

Star Power

THE BENCH

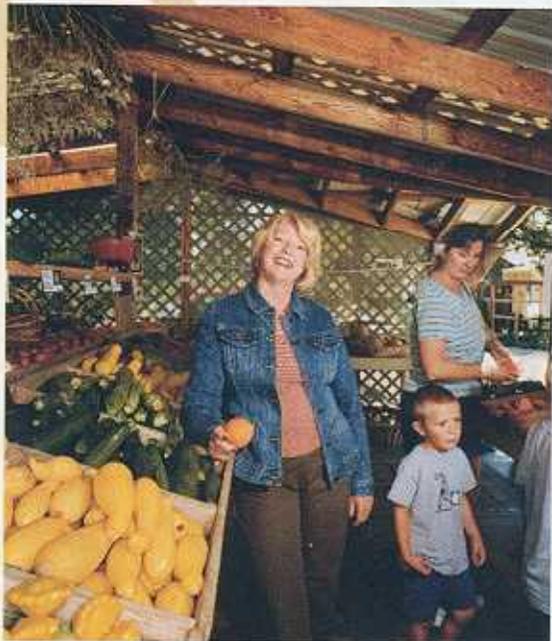
It's Bush's convention, but the 2008 jockeying has begun. Pretenders to the throne, and other bright GOP lights.

THE FRESHMAN **Marilyn Musgrave**

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, COLORADO

GAY MARRIAGE WASN'T EVEN ON THE NATIONAL radar when Marilyn Musgrave introduced the Federal Marriage Amendment in May 2003. Though it languished in Congress for months, her bill to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman finally won broad support—and backing from George W. Bush—when a flurry of same-sex unions put gay marriage in the spotlight. (The Senate failed to advance the measure, but the House is expected to take it up in September.) Elected in 2002, Musgrave has proved herself a gutsy freshman: she bucked her party by opposing a gasoline tax hike and personally told the president she couldn't support his expensive Medicare bill last fall.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUELINE BOHNERT FOR NEWSWEEK



VET WARS: WHY ARE WE STILL IN VIETNAM?

