

Slamming Sheehy ^{Post} 9/13/95

Gail Sheehy has issued a mild-mannered rebuttal to Newt Gingrich's full-throated attack on her.

On "Meet the Press" Sunday, the House speaker assailed Sheehy's Vanity Fair profile of him, which detailed alleged extramarital affairs of 15 years ago. "Gail Sheehy is a vicious liberal," Gingrich declared, calling the article "a despicable hit piece by a person who has virtually no values. . . . Every person I know who likes me, who talked with Gail Sheehy, frankly resents having done so because she so systematically manipulated and was so totally dishonest in the article My advice to anybody in the future who's a rational person, who's a conservative or moderate, is just don't allow Gail Sheehy to interview you because you'll be savaged."

When host Tim Russert noted that Gingrich had not denied any of Sheehy's allegations, he refused to comment on "trash journalism."

In a statement, Sheehy replied: "Because he cannot challenge the facts in the article, Speaker Gingrich has chosen to attack me personally. The 12,000-word piece does include reference to events from years ago. As a historian the speaker should know that's what biographies do. . . . I interviewed 70 people for this article. I have not received a single complaint from any quoted source."

They All Sound Alike

In a Monday article on Liberia, the New York Times ran a locator map of . . . Libya.

Shut Out in Seattle

CompuServe, which has nearly 300 employees in Seattle, was stunned last week when the Seattle Post-Intelligencer refused to run an ad for the on-line

computer service. The ad took a poke at the new Microsoft Network, part of the software giant based in nearby Redmond.

The Post-Intelligencer said it does not accept ads for on-line services. "It's a strange excuse, since nearly every major paper . . . is embracing the on-line world," says CompuServe spokesman Pierce Reid. "Given that this is what we consider to be our other hometown, it's tough to be locked out of that newspaper."

Marji Ruiz, vice president of the Seattle Times, which handles advertising for the Post-Intelligencer under a joint venture, says the rejection had nothing to do with the slap at Microsoft. On-line ads are "competitive with our revenue base and our readership base," she says. "You don't see ads for CBS on NBC. We just don't feel it's in our business interest."

Simonized

The downsizing at Times Mirror papers continues. The latest victim is Roger Simon, an award-winning Washington columnist for the Baltimore Sun, who was laid off last week. "It's like a punch in the stomach," the 10-year Sun veteran says. "My evaluations have been beyond glowing, all the usual stuff you get right before they tell you your job has been eliminated."

Simon, who is writing a '96 campaign book, says his bosses decided in redesigning the paper that there was room for only one Washington column—the one by Jack Germond and Jules Witcover. "I disagree with their decision to have only one, but I didn't get a vote on this," Simon says.

Change of Heart

"Newsweek Basks After Scoop Over Time on the Powell Memoirs"—New York Times, Sept. 6, first edition

"Time Questions Newsweek on Powell Memoirs Scoop"—New York Times, Sept. 6, late edition