

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Speechwriting

Series/Staff Member: Terry Edmonds

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 10985

FolderID:

Folder Title:

8-9-95 Prgrssv Natl Baptist Cnvtn Charlotte, NC

Stack:

S

Row:

0

Section:

0

Shelf:

0

Position:

0

REMARKS BY
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 9, 1995

[Acknowledgements: Rev. Bennett W. Smith for introduction; Governor Hunt; Rev. Harold Diggs, host pastor; Rev. Otis Moss, Jr.; Rev. Charles Adams, past president; Rev. Billy Kyles, Memphis; my good friend Rev. Gardner Taylor, founder; bishops; ministers; and distinguished guests....]

I am honored to be here with you today. They told me I would be speaking in a convention hall, but when I heard that choir singing, I knew I was in the House of the Lord. Thank you for inviting me into this house and making me feel right at home.

As your President, I know that our country needs more than political leadership from the White House and the Congress. We need the kind of spiritual leadership that only you can provide. Unfortunately, the importance of your work too often gets overlooked.

This reminds me of a story I heard recently. A man went into a bookstore and asked the clerk to show him the "Religion" section. She politely said to him, "I'm sorry, but we no longer have a religion section. What you want is either Nonfiction or Self-Improvement." At least she didn't point him to the fiction or fantasy section.

What they didn't know at that bookstore is that there is a strong cadre of ministers and clergymen, of all faiths who are quietly leading the charge for spiritual renewal and reconciliation in America.

Reconciliation, like charity, begins at home. So, I am especially gratified to see our entire Baptist family finally reaching common ground on the issue of race and civil rights. I understand that this is the first-ever joint meeting between the Progressive Baptist Convention and the Alliance of Baptists. You are breaking new ground and we are all grateful for your efforts.

I also want to commend the Southern Baptist Convention for its strong statement regarding the split with Northern Baptists 150 years ago over slavery. And I want to commend all of you for accepting this apology and pledging to use it to heal old wounds.

America needs your healing powers now as never before. Our families, our children, and our values are facing unprecedented pressures at the dawn of the 21st century.

There are two distinct sides to the debate about family values.

On the one hand, are those who see family problems and children's problems as primarily matters of personal and social morality. They believe that all government has to do is encourage good behavior.

On the other hand, are those who see family problems primarily as a result of the tremendous economic difficulties facing Americans today. They believe government's job is to develop policies that help people make the most of their own abilities, and rewards those who work hard and play by the rules.

But, these two sides really aren't as far apart as they seem. A moral problem can quickly become an economic problem. In the case of teen pregnancy for example, the cycle of poverty and hopelessness will continue from one generation to the next unless we intervene with education and child care and moral reinforcements to get our young people back on track.

And, an economic problem can rapidly become a moral problem. Parents, on the whole, are working harder today than they were 25 years ago, but earning about the same or lower wages than they were making 15 years ago. That means they have less time to spend with their kids to help them develop good moral bearings.

In the last two-and-a-half years we have worked hard to put children and families first. We've put into effect an aggressive education agenda, an aggressive trade program, an aggressive anticrime campaign. We have seven million more jobs. Unemployment is down. African American unemployment is in single digits for the first time since the Vietnam War. Inflation is down. The crime rate is down in virtually every major urban area of our country. Business profits are up. We are seeing a record number of new businesses and new millionaires.

But, at the same time, many working families are insecure about their jobs. They are uncertain about their retirement and their family's health care. Many are afraid they won't be able to educate their kids. So they struggle to stay afloat. And as they struggle, they become uneasy. Some become disillusioned and distrustful. Some, angry. And as their disillusionment and anger crest, they become ever more willing to heed the cries of cynical opportunists who orchestrate the politics of rage.

These are the people who offer simplistic answers for the decline of the American Dream. They tell anxious Americans that it's the fault of immigrants who are undercutting wages. Or it's the fault of welfare mothers who are having babies instead of going to work. Or it's the fault of affirmative action programs letting unqualified people steal their jobs. Or it's government's fault, wasting their tax dollars.

These explanations have nothing at all to do with real families

and real values. Our job -- yours and mine together -- is to help American families reconcile the pressures of the new economy with a renewed commitment to timeless values -- family, community, work and responsibility. I spoke about these challenges a few weeks ago in a speech to the American Federation of Teachers. In that speech, I outlined a number of things we can do to help families. Let me give you a brief review:

One, we have to help people in families care for one another. We have to help them care for elderly parents through a strong and unwavering commitment to Medicare. No family should have to make the choice between sending their child to college and caring for their parents. That's why I fought for the Family and Medical Leave Law.

Two, we have to move forward to reform the health insurance system so that people don't lose their health insurance if they change jobs or if somebody's sick in the family.

Three, we ought to do something about family incomes for people who are doing the right thing. That's why I propose raising the minimum wage to \$5.00 an hour. **Four**, give a family oriented tax cut to help people raise their children and send them off to college. We don't need a tax cut that primarily benefits the well-off. We shouldn't increase the cost of a college loan. We don't need to cut education to balance the budget.

Five, we must make a commitment to life-long learning for our children through our efforts to empower communities to develop world-class schools. We call it Goals 2000 because we want to be ready for the 21st century. We've also got to help adults who lose their jobs or may need to update their skills to get a better one. **Six**, stop this crazy effort in Congress to dismantle all our environmental and public health protections.

You've all heard of the seven deadly sins (pride, lust, gluttony, sloth, avarice, anger, and envy). We've got some new things to add to that list. The final 4 issues I want to address represent 4 deadly threats that are increasingly hurting our children: violence, teen pregnancy, smoking, and drugs. I want to focus on our children for two reasons. First, because we have a high moral obligation to do so. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." The second reason is that our children are the keys to our future. If we fail them, we fail the American Dream. So, I want to challenge everyone in this room and everyone across this nation to lock-arms in an all-out effort to combat these evils and save our children.

Violence

Our kids pay the price when we fail to stand up to the home-grown arms dealers in our towns and cities. In our grandparents' day, it was organized crime that was responsible for much of the violence in this country -- and it left most folks untouched. Today, gangs of children are the ones creating the mayhem in our streets -- and all of us are put at risk.