Newsweek

September 6, 2004

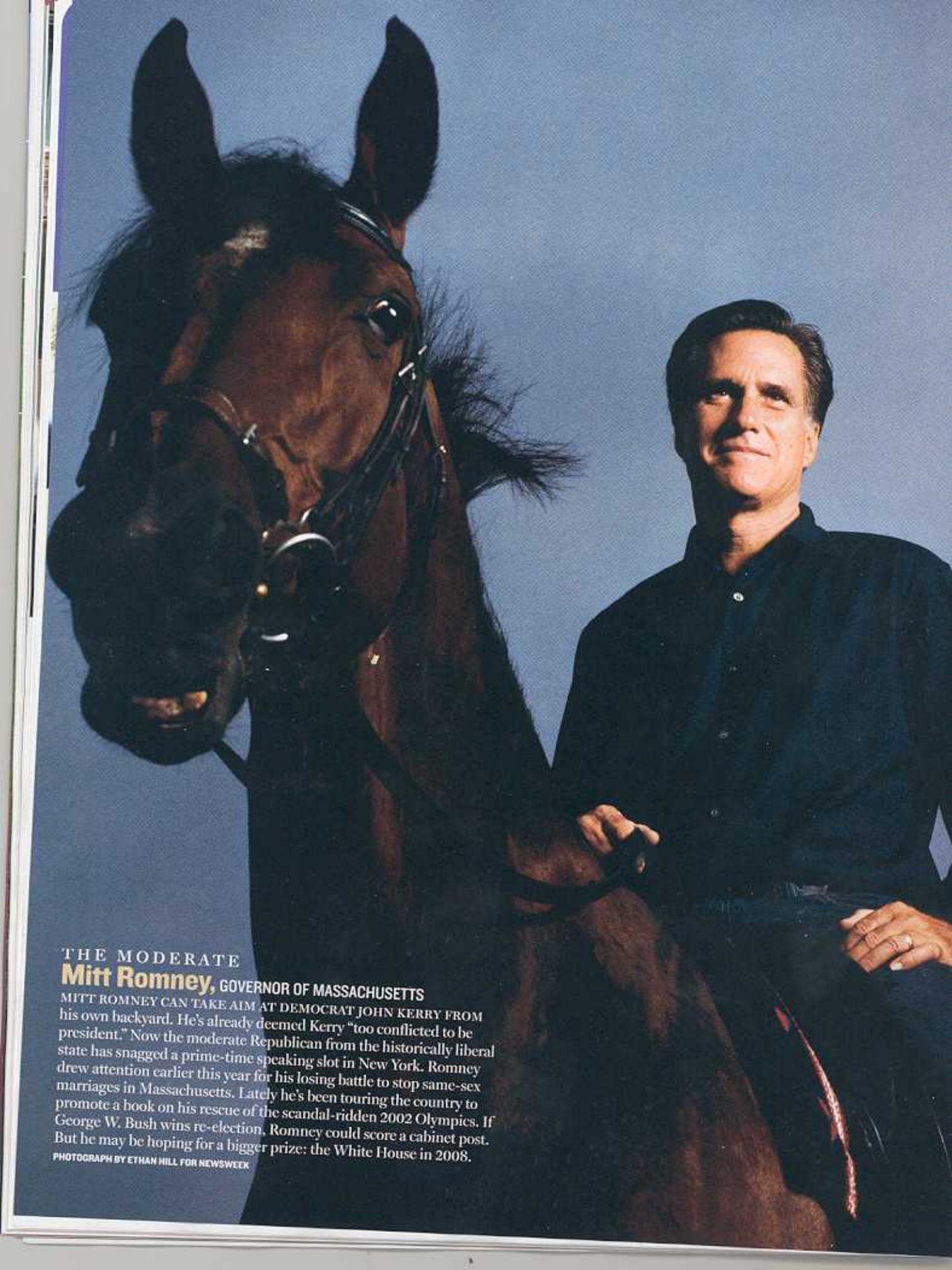
newsweek.msnbc.com

The Virtues
And Vices
Of Bush's
Stubborn
Resolve

No Excuses

By Evan Thomas





THE MODERATE

Mitt Romney, GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS

MITT ROMNEY CAN TAKE AIM AT DEMOCRAT JOHN KERRY FROM his own backyard. He's already deemed Kerry "too conflicted to be president." Now the moderate Republican from the historically liberal state has snagged a prime-time speaking slot in New York. Romney drew attention earlier this year for his losing battle to stop same-sex marriages in Massachusetts. Lately he's been touring the country to promote a book on his rescue of the scandal-ridden 2002 Olympics. If George W. Bush wins re-election, Romney could score a cabinet post. But he may be hoping for a bigger prize: the White House in 2008.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ETHAN HILL FOR NEWSWEEK

Hair Decor



THE ROCK STAR **Rudolph Giuliani**, FORMER MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY

THREE YEARS AFTER HIS RESOLUTE RESPONSE TO THE 9/11 ATTACKS MADE him America's mayor, Rudy Giuliani continues to shine brightly in the GOP firmament. He has campaigned ardently for the president and is a strong contender for a cabinet post in a second Bush administration. Though he's now a consultant, Giuliani, 60, undoubtedly harbors huge ambitions. His support of abortion rights and opposition to a gay-marriage ban rankle conservatives, but few can rival his stature as a leader.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHIAS CLAMER FOR NEWSWEEK

