

MARCH 25, 1996

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Asides

Who Is Micah Morrison?

So asked an editorial in Friday's Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, stung by Journal editorial page writer Micah Morrison's article last week on the trial of Governor Jim Guy Tucker. It included a few paragraphs on the tenor of coverage by the local press, and in Arkansas as everywhere, the press has the thinnest skin around.

So the Arkansas press is in an uproar, even including the Democrat-Gazette, whose editorial page editor is Paul Greenberg, who tried to tell the nation for years that Bill Clinton was "Slick Willie." While the offending article also had compliments for the paper, Mr. Morrison says he did have some lumps coming for attributing to it a cartoon in the weekly Arkansas Times. However, he denies that he hugged Debbie Gershman, spokesperson for Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, as the Democrat-Gazette reported the day before. He also denies, as the editorial variously charged, that his prose was "turgid," or in a "half-Karl Marx, half-Jules Verne mode" or that he was a "space-age visitor" who had "only begun to degravitate" or that he indulged in "gonzo journalism."

Mr. Morrison had asserted that the local press has a "home-team mentality," and what the reaction says about this we leave readers to judge. But any Arkansan with information he or she would rather entrust to Mr. Morrison can leave a message at 212-416-2581.

The Wall Street Journal

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