

## LAME DUCK OR SWAN SONG?

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The media has of late confused the status of reelected officials not eligible for an additional term, referring to them as "lame ducks". Governor George Allen of Virginia and President Clinton are prime examples. Although the animal term is inappropriate for their situation, both men will have to come to terms with the animal kingdom in their respective positions.

The symbols of their particular parties--the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey--are well-known, as is the eagle, our national emblem.

Messrs. Clinton and Allen are surrounded by hawks and doves. Both are good horse traders who deal with pork barrel legislation, use paper tiger positions, bargain with red herring tactics and try to hog the limelight.

Beastly schemes are revealed in fighting over the pecking order. Watchdog committees are circumvented, and the citizenry is hounded for contributions to feather the nest eggs of politicians. It can really get your goat!

Politicians live in a vulture culture where their ideas many times are for the birds, designed to dog their constituents. They use weasel words, promising a chicken in every pot or similar fat cat double-talk. All too often the result is a lot of bull, and they spend the rest of the time trying to worm out of their promises.

Some compare politics to milking a cow: you can accomplish a lot if you have a little pull. At best the political arena is a jungle with more monkeying around than most vocations would tolerate. It can really get "harey" when these turkeys get together.

Good luck to both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Allen as they play out their swan songs in their separate dominions. Hopefully their leadership will provide us with a stable future as they attempt to corral the problems of the day.