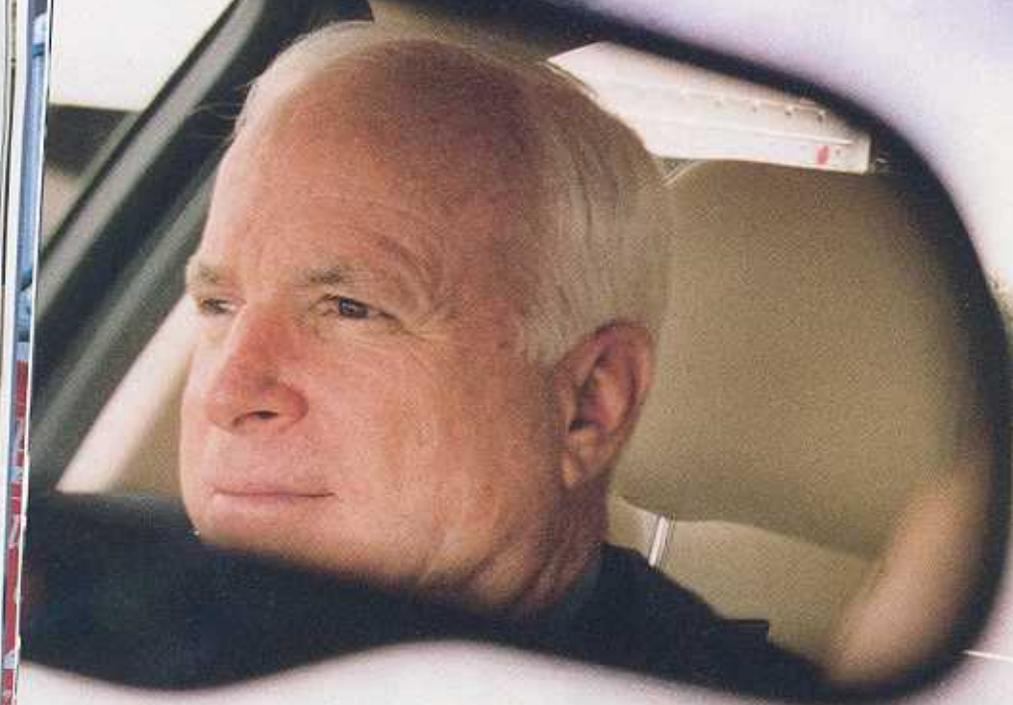


THE VETERAN

Chuck Hagel, U.S. SENATOR, NEBRASKA

CHUCK HAGEL SEEMS TO HAVE IT ALL. A MILLIONAIRE FORMER BUSINESS executive, a gruff-voiced Vietnam vet with two Purple Hearts, and a media darling with an early career in radio. But above all, Hagel's politics and personal style give him wide appeal: an independent-minded Republican (and a sharp critic of Bush's Iraq policies) with a conservative voting record. He is close to John McCain, and co-chaired McCain's 2000 presidential run. But he's no blind loyalist, having opposed his pal's campaign-finance reform.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW HETHERINGTON—REDUX FOR NEWSWEEK

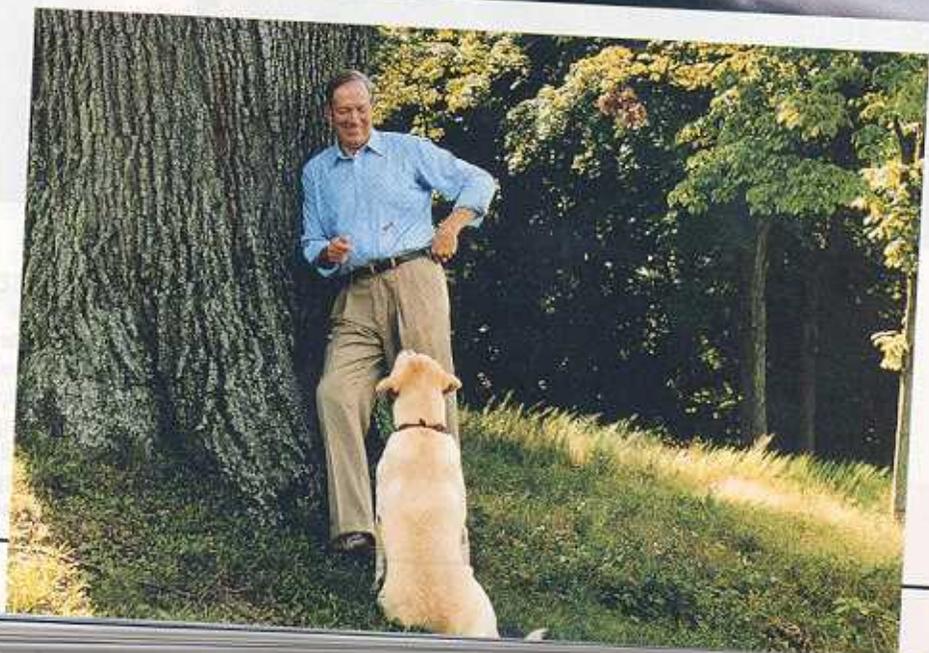


THE SLEEPER
George Pataki

GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK

AS A THREE-TERM GOP GOVERNOR IN A state as blue as they come, George Pataki has already won admirers. This week he'll raise his profile nationally when he introduces Bush. If he forsakes a fourth gubernatorial run, Pataki, 59, may aim for the Senate in 2006—or even higher. He's a social moderate who favors gay rights and gun control, but he's a steadfast supporter of Bush's foreign policy. Low-key to the point of lackluster, Pataki should never be underestimated: he's never lost an election.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HARRY BENSON FOR NEWSWEEK

