POLITICS

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The Battalion

Monday, Octobe

Democrats hold electoral edge

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YPSILANTI, Mich. - When President Bush takes a look at the

electoral map these days, he knows exactly how Bill Clinton feels.

With little more than two weeks until Election Day, Clinton has an overwhelming

lead in state-Clinton by-state polls, particularly in

major states, and could win in a landslide if the election were held

Analysts predict Clinton to win race by landslide similar to Bush'88 victory

today.The Democrat's electoral edge is a virtual mirror image of the huge advantage Bush enjoyed at this point of the campaign four years ago - and Bush went on to win 40 states and 426 of a possible

win 40 states and 426 of a possible 538 Electoral College votes. Analysts in both parties caution that things could change in the final 15 days, with a final debate Monday night, but acknowledge Clinton is poised for definitive wietory definitive victory.

"Bush has not been able to change the subject and get this election decided on something other than the economy," said

Republican strategist John Sears. "Right now, people are answering 'No' to the question, 'Do you want four more years of George Bush?' and that is reflected in Clinton's lead in all these states

"Something big has got to happen for Bush to turn this thing around and I'm not sure how Bush makes it happen," said Democratic pollster Geoffrey Garin. Clinton aides, fearful of sounding overconfident, are reluctant to discuss their Electoral College strategy, or the implications of their big lead.

The Arkansas governor himself was annoyed Saturday when asked about the possibility of a landslide victory.

"It's way premature," Clinton said. "This election is a long way from over – 17 days is a lifetime in public life." The Bush campaign,

acknowledging its predicament, nevertheless insists Clinton's support is soft and that enough of the Democrat's supporters can be persuaded to support Bush. Bush has millions of dollars on

hand for an end-of-campaign advertising blitz, and Clinton aides predict some states will shift allegiances in a "natural tightening" of the race that they've been predicting for weeks.

Baker faces failure in Bush's campaign cial, not a guy who easily fits that capital shorthand

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - He started as the strategist and became part of the strategy

What began as a familiar call to James A. Baker III to rescue President Bush's stalled reelection campaign has escalated to a promise that he would take charge of the economy in a second term. And other aides raised the possibility he would deliver a major speech this week

Not in anyone's political memory has a top aide come so close to virtually pre-empting the presidential candidate. Was this an admission by Bush that his old friend, his man for all jobs and seasons, was more credible with voters than he, the president? Will Baker, or Bush even, get a second chance?

"It's very strange. They clearly are looking for a miracle worker," said Robert Schmuhl, an associate professor of American Studies at Notre Dame

After decades of winning, Baker could be about to lose.

Jim Baker is no ordinary government offi-



Baker

during the Roosevelt years. Dean Acheson was one and Clark Clifford another.

ment list. Some aspire, come close, don't quite make it.

Baker has the resume. Undersecretary of commerce during the Ford administration, White House chief of staff during Ronald Reagan's first term, and treasury secretary in his second.

The day after the election in 1988, Bush announced his secretary of state. His choice was Baker

His reputation for getting the job done be-gan in 1976, when President Gerald R. Ford recruited him to help overcome a Republican nomination challenge from Ronald Reagan. Before long, Baker's code name on the White House communications system was "Miracle Worker.

That reputation persists, justified in part by a remarkable record in government and politics, as well as a dazzling collection of newspa-per clips. No one in Washington more assiduously cultivates the media and protects his image than Baker.

A common thread is Baker's insistence that he is not a politician. He'd like to be remembered as a figure of

substance, as treasury secretary and even more as secretary of state. When he got that job four years ago, Baker thought he had finally moved above the seamy business of politics. But he could never shake free.

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gress under paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, approved a new, slightly younger

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day that ex-

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese congress

OK Deng's policies

selects new leader S

The congress closed with a

resolution praising Deng and endorsing his policy of adopt-ing capitalist practices to preserve Communist rule.

Red flags and a huge ham-mer and sickle decorated the Great Hall of the People, where delegates chose the 319-member Central Committee. Then the delegates stood to hear the "Internationale," the anthem of the shrinking world communist movement.

The Central Committee ratifies major policy decisions, and party leaders hope the new one will ensure a smooth transition after the death of Deng and other revolutionaries who have dominated the party for more than a decade.

But previous efforts at arranging a succession have failed, and there is no guarantee it will work this time. Deng, 88, did not attend the

congress, but was its domin He and the other part BEIJING, CHINA - The Communist Party, holding what is likely to be its last con-

Th ders scripted it beforehan in inc ting the tone of the spe niors and choosing the candidat senic the Central Čommittee. The state-run Xinhua branc

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Th Agency said nearly ha review committee members wer the U and 61 percent were below Th "evidence that the Co Micha nist Party of China is fullo or and vitality and has atm bers Air F successors.

McM The committee also ind more military officers and Ea comm a few members from thes eastern provinces that have the way in developing a mar Rip is a m economy. honor

Former committee mem who resigned included h dent Yang Shangkun, 85, islative chairman Wan U Comp and other elderly ver They are believed to stepped down voluntar make way for youngerpe Yu Cont

The resignation of B party boss Li Ximing, a Culture Minister He lin People's Daily editor (lands and a few other hardtheir however, reflected the defea their efforts to make ideolog purity dominate the party a nians

Instead, the week-long gress was an affirmation pragmatic policies of D who over 14 years in powe reduced state control over economy in favor of free ma kets.





senior official. He is one of those quin-tessential Washington figures who come along once a generation or so, whose careers define the potential of unelected power in a city dominated by those who proudly wear the title "nolitician"

appellation of top aide or

Financier Bernard Baruch set the standard

John McCloy, Averell Harriman and Robert Strauss make this very small, very establish-

The Battalion

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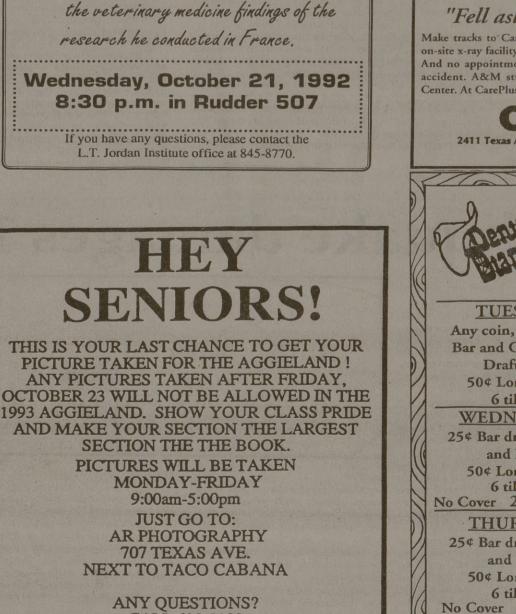
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