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1.80	D	SI2	\$12,600 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
1.16	E	SI2	\$6100 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
1.04	H	VS2	\$5600 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
1.01	H	VS2	\$5500 ⁰⁰
.92	G	SI2	\$4327 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
.81	I	SI2	\$2375 ⁰⁰
.70	E	SI3	\$1650 ⁰⁰
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Electile disfunction

Election debacle could lead to an impotent interim president

The end of the year 2000 is quickly approaching, and one of the most prevalent complaints heard this year was about the noticeable lack of a futuristic setting promised by bad '70s science fiction movies and "The Jetsons" cartoons.



STUART HUTSON

Meanwhile, the subject matter that should have the American public thinking about what will not be in the near future is the infantile quibbling about this year's elections.

The litigation resulting from "electile disfunction 2000" could last until flying cars really are being sold at the local used car dealership.

As anyone who has the cajones to challenge a speeding ticket knows, no one is better at dragging out a situation than the lawyers of this great nation.

The pairing of American lawyers and the leadership of the free world is about as good an idea as inviting Joe Lieberman to a Saturday electric ham-baking convention. The result has not only made America the laughing stock of the entire world, but it also has led to the populace being exposed to the words "dimpled chads" so often that masses of junior high girls are beginning to believe that the term refers to the next big fashion craze from Calvin Klein.

Not that the people care anymore, but it should be interesting to see the general reaction of Americans when the true travesty of this affair is exposed.

Clinton cannot rule forever, and the speedy court system eventually may have to decide on a temporary replacement. One possible result is executing the presidential succession clause of the Constitution — a clause that would normally only be used in case of a mass assassination of government leaders.

First in line is Vice President Al Gore. If anyone cannot figure out why he does not fit into the picture, he should be dragged out into the street and beaten with a rolled-up newspaper.

Next come Speaker of the House of Representatives Denny Hastert and Senate President Pro Tem Strom Thurmond. Yeah, like they are going to give up sweet deals like those to have a week-long reign as the most persecuted man in the nation.

These officers are followed by Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. This Czechoslovakian-born American does not rank because of

yet another obscure constitutional clause preventing those born in foreign countries from becoming president.

Then come the Secretary of Defense William Cohen and Secretary of the Treasury Lawrence Summers. Both of these officials are rumored to be leaving public office in search of work in the private sector. Good luck, guys.

This leaves the most probable contestant in the giant game of "Pick the President," Attorney General Janet Reno. No one ever enjoys seeing the glass as half empty, but in this case, finding a reason why Reno should not be president has to be better than looking at those fish bowl glasses until the presidential temperament tantrum has ended.

Reno has endured numerous ugly jokes during her term as a protector of the public trust. The likelihood that America as a whole would be comfortable with someone who could at any moment tear away a false wig and glasses to reveal Dr. Evil would be slim to none. Is this an exaggeration? Well, this 6-foot-1-inch juggernaut is rumored to wear a blue dress formerly owned by J. Edgar Hoover.

What she lacks in charm, she makes up for in Frankenstein-inspired dread. Face it, nothing is quite as heartwarming as the picture of cute little Elian Gonzales with an assault rifle pointed in his general direction. Although this

aggressiveness could be used in Florida right now, when applied to foreign relations, it might cause another Branch Davidian fire situation on a larger scale ... like, say, that of Bosnia.

But maybe the glass is not half empty. After all, Reno's appointment is America's most probable shot at getting a woman president in the next century.

Women currently have an uphill battle in obtaining public office since, in the image battle called an election, their dresses, hairstyles and makeup are con-

stantly scrutinized. Meanwhile, men need only a short haircut and a dark suit to be on par with the next guy looking for a power trip.

Reno's butch style, with the simple blue dress and scant traces of lipstick, may be what is needed to give a new status quo to power-motivated women in politics, much to the disgust of the Tammy Fae Baker wannabes often seen at Republican fund-raisers.

What it really comes down to, however, is that final result of the current presidential hoopla really does not matter. Anyone with a glimmer of consciousness knows that the true ruler of the free world is Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan — or, as his friends call him, God.

— Stuart Hutson is a journalist



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