Every two hours in America, a child dies of a gunshot wound. According to our latest statistics, homicide continues to be the leading cause of death among African American males between 15 and 24 years old. While the number of people arrested for murder is going down among those older than 25, it is still going up for juveniles and young adults. The number of juveniles arrested for murder increased 168 percent between 1984 and 1993.

There was a profoundly moving story in one of our newspapers the other day about a 16-year-old boy who shot a 12-year-old boy dead because he thought he'd been treated with disrespect. And this happened just a few days after a national survey in which two-thirds of young gang members said they thought it was acceptable to shoot someone just because they treated you with disrespect. Kids used to work out their differences with their fists. Now, too often, they settle their scores with guns.

We're doing everything in our power to stop this. I am proud that my Administration stood up to those who were willing to let assault weapons proliferate in our streets. I am proud that we passed a crime bill that strikes the proper balance between punishment and prevention.

I am proud that we passed the Brady Bill and that our Justice Department is facing down street gangs. We are on our way to putting 100,000 more cops on the street.

But, criminal behavior is often a reflection of the images and ideas that bombard our children on TV. That's why I have advocated that parents have access to a special device called a V-Chip so that they can block the broadcast of programs they find unsuitable for their kids. And I need your support for this.

Teen Pregnancy

We must halt the epidemic of teen pregnancies and births. The dimensions of this problem are clear. Every year, one million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 become pregnant. This is bad for the girls. It's bad for the boy-fathers who are not ready for a family. But it is even worse for the children. We know

that children born to teenagers are more likely to have serious health problems. And they are more likely to be poor. About 80 percent of children born to teenagers who dropped out of school live in poverty. And over half the women now on welfare were teen mothers.

In the last two-and-a-half years, we have worked hard to halt this disturbing trend. The welfare reform measures I have proposed send a clear signal to young people. We are not going to subsidize irresponsible behavior.

Having a baby should not be a ticket to moving out, dropping out, and getting your own apartment. We're telling teen mothers that the only way to get assistance is to live at home, stay in school and turn their lives around. And I want to point out that in any effort to stem teen pregnancy, we shouldn't place the total burden on young girls. Older men have got to be held accountable too. According to a new study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, at least half of the babies born to teen-age girls are fathered by men -- 20 or older. Grown men should not be having sex with 15 and 17 year olds. This is abuse and it must stop.

Young men have also got to act more responsibly. That means tougher child support enforcement. No parent should be able to walk away from caring for the children they helped bring into this world. Over 800,000 people could leave welfare tomorrow if fathers were paying the child support they owe.

But you and I know that government alone can only do so much to solve this problem. We must join together to solve it as a nation. That's why I have called on leaders -- in the media, in education, in religion, in medicine -- to marshal their resources to build a strategy to halt teen pregnancy.

While there is no national cure for the epidemic of teen pregnancy, there are solutions that communities, congregations, and schools are applying throughout the country -- from the Teen Health Connection which works with low-income teenagers right here in Charlotte to the award-winning "I Have a Future" program that was started by Dr. Henry Foster in the public housing projects of Nashville. Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for supporting my nomination of Dr. Foster for Surgeon General. He may have been denied that job, but he is the kind of person who will not be denied the honor of service. I'm glad to know he will be addressing this conference later.

There are dozens of other community-based teen pregnancy prevention efforts that are making a difference across this country. We need to study the programs that work and share their success as broadly as possible. As with so many other issues, somewhere in America someone has an answer. Our challenge is to

find out what works and apply it throughout the nation.

Drugs

Of all the threats to America's long-term health, perhaps nothing is as dangerous as the scourge of drugs. In our latest survey of drug use among 8th, 10th and 12th graders we found that an alarming 43 percent of high school seniors had used an illicit drug by the time they reached their senior year. The use of marijuana, LSD and inhalants like glue and aerosols are all up. And the understanding that these drugs can be harmful is down. We have got to make our children know that drug abuse can lead only to sickness and despair. With the help of the Crime Bill, this year's drug control budget is the largest in the history of the Federal government. Our drug control strategy is based on a four-step approach. We work with foreign governments to cut drugs off at the source.

We work to break the cycle of drugs and crime by providing treatment to the hard-core drug users who consume most of the drugs and cause much of the crime and health problems we have today. We punish people who break the law. And most importantly, we educate young people about the dangers and penalties of drug use.

Despite the importance of this effort there are some in Congress who want to cut 23 million students out of our Safe and Drug Free Schools initiative. They literally want to shut down the Office of National Drug Control Policy -- which is nothing less than giving up on the War on Drugs.

They claim they need to do this in order to balance the budget. The truth is we don't need to sacrifice the health and safety of our children. We can continue to protect our children **and** balance the budget.

Smoking

The last thing I want to talk about this afternoon is teenage smoking. I know how important tobacco is to your economy. And I am committed to working with you to keep the economic foundation of this state strong. But, we cannot pretend that everything is OK. Teenage smoking is one of the single greatest threats to the health of our children. And it is rising.

Every single day, 3,000 young people become regular smokers. Nearly 1,000 of them will die as a result. The facts are clear: For more than a decade, even as adult smoking was dropping, the smoking rate among high school seniors wasn't budging. That was bad enough. It's gotten worse.

Since 1991, the percentage of teenage smokers has risen steadily and rapidly. There has been a 30 percent increase in the number of 8th graders who smoke -- we're talking about kids 13 or 14 years old. There has been a 22 percent increase in the number of 10th graders who smoke. By the age of 18, the average teenage smoker is a daily smoker.

This is a problem for every parent. These increases are occurring among both boys and girls...in large cities and small towns...and at all socioeconomic levels.

At the same time the number of teen smokers is rising, the number of teenagers who believe smoking is dangerous is dropping. There is more peer approval of smoking, and there is less fear of smoking's risks. This is a recipe for disaster. We can no longer sweep this problem under the rug. We have a responsibility to protect our children. We have a responsibility to help parents keep cigarettes and chewing tobacco away from their kids.

I'm working to do this and I hope all of you will help me. We can't let our children's futures go up in smoke.

