

Packy's was Wright-Patterson's answer to the United Nations Delegates Lounge, and a lot more fun. Pictures of Bob Hope—for whom the Hope Conference Center was named—entertaining American troops in four wars covered the walls. Four giant television screens, tuned to CNN and various all-sports channels, dominated the main room. Each table had its own small speaker, which could tune to any of the four channels, so the room usually resounded with overlapping broadcast sounds. On nights when the Chicago Bulls played, the Croats gathered to cheer their hero, Toni Kukoc; the Serbs waited to cheer Vlade Divac, then with the Los Angeles Lakers.

When Milosevic and I arrived on that first evening, Haris Silajdzic was sitting with Chris Hill. I went over to their table, but Milosevic pointedly held back, shaking Silajdzic's hand brusquely and then turning away to chat with people at other tables. Watching Milosevic turn on the charm, Warren Christopher later observed that had fate dealt him a different birthplace and education, he would have been a successful politician in a democratic system.

The waitress serving Milosevic was a pleasant woman who had no idea that she was serving one of the most reviled people in the world. "What's your name?" he asked her. "Where are you from?" Charmed by the attention, she told us she was Vicky. In Milosevic's excellent but accented English, she became "Waitress Wicky." Whenever he came to Packy's, he would ask her to serve him. A local legend was born, and a year later, during the first-anniversary celebrations at Wright-Patterson, I was served by Waitress Wicky herself, now a proud part of the Dayton story.

Milosevic was seething about the press, especially a profile of him by Roger Cohen in *The New York Times* that morning. "It is unbelievable," the Serb leader said, "that such shit can be printed." He singled out the references to his parents—his father, "an Orthodox priest who had committed suicide when his son was 4," and his mother, "a schoolteacher who committed suicide several years later."

"Why do they print such stupid things," he asked, neither confirming nor denying their accuracy. "How can you permit it?" Milosevic complained that some of the information in Cohen's article came from within our delegation. This was true, although unintentional, and I made no effort to deny it.

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"The eyes of the world are on Dayton, Ohio," Warren Christopher said on his arrival at 9:00 A.M. As we drove to the "quad," I warned Christopher that all three sides had hardened their positions in anticipation of the opening bell. This was to be expected at the beginning of such an event. More discouraging was the disarray within the Bosnian delegation and the dissension between the Croats and the Bosnians over the Federation.