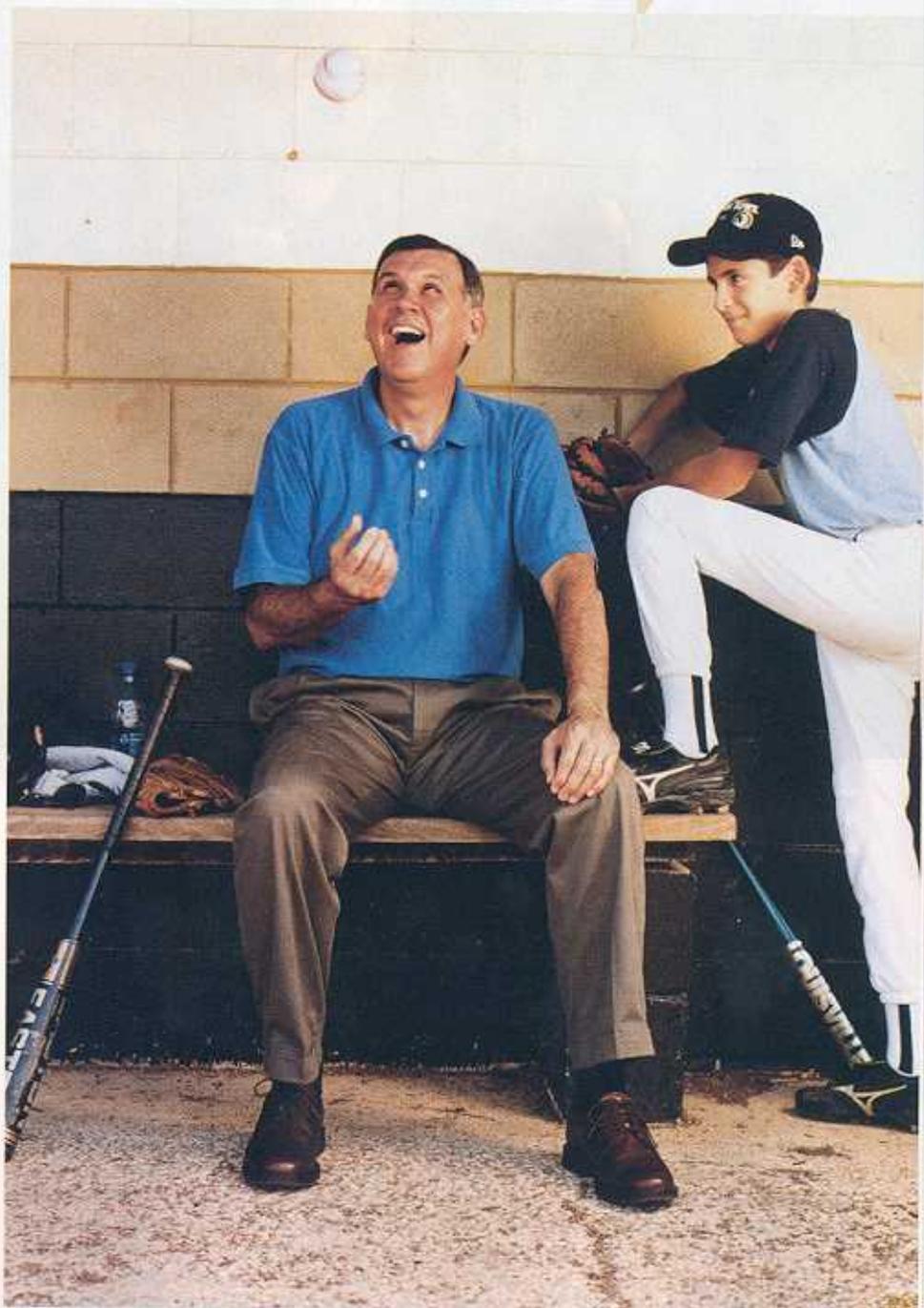


THE MAVERICK

John McCain, U.S. SENATOR, ARIZONA

HIS POLITICAL HERO IS TEDDY ROOSEVELT, AND LIKE ALL THE BEST MAVERICKS, John McCain remains far more popular outside his party than in. Whether it's his friendship with John Kerry or his outspoken attacks on the pork-barrel spending of his colleagues, the Arizona senator is viewed with deep suspicion among his fellow Republicans on Capitol Hill. Yet he's also, as his North Vietnamese captors discovered three decades ago, a survivor. Since he lost to Bush in the GOP primary four years ago, he's led the charge toward two of his most cherished goals: campaign-finance reform and toppling Saddam. These days, he might just be Bush's most valuable ally on Iraq.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLES OMMANNEY FOR NEWSWEEK



THE CONTENDER

Mel Martinez

U.S. SENATE CANDIDATE, FLORIDA

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S FAVORITE in the Florida Senate race, Mel Martinez, 57, will get a plum speaking slot on the convention's last night if he wins his primary this week. Even if he loses, party leaders see him as a strong contender for statewide office in two years. Bush's former Housing secretary is a refugee from Castro's Cuba. He was once a trial lawyer, not the administration's favorite profession. But with Martinez on the ballot, Bush hopes Cuban-Americans will turn out in force.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIN PATRICE O'BRIEN FOR NEWSWEEK