In closing, let me say that nothing we do in Washington will work to keep our young people safe and healthy without the continued involvement of parents and the community. Nothing will work unless you continue to open your church doors not only on Sunday, but everyday, to counsel a parent...to mentor a child...to provide a safe place for young people to get away from the dangers of the streets. We need more creative partnerships like the one Rev. Harold Diggs has forged here in Charlotte. He helped create Charlotte's first alternative school for troubled high school students.

And there's one more thing. As a parent, I know the importance of being a good role model. James Baldwin once said, "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." So, we all have a responsibility to practice what we preach. It's not good enough just to talk the talk -- we have to show our children how to walk the walk of drug-free, healthy living.

I want to thank all of you for leading the way. Thank you and God bless you all.

draft 8/7/95

**REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 9, 1995**

[Acknowledgements: Rev. B.W. Smith for introduction; bishops; ministers; and distinguished guests....]

I am honored to be here with you today at this tremendous gathering of the faithful. They told me I would be speaking in a hotel ballroom, but when I heard that choir singing, I knew I was in the House of the Lord. Thank you for inviting me into this house and making me feel right at home.

As many of you know, I too am a baptist. And let me say that it is especially gratifying to see our entire baptist family finally reaching common ground on the issue of race and civil rights. I understand that even though the two groups have been talking for the past four years, this is the first-ever joint meeting between the Progressive Baptist Convention and the Alliance of Baptists. You are breaking new ground in race relations and we are all grateful for your efforts.

I also want to commend the Southern Baptist Convention for its clear repudiation of the split with Northern Baptist 150 years ago over the issue of slavery. And I want to commend all of you for accepting this apology and pledging to use it to heal old wounds.

As your President, there are some who believe I should not make too much of the fact that I am a practicing Baptist. Some have even suggested that I should have left my religion at the front door of the White House. They believe there is no connection between serving the people and serving God. But, as you know, you can't do one without the other. And so, I have followed the wisdom of the Psalm which teaches us: "Commit everything you do to the Lord; trust Him to help you do it and He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."

But, I am no different than most Americans. Contrary to what you may read in the papers or see on TV, America is still "One Nation Under God..." I heard about a man who went into a bookstore recently and asked the clerk to show him the "Religion" section. She politely said to him, "I'm sorry, but we no longer have a religion section. What you want is either Nonfiction or Self-Improvement." At least she didn't point him to the fiction or fantasy section.

What that bookstore didn't know is that faith is the undying wellspring of our democracy. It was faith that fueled the

leaders of the American Revolution. It was faith that saw us through the Civil War and the end of slavery. It was faith that empowered Martin Luther King, John Lewis and many of you to make that historic march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. It was faith that led to the enactment of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act in 1965. It was faith that woke us up this morning and got us to this place.

Faith is the silent and enduring strength of our people. How do I know? I've seen it with my own eyes as I visited with the families of the terrible tragedy in Oklahoma City. Family after family told me that their faith was made stronger by the outpouring of love and support that converged on Oklahoma City in the aftermath of the bombing. They told me that it was only by their faith and trust in a good and omnipotent God that they were able to endure their pain and begin to heal.

I also saw it in the humble thanks to God that was offered by Captain Scott O'Grady upon his successful rescue from Bosnia. He told us he never lost faith in his God, his country, his family, or his fellow servicemen and women while he was hiding in the woods and being hunted like a rabbit. Above all else, it was his faith that got him through. So, even as we look around and see troubling signs of man's inhumanity to man -- from as faraway as the war in Bosnia and as close to home as random violence on the streets of Charlotte -- you remind us of the power of our faith and our unity.

Our faith and our unity are being called to action today as never before. Many of the problems we currently face as a nation are the result of a turning away from our spiritual and moral roots. In recent weeks, I have been engaging in a conversation with the American people about these ethical and cultural challenges.

On July 6, I gave a speech at Georgetown University in which I called on all Americans to find new common ground so that together we could meet the complex challenges looming before us at the dawn of the 21st century.

On July 10, in Nashville, Tennessee, I talked about the need for parents to take greater responsibility for the types of TV programs they allow their kids to watch. I advocated the use of a V-chip in TV sets that would assist busy parents in blocking programs that they consider to be unsuitable for viewing by their children.

On July 12 at James Madison High School in Vienna, Virginia, I spoke about the fact that the First Amendment does not convert our schools into religion-free zones, and that there is a proper role for values, morals and religions in our schools.

And on July 19, in a speech at the National Archives, I

reaffirmed the need for the remedy of affirmative action to continue our national quest for genuine equal opportunity. And I want to thank all of you for standing with me on that issue.

In all these talks, I pointed out that all of us are affected by these threats to our freedom. And therefore, we must come together and reach common ground in our search for solutions. The words of Martin Luther King are as true today as when he first uttered them in 1964 when he said, "We must learn to live together as brothers, or we will perish together as fools."

Nowhere is that more important than in the protection of our children -- which is what I want to talk with you about today. Our challenge at the end of the 20th century is the same as it's been since the birth of the republic -- to ensure a better, brighter future for our children. Over the past two-and-a-half years, my Administration has worked hard to put children first. We have done this for two reasons. First, we have a high moral responsibility to do so. As Jesus said, "Let the Children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

The second reason we have put children first is that it is in our own best self-interest to do so. Our children are our greatest national treasure. We know that the only way we can continue to grow and prosper as a nation is if we empower all our people -- and especially our children -- to make the most of their God-given potential. The best way to do that is through what I call the New Covenant -- a partnership between government and citizens to expand opportunity and demand more responsibility in return.

You are very much a part of that partnership. I want to acknowledge the work of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, and in particular, the work of Rev. Archie Lemone, in working with Secretary Riley at the Department of Education. As you know, Secretary Riley has been in the forefront of our efforts to reconnect values and the American family to the learning process.

Over 140 organizations, including yours and 33 other religious groups have joined Secretary Riley in creating a Family Involvement Partnership for Learning. Every American child deserves an education of excellence. And that kind of education begins at home. Strong families are the backbone of strong schools. We must strengthen these kinds of partnerships with parents and churches and communities if we are going to prepare our young people to compete and win in the next century.

