

Obituary: George H.W. Bush died on November 30th

Wherever he went, as America's president or before it, George Herbert Walker Bush usually carried a felt-tipped pen and a supply of note-cards. On these he wrote letters. Some were thank-yous; others a clumsy, but courteous, attempt to get his views across to other people; yet others just a "good to see you" kind of thing.

When the time came to write his presidential **memoirs**, to **salve** some of that desperate hurt after Bill Clinton thrashed him in 1992, he published instead 600-plus pages of **correspondence**. They ranged from **doting** letters to new-born grandchildren to his worries, as a young seaman in 1943, that his girlfriend Barbara, "so darn attractive", would drop him while he was away; from his attempt to explain the Watergate scandal to his four young sons, to his **mortified** account of throwing up in 1992 on the Japanese prime minister, "the damnedest experience". He admitted that some of the letters were nutty. But they were also of the moment. As he said, "It's all about heartbeat."

memoir 回忆录; 自传

salve 缓和; 安慰

correspondence 通信; 一致

dote 溺爱

mortified 受辱的; 羞耻的

obituary 讣告

His **forte**, and first love, was foreign policy. He had been ambassador to the UN for Nixon, an **envoy** to China for Gerald Ford (he and Barbara riding round delightedly on bicycles) and head of the CIA, besides, as vice-president, a follower-of-the-**hearse** at dozens of state funerals. **Instinctively**, he thought in terms of global power games; **fortuitously**, his time as president coincided with the end of the cold war, a **heady** and fascinating moment.

forte 特长

envoy 使者

hearse 灵车; 棺材

instinctively 本能地; 直觉地

fortuitously 偶然地; 意外地

heady 兴奋的; 任性的