

LET'S PLIKE CLINTON
MAKES SURPRISE CHOICE

Second Thoughts

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A portmanteau word is formed by rear-ending one word with another.

Tromp (*tramp* + *stomp*) is an example, as is *chortle* (*chuckle* + *snort*). *Pither* (*pittance* + *wither*) qualifies. The receptionist of a law firm answers the telephone with a portmanteau word: *Losses* (*law Offices*). Guess what two words are combined in *frantic*?

My sons and daughters, when they were small invented *plike* (*play* + *like*) as in: "Let's plike," which translated in simply. "Let's play like."

Let's plike Gen. Custer escaped from the battle at Little Big Horn and was court marshaled. A popular novelist used this scenario and wrote a best-selling novel, entitled "The Court Marshal of Gen. George Custer."

Let's plike the South won THE war, conquered the North, created a new nation with its capital, say at Atlanta. Or that the South won and the United States was forever divided into two nations.

Only a few months ago, we could have pliked communism had failed and the Soviet Union had disintegrated into an amalgamation of several independent republics (That, of course, would have been considered too far fetched).

Now we move back to more recent times and plike that after Saddam invaded Kuwait, President Bush hesitated. The Gulf War never happened. Saddam simply added the province of Kuwait to Iraq, dictated terms to Saudi Arabia, and tightened his hold on the oil producing Arab states.

In the United States, the price of gasoline has exceeded \$2 per gallon and motorists are lining up at the pumps. Prices of oil based products have sky rocketed, and Ted Kennedy is screaming his head off at the president for failing to stop Saddam. The news media are pummeling our wimp president for his timidity, and H. Ross Perot is hinting at a private military foray into Baghdad.

Ah, but the president did move in a courageous decision that thwarted inevitable inflation and very likely saved the economy of this country.

Just one more plike. Let's plike Bill Clinton selects Michael Jordan as his running mate. This may not be as outrageous as you think.

Let's look at Jordan's assets – his political assets, that is.

Number one, he is black and more than an answer to the Reverend Jackson. Every black voter has dreamed on a black candidate on the national ticket. Guess which political party would get the black vote?

Also he is a political outsider, which seems to weigh heavily in this election year. He handles himself well in press conferences. He probably would carry Illinois and all of its electoral votes. He is intelligent – despite popular opinion, most vice presidents are intelligent. And he is from a heavily populated state with lots of electoral votes.

The duties of the vice president are not clearly defined, but he is supposed to be the president's good will ambassador. Who better than Michael?

But what if Michael became president. Well, we got along with several former generals, a former college football player (Ford), a former movie actor (now what was that guy's name?), a former college president (Wilson), a former clothing merchant (Truman), a few farmers and one preacher (Garfield).

So, why not a former professional basketball player? – and I don't mean U. S. Sen. Bill Bradley of New Jersey, a former pro basketball player and a former Rhodes Scholar. I mean Chicago Bulls player Michael Jordan.

Whoaaa! I'm only pliking.

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