That's why we have increased our investments in **Head Start**...in real education reform, with our **Goals 2000** partnerships with states to set world-class standards for our schools...in **direct student lending**...in **School-to-Work** apprenticeships and our

national service program, **AmeriCorps**. We're also helping parents be good parents with efforts like **Family and Medical Leave** and the expanded **EITC** which gives working families earning less than \$28,000 a tax cut of about \$1350.

All of these accomplishments have two things in common. First, they embody the New Covenant partnership of expanded opportunity for those who are willing to accept more responsibility for making the most of their lives. And second, they are all designed to provide clear and healthy pathways to successful futures for our young people.

But, there is much more to do. Our children are facing tremendous threats to their safety and well-being. According to the Children's Defense Fund, "An American child is reported abused or neglected every 11 seconds; is born into poverty every 32 seconds; is born to a teen mother every 62 seconds; is arrested for a violent crime every four minutes; and is killed by guns every two hours." In addition, we are in danger of losing record numbers of our children to the scourges of drug and alcohol abuse, and smoking. The long day of our silence must come to an end. We must stand up, speak out, and fight back to save our children.

I want to share my thoughts about the need for us to combine our moral and our political will for an all-out assault on five specific threats to the well-being of our children: drugs, alcohol, tobacco, teen pregnancy, and violence.

We are beginning to notice some disturbing trends. While the rate of substance abuse, out-of-wedlock births and violence are generally going down among the adult population, it is going up among our young. It seems that adults are heeding the message that these behaviors are at the root of so many deferred dreams and destroyed lives. But too many of our young people are not listening. Too many of them think that drugs, alcohol and tobacco use are not harmful. Too many of them believe that their future holds nothing for them but having babies. And that parenthood is a rite of passage that signifies you are a man or a woman. Too many of them believe that violence is the way to settle disputes and that it's cool to join a gang and carry a gun.

Let me be clear: These trends are not confined to any one segment of our society. They cross all ethnic, racial, geographic, and economic boundaries. They affect all of us and they require action from all of us. I did not come here to preach **at** you. I came here to work with you...to pray with you...to lock arms with you in a unified effort to save our children.

Drugs

Of all the threats to America's long-term health, perhaps nothing is as dangerous as the scourge of drugs. In our latest survey of drug use among 8th, 10th and 12th graders we found that an alarming 43 percent of high school seniors had used an illicit drug by the time they reached their senior year. The use of marijuana, LSD and inhalants are all up. And the understanding that these drugs can be harmful is down. We have got to make our children know that drug abuse can lead only to sickness and despair.

My Administration has taken this threat seriously and we've expanded our efforts to stop drug abuse. With the help of the Crime Bill, this year's drug control budget is the largest in the history of the Federal government.

Our drug control strategy is based on a four-step approach. We will work with foreign governments to cut drugs off at the source. We will work to break the cycle of drugs and crime by providing treatment to the hard-core drug users who consume most of the drugs and cause much of the crime and health problems we have today. We will punish people who break the law. And most importantly, we will educate young people about the dangers and penalties of drug use.

Despite the importance of this effort there are some in Congress who want to cut 23 million students out of our Safe and Drug Free Schools initiative. And they literally want to shut down the Office of National Drug Control Policy -- which is nothing less than giving up on the War on Drugs. They claim they need to do this in order to balance the budget. But we know better. The truth is we don't need to sacrifice the health and safety of our children. We can continue to protect our children **and** balance the budget. The only thing we'd have to give up on is an extravagant tax cut for the well-off.

Teen drinking and driving

Drunk driving is one of the most serious and one of the most avoidable threats to public health in America. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people from 15 to 20 years old. And in 1994, 22 percent of those in that age group who were killed in crashes were intoxicated. The national effort to reduce motor vehicle deaths and injuries of young people has been largely a success story. The number of people under 21 killed because of drunk driving has dropped 50 percent since 1984. But, one child lost is one too many.

That's why I have called on Congress to adopt zero-tolerance laws for teenage drinking and driving. After all, if it's illegal for people under 21 to drink at all, it should certainly be illegal for them to drink and drive. Zero tolerance will save lives. It

already is in 24 states. For our children's sake, we should make it the law of the land.

Teen Pregnancy

We must halt the epidemic of teen pregnancies and births where there is no marriage. The dimensions of this problem are clear. Every year, one million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 become pregnant. This is bad for the girls. It's bad for the boy-fathers who are not ready for a family. But it is even worse for the children. We know that children born to teenagers are more likely to have serious health problems. And they are more likely to be poor. About 80 percent of children born to teenagers who dropped out of school live in poverty. And over half the women now on welfare were teen mothers.

In the last two-and-a-half years, we have worked hard to halt this disturbing trend. The welfare reform measures I have proposed send a clear signal to young people. If you are thinking about getting pregnant or fathering a child. Don't do it.

And I want to point out that in any effort to stem teen pregnancy, we shouldn't place the total burden on young girls. Young men have got to act more responsibly. And older men have got to stop taking advantage of teenage girls. This is a disturbing trend. According to a new study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, at least half of the babies born to teenage girls are fathered by adults -- 20 or older. Grown men should not be having sex with 15 and 17 year olds. This is abuse and it must stop.

But you and I know that government alone can only do so much to solve this problem. We must join together to solve it as a nation. That's why I have called on leaders -- in the media, in education, in religion, in medicine -- to marshal their resources to build a strategy to halt teen pregnancy.

That's why I nominated Dr. Henry Foster to be my Surgeon General. I know he will be speaking with you later. Many of you may know of his award-winning work to stop teen pregnancy in Nashville. His "I Have a Future" program has a stellar record of helping teenagers understand there are better things to do when you are 15 and 16 than been saddled with raising a child. It is unfortunate that Dr. Foster won't be able to carry on this work as Surgeon General, but I can assure you I will not let his talent go to waste. He will be working closely with me in the coming days.

Violence

Our kids are paying the price when we fail to stand up to the

home-grown arms dealers in our towns and cities. In our grandparents' day, it was organized crime that was responsible for much of the violence in this country -- and it left most folks untouched. Today, gangs of children are the ones creating the mayhem in our streets -- and all of us are put at risk.

