out for at least a couple of weeks. He is the front-runner, but in every interview the second question Dole is asked concerns Robertson and his "invisible army."

That army, which was only 26,000 votes strong in Iowa, has the Republicans as skittish as Atty. Gen. Ed Meese in a courthouse.



Hart is still holding his family hostage on the campaign trail.



Reporters in New Hampshire position themselves to handle the bounce from Iowa.



One step down the political food chain is Pete du Pont, whose \$560,000 and 91 days of campaigning yielded 7%.