There was a profoundly moving story in one of our newspapers the other day about a 16-year-old boy who shot a 12-year-old boy dead because he thought he'd been treated with disrespect. And this happened just a few days after a national survey in which two-thirds of young gang members said they thought it was acceptable to shoot someone just because they treated you with disrespect. Kids used to work out their differences with their fists. Now, too often, they settle their scores with guns.

We're doing everything in our power to stop this. I am proud that my Administration stood up to those who would let assault weapons proliferate in the streets where our children walk to school. I am proud that we passed the Brady Bill and that our Justice Department is facing down street gangs.

We are on our way to putting 100,000 more cops on the street. And we passed the Three Strikes You're Out punishment for the kind of violent repeat offenders a parent fears most.

But, criminal behavior is often a reflection of the images and ideas that bombard our children on TV. That's why I have advocated that everybody who has a cable hook-up be given a V-Chip so that parents can decide what comes across the television to the kids.

Smoking

Now, I know it is risky to come down here to tobacco road and talk about doing something to stop people from buying cigarettes. But when it comes to saving our young people, there's nowhere I won't go. Drugs kill and we are not afraid to tell our kids to stop. Guns kill and we are not afraid to keep them away from our kids. Drinking and driving kill and we are doing all we can to stop that. Smoking is no different. Smoking kills just as surely as guns kill -- only slower.

Too many of our children have access to one of the worst killers in the country -- ordinary tobacco products. Underage smoking is wrong. It's bad for our children and it's against the law. The price that our children will pay will follow them well into adulthood -- in the form of cancer, lung disease, heart attacks.

For too long, this issue has been swept under the rug. But, new statistics are showing that while smoking is declining among adults, it is rising among young people. And we know that one of the reasons is that the tobacco companies have targeted young

people to expand their market. When a kid walks into a convenience store one of the first things he sees, right along with the bubblegum and candy is an onslaught of tobacco ads. When a child is riding his bike along a city street, one of the most colorful images he sees is the cigarette billboard, which depicts smoking as cool or sexy or even athletic.

We've got to put a stop to this. And I'll have more to say about this in the coming days.

In closing, let me say that nothing we do in Washington will work to keep our young people safe and healthy without the continued involvement of parents and the community. Nothing we do will amount to a hill of beans unless you continue to open your church doors not only on Sunday, but everyday, to provide a safe place for young people to get away from the dangers of the streets.

And there's one more thing. As a parent, I know the importance of being a good role model. I believe it was James Baldwin who once said, "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." So, we all have a responsibility to practice what we preach. It's not good enough just to talk the talk -- we have to show our children how to walk the walk of drug-free, healthy living.

Again, I want to thank all of you for leading the way.

Thank you and God bless you all.

REMARKS BY
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL
BAPTIST CONVENTION
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 9, 1995

[Acknowledgements: Rev. Bennett W. Smith for introduction; Governor Hunt; Rev. Harold Diggs, host pastor; Rev. Otis Moss, Jr.; Rev. Charles Adams, past president; Rev. Billy Kyles, Memphis; my good friend Rev. Gardner Taylor, founder; bishops; ministers; and distinguished guests....]

I am honored to be here with you today. They told me I would be speaking in a convention hall, but when I heard that choir singing, I knew I was in the House of the Lord. Thank you for inviting me into this house and making me feel right at home.

As your President, I know that our country needs more than political leadership from the White House and the Congress. We need the kind of spiritual leadership that only you can provide. Unfortunately, the importance of your work too often gets overlooked.

This reminds me of a story I heard recently. A man went into a bookstore and asked the clerk to show him the "Religion" section. She politely said to him, "I'm sorry, but we no longer have a religion section. What you want is either Nonfiction or Self-Improvement." At least she didn't point him to the fiction or fantasy section.

What they didn't know at that bookstore is that there is a strong cadre of ministers and clergymen, of all faiths who are quietly leading the charge for spiritual renewal and reconciliation in America.

Reconciliation, like charity, begins at home. So, I am especially gratified to see our entire Baptist family finally reaching common ground on the issue of race and civil rights. I understand that this is the first-ever joint meeting between the Progressive Baptist Convention and the Alliance of Baptists. You are breaking new ground and we are all grateful for your efforts.

I also want to commend the Southern Baptist Convention for its strong statement regarding the split with Northern Baptists 150 years ago over slavery. And I want to commend all of you for accepting this apology and pledging to use it to heal old wounds.

America needs your healing powers now as never before. Our families, our children, and our values are facing unprecedented pressures at the dawn of the 21st century.

There are two distinct sides to the debate about family values.

On the one hand, are those who see family problems and children's problems as primarily matters of personal and social morality. They believe that all government has to do is encourage good behavior.

On the other hand, are those who see family problems primarily as a result of the tremendous economic difficulties facing Americans today. They believe government's job is to develop policies that help people make the most of their own abilities, and rewards those who work hard and play by the rules.

But, these two sides really aren't as far apart as they seem.

A moral problem can quickly become an economic problem. In the case of teen pregnancy for example, the cycle of poverty and hopelessness will continue from one generation to the next unless we intervene with education and child care and moral reinforcements to get our young people back on track.

And, an economic problem can rapidly become a moral problem. Parents, on the whole, are working harder today than they were 25 years ago, but earning about the same or lower wages than they were making 15 years ago. That means they have less time to spend with their kids to help them develop good moral bearings.

In the last two-and-a-half years we have worked hard to put children and families first. We've put into effect an aggressive education agenda, an aggressive trade program, an aggressive anticrime campaign. We have seven million more jobs. Unemployment is down. African American unemployment is in single digits for the first time since the Vietnam War. Inflation is down. The crime rate is down in virtually every major urban area of our country. Business profits are up. We are seeing a record number of new businesses and new millionaires.

But, at the same time, many working families are insecure about their jobs.

They are uncertain about their retirement and their family's health care. Many are afraid they won't be able to educate their kids. So they struggle to stay afloat. And as they struggle, they become uneasy. Some become disillusioned and distrustful. Some, angry. And as their disillusionment and anger crest, they become ever more willing to heed the cries of cynical opportunists who orchestrate the politics of rage.

These are the people who offer simplistic answers for the decline of the American Dream. They tell anxious Americans that it's the fault of immigrants who are undercutting wages.

Or it's the fault of welfare mothers who are having babies instead of going to work. Or it's the fault of affirmative action programs letting unqualified people steal their jobs. Or it's government's fault, wasting their tax dollars.

These explanations have nothing at all to do with real families and real values. Our job -- yours and mine together -- is to help American families reconcile the pressures of the new economy with a renewed commitment to timeless values -- family, community, work and responsibility.

I spoke about these challenges a few weeks ago in a speech to the American Federation of Teachers. In that speech, I outlined a number of things we can do to help families. Let me give you a brief review:

One, we have to help people in families care for one another. We have to help them care for elderly parents through a strong and unwavering commitment to Medicare. No family should have to make the choice between sending their child to college and caring for their parents. That's why I fought for the Family and Medical Leave Law.

Two, we have to move forward to reform the health insurance system so that people don't lose their health insurance if they change jobs or if somebody's sick in the family.

Three, we ought to do something about family incomes for people who are doing the right thing. That's why I propose raising the minimum wage to \$5.00 an hour.

Four, give a family oriented tax cut to help people raise their children and send them off to college. We don't need a tax cut that primarily benefits the well-off. We shouldn't increase the cost of a college loan. We don't need to cut education to balance the budget.

Five, we must make a commitment to life-long learning for our children through our efforts to empower communities to develop world-class schools. We call it Goals 2000 because we want to be ready for the 21st century. We've also got to help adults who lose their jobs or may need to update their skills to get a better one. **Six**, stop this crazy effort in Congress to dismantle all our environmental and public health protections.

You've all heard of the seven deadly sins (pride, lust, gluttony, sloth, avarice, anger, and envy). We've got some new things to add to that list.

The final 4 issues I want to address represent 4 deadly threats that are increasingly hurting our children: violence, teen pregnancy, smoking, and drugs. I want to focus on our children for two reasons. First, because we have a high moral obligation to do so. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." The second reason is that our children are the keys to our future. If we fail them, we fail the American Dream. So, I want to challenge everyone in this room and everyone across this nation to lock-arms in an all-out effort to combat these evils and save our children.

Violence

Our kids pay the price when we fail to stand up to the home-grown arms dealers in our towns and cities. In our grandparents' day, it was organized crime that was responsible for much of the violence in this country -- and it left most folks untouched. Today, gangs of children are the ones creating the mayhem in our streets -- and all of us are put at risk.

Every two hours in America, a child dies of a gunshot wound. According to our latest statistics, homicide continues to be the leading cause of death among African American males between 15 and 24 years old.

While the number of people arrested for murder is going down among those older than 25, it is still going up for juveniles and young adults. The number of juveniles arrested for murder increased 168 percent between 1984 and 1993.

There was a profoundly moving story in one of our newspapers the other day about a 16-year-old boy who shot a 12-year-old boy dead because he thought he'd been treated with disrespect. And this happened just a few days after a national survey in which two-thirds of young gang members said they thought it was acceptable to shoot someone just because they treated you with disrespect.

Kids used to work out their differences with their fists.

Now, too often, they settle their scores with guns.

We're doing everything in our power to stop this. I am proud that my Administration stood up to those who were willing to let assault weapons proliferate in our streets. I am proud that we passed a crime bill that strikes the proper balance between punishment and prevention.

I am proud that we passed the Brady Bill and that our Justice Department is facing down street gangs. We are on our way to putting 100,000 more cops on the street.

But, criminal behavior is often a reflection of the images and ideas that bombard our children on TV.

That's why I have advocated that parents have access to a special device called a V-Chip so that they can block the broadcast of programs they find unsuitable for their kids. And I need your support for this.

Teen Pregnancy

We must halt the epidemic of teen pregnancies and births. The dimensions of this problem are clear.

Every year, one million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 become pregnant. This is bad for the girls. It's bad for the boy-fathers who are not ready for a family.

But it is even worse for the children. We know that children born to teenagers are more likely to have serious health problems. And they are more likely to be poor. About 80 percent of children born to teenagers who dropped out of school live in poverty. And over half the women now on welfare were teen mothers.

In the last two-and-a-half years, we have worked hard to halt this disturbing trend. The welfare reform measures I have proposed send a clear signal to young people. We are not going to subsidize irresponsible behavior.

Having a baby should not be a ticket to moving out, dropping out, and getting your own apartment. We're telling teen mothers that the only way to get assistance is to live at home, stay in school and turn their lives around. And I want to point out that in any effort to stem teen pregnancy, we shouldn't place the total burden on young girls. Older men have got to be held accountable too. According to a new study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, at least half of the babies born to teen-age girls are fathered by men -- 20 or older. Grown men should not be having sex with 15 and 17 year olds. This is abuse and it must stop.

Young men have also got to act more responsibly.

That means tougher child support enforcement. No parent should be able to walk away from caring for the children they helped bring into this world. Over 800,000 people could leave welfare tomorrow if fathers were paying the child support they owe.

But you and I know that government alone can only do so much to solve this problem. We must join together to solve it as a nation. That's why I have called on leaders -- in the media, in education, in religion, in medicine -- to marshal their resources to build a strategy to halt teen pregnancy.

While there is no national cure for the epidemic of teen pregnancy, there are solutions that communities, congregations, and schools are applying throughout the country -- from the Teen Health Connection which works with low-income teenagers right here in Charlotte to the award-winning "I Have a Future" program that was started by Dr. Henry Foster in the public housing projects of Nashville. Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for supporting my nomination of Dr. Foster for Surgeon General. He may have been denied that job, but he is the kind of person who will not be denied the honor of service. I'm glad to know he will be addressing this conference later.

There are dozens of other community-based teen pregnancy prevention efforts that are making a difference across this country. We need to study the programs that work and share their success as broadly as possible. As with so many other issues, somewhere in America someone has an answer. Our challenge is to find out what works and apply it throughout the nation.

Drugs

Of all the threats to America's long-term health, perhaps nothing is as dangerous as the scourge of drugs.

In our latest survey of drug use among 8th, 10th and 12th graders we found that an alarming 43 percent of high school seniors had used an illicit drug by the time they reached their senior year. The use of marijuana, LSD and inhalants like glue and aerosols are all up. And the understanding that these drugs can be harmful is down. We have got to make our children know that drug abuse can lead only to sickness and despair.

With the help of the Crime Bill, this year's drug control budget is the largest in the history of the Federal government. Our drug control strategy is based on a four-step approach. We work with foreign governments to cut drugs off at the source.

We work to break the cycle of drugs and crime by providing treatment to the hard-core drug users who consume most of the drugs and cause much of the crime and health problems we have today. We punish people who break the law. And most importantly, we educate young people about the dangers and penalties of drug use.

Despite the importance of this effort there are some in Congress who want to cut 23 million students out of our Safe and Drug Free Schools initiative. They literally want to shut down the Office of National Drug Control Policy -- which is nothing less than giving up on the War on Drugs.

They claim they need to do this in order to balance the budget. The truth is we don't need to sacrifice the health and safety of our children. We can continue to protect our children **and** balance the budget.

Smoking

The last thing I want to talk about this afternoon is teenage smoking. I know how important tobacco is to your economy. And I am committed to working with you to keep the economic foundation of this state strong. But, we cannot pretend that everything is OK. Teenage smoking is one of the single greatest threats to the health of our children. And it is rising.

Every single day, 3,000 young people become regular smokers. Nearly 1,000 of them will die as a result.

The facts are clear: For more than a decade, even as adult smoking was dropping, the smoking rate among high school seniors wasn't budging. That was bad enough. It's gotten worse.

Since 1991, the percentage of teenage smokers has risen steadily and rapidly. There has been a 30 percent increase in the number of 8th graders who smoke -- we're talking about kids 13 or 14 years old. There has been a 22 percent increase in the number of 10th graders who smoke. By the age of 18, the average teenage smoker is a daily smoker.

This is a problem for every parent. These increases are occurring among both boys and girls...in large cities and small towns...and at all socioeconomic levels.

At the same time the number of teen smokers is rising, the number of teenagers who believe smoking is dangerous is dropping. There is more peer approval of smoking, and there is less fear of smoking's risks.

This is a recipe for disaster.

We can no longer sweep this problem under the rug.

We have a responsibility to protect our children. We have a responsibility to help parents keep cigarettes and chewing tobacco away from their kids.

I'm working to do this and I hope all of you will help me. We can't let our children's futures go up in smoke.

In closing, let me say that nothing we do in Washington will work to keep our young people safe and healthy without the continued involvement of parents and the community. Nothing will work unless you continue to open your church doors not only on Sunday, but everyday, to counsel a parent...to mentor a child...to provide a safe place for young people to get away from the dangers of the streets. We need more creative partnerships like the one Rev. Harold Diggs has forged here in Charlotte.

He helped create Charlotte's first alternative school for troubled high school students.

And there's one more thing. As a parent, I know the importance of being a good role model. James Baldwin once said, "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." So, we all have a responsibility to practice what we preach. It's not good enough just to talk the talk -- we have to show our children how to walk the walk of drug-free, healthy living.

I want to thank all of you for leading the way. Thank you and God bless you all.

Labor Group Chooses Aide To Kirkland

Donahue Is Named As Interim President

By LOUIS UCHITELLE

CHICAGO, Aug. 1 — Thomas R. Donahue became the interim president of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. today, but whether he can keep the job depends on how rapidly and radically he can bring change to the shrinking federation before the election of a permanent president in October.

Recognizing this, Mr. Donahue promised in a speech to immediately begin pouring millions of dollars into helping unions enroll new members. And he promised to begin training 500 people active in the labor movement to spearhead local and regional election campaigns for candidates favored by the federation. He was so emphatic on these points that his opponent for the presidency, John J. Sweeney, accused Mr. Donahue of lifting the Sweeney platform.

"It sounded like I wrote the speech," Mr. Sweeney said, only half in jest. "The issue is not how we differ — our goals are not so different — the issue is how quickly and comprehensively change will come in these two key areas: organizing and political activity."

The struggle for the presidency of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, the first in its 40-year history, is really a struggle to revive the federation. Mr. Sweeney heads a group of insurgents who forced the previous president, Lane Kirkland,

into retirement, charging that he had done far too little in his 16-year tenure to reverse the national decline in union membership or win legislation favorable to labor.

During those years, Mr. Donahue, who is 67, was Mr. Kirkland's second in command as secretary-treasurer. The Sweeney forces maintain that that Mr. Donahue, however good his intentions, is too identified with the Kirkland regime to bring change rapidly enough to save the labor movement. Mr. Donahue tried to deal with that issue on his first full day as president, filling out the time between Mr. Kirkland's departure and the regular presidential election at the A.F.L.-C.I.O. convention in New York City in October.

Mr. Donahue insisted that he had been a catalyst for change during the Kirkland tenure, and now is stepping up the pace. While avoiding criticism of Mr. Kirkland, he promised to "sharply increase" the \$3 million a year or so that the federation had allocated to organizing, and to quickly train "1,500 new organizers for our unions."

He also said he would tap the federation's \$58 million reserve fund to support "multi-union organizing programs aimed particularly at low-wage industries and at those which have long been union-resistant."

The Sweeney camp promises to raise the organizing budget to \$10 million a year from the present \$3 million. And his supporters hold up Mr. Sweeney, who is 61, as a leader who has doubled the membership of the Service Employees International Union, which he heads: The union has 1.1 million members.

So far, corporate America has publicly ignored the struggle over the federation's leadership. But no issue raises more opposition to unions among executives than union efforts to sign up workers. The unions, on the other hand, say that without more members — the 16 million unionists today represent less than 13 percent of the nation's

work force — the layoffs and wage stagnation so characteristic of the last 20 years will continue.

In addition, union leaders say that without more members, organized labor will not be able to muster enough influence to keep a Republican-controlled Congress from weakening labor laws that protect union activities. In its heyday, the A.F.L.-C.I.O. wielded its influence to elect Presidents and successfully lobby Congress. But now, both Mr. Donahue and Mr. Sweeney argue that union political activity must shift to cities and regions where union influence is still sufficient to swing elections.

Mr. Donahue became the interim president at the summer meeting of the A.F.L.-C.I.O.'s executive council. The 32 council members, most of them union presidents, gave Mr. Donahue the interim position by a vote of 21 to 11. But Mr. Sweeney says that in October he will have delegates voting for him who represent nearly 60 percent of the 13.3 million members in the 81 unions affiliated with the A.F.L.-C.I.O.

Donahue supporters do not dispute this, but at a briefing this morning they said some of those delegates might be induced into voting for Mr. Donahue, particularly women pleased to see Barbara Easterling on the ticket with Mr. Donahue. Ms. Easterling, executive vice president of the Communications Workers of America, was elected today as Mr. Donahue's secretary-treasurer.

The Sweeney camp is also fielding a female candidate, Linda Chavez-Thompson, a vice president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. But she is the candidate for executive vice president of the federation.

Study Cites Adult Males for Most Teen-Age Births

By JENNIFER STEINHAUER

At least half of the babies born to teen-age girls are fathered by adults, according to a new national study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

The study, which many researchers said is the most comprehensive of its kind, implies that a startling number of teen-age girls are having sex with men who are breaking state laws on statutory rape.

Some family-planning experts said the study also demonstrated that pregnancy-prevention programs, many in schools, failed to reach many of those responsible for unplanned pregnancies.

Drawing from a survey of nearly 10,000 mothers between the ages of 15 and 49 who were interviewed from 1989 to 1991, researchers found that half of the fathers of babies born to mothers between ages 15 and 17 were 20 or older, and that 20 percent of the fathers were six or more years older. In general, the survey found, the younger a mother was, the greater the age difference between her and her partner.

"To most people, these numbers are counterintuitive," said David J. Landry, a co-author of the study and a senior research associate at the institute, based in New York. "This research highlights that teen-age pregnancy is not just limited to teen-agers, but that in fact adult males bear a lot of the responsibility."

The sample base for the study, to be published on Thursday in *Family Planning Perspectives*, a publication of the institute, came from a survey by the National Center for Health Statistics, which interviewed mothers between 1989 and 1991.

The research supports recent data

that found similar patterns on state levels. For example, a California survey of 47,000 births to teen-age mothers in 1993 found that two-thirds of the babies were fathered by men who were of post-high-school age. With high school girls, fathers tended to be an average of 4.2 years older than their partners, and with mothers in junior high school, they were on average 6.7 years older.

In most states, including New York, rarely applied laws of consent

Raising questions about prevention and statutory rape.

prohibit people 18 or older from having sex with those under 16, and punishment is generally greater with the breadth of age difference.

"One begins to see the fact that this is sexual abuse among many of these teen-agers," said Mike Males, a graduate student at the University of California at Irvine and a co-author of the California survey with his adviser, Kenneth S. Y. Chew.

Indeed, their study found that among California mothers ages 11 to 15, only 9 percent of their partners were other junior high school boys. Forty percent of the fathers were high school boys, and 51 percent were adults, it found.

Other experts in family planning and sex abuse contend that in many cases of teen-age pregnancy, the girl had been sexually assaulted either by the father of her child or by someone else previously.

In Chicago, the An Ounce of Prevention Program, a social-services agency, found that 61 percent of 445 young mothers interviewed in 1986 said they had been sexually abused, beginning at an average age of 11.

Similarly, the Washington Alliance Concerned With School Age Parents, a pregnancy-prevention program based in Seattle, found in a statewide survey of 535 mothers ages 12 to 17 that the average age of the father was 24 and that 68 percent of those girls said they had been sexually abused at one point.

"The whole political debate is based on the notion that teen-age pregnancies result from planned, rational behavior, that it can just be educated or condom-ed away," Mr. Males said.

Partly in response to Mr. Males's research, Gov. Pete Wilson of California has proposed a \$12 million teen-age pregnancy-prevention initiative, \$2.4 million of which would be designated for prosecution of men who have sex with girls under 18.

Recent surveys have led researchers to question whether punitive measures against teen-age mothers designed to stymie the rates of pregnancy work, including measures like proposed reductions in Welfare benefits.

Understanding the vast age differences between girls and their partners is essential in developing prevention programs, the experts said.

"When an adult male gets a girl pregnant, it's like an immaculate conception," said Charlie Langdon, the executive director of the Washington organization. "We have to look at what can be done to bring consequences for the dads."

Ideal Vision Helped Create Edison School

By SARAH KERSHAW

On paper, schools in the Edison Project are slices of educational heaven: Students are motivated, classrooms are automated and teachers receive all the training and support they need.

Edison's educational philosophy is based on the theory that privately run schools can provide a more intimate, effective and rigorous education than traditional public schools for the same amount of money.

It is a philosophy that has remained intact since media entrepreneur Christopher Whittle founded the private education venture six years ago, although the company's tactics have changed dramatically: Edison went from an ambitious plan to build 1,000 private schools to a decidedly slower — and cheaper — approach involving the takeover of a few public schools.

Unlike its major competitor, Education Alternatives Inc., which runs public schools in the Baltimore school district and will soon operate schools in Hartford, Edison designs its own curriculum and recruits and trains its own staff.

The staffs of Edison's schools were recruited locally and nationally and spent several weeks this summer in professional development conferences, company officials said. The enrollment of the schools is open and the spaces are filled by lottery.

Students will attend school for 295 days, while traditional schools usually are in session for 180 days. In most cases, Edison students will spend at least one extra hour in school each day.

There are five key components to the curriculum: humanities and arts, mathematics and science, character and ethics, practical arts and health and physical fitness. The curriculum is tailored to meet the state and local standards set in each state and school district, said Deborah M. McGriff, Edison's senior vice-president and the former Detroit school superintendent.

The character and ethics curriculum is an expanded version of one developed by the Heartwood Institute, a nonprofit center in Wexford, Pa., that advocates the formal teaching of values, like honesty, fairness, integrity, justice and kindness.

Edison students will spend more class time than students in traditional public schools on academic subjects like reading, math, science and social studies and a minimum of 30 minutes a day in art or music classes and in physical fitness classes.

Edison promises to provide more training and preparation time for teachers — from one to two hours of daily planning time, compared to an average of 30 minutes for teachers at traditional schools.

According to the Edison model, each school will eventually have a cluster of small academies grouped by age — from the Readiness Academy for prekindergarten to the Collegiate Academy for grades 11 and 12. While enrolled in each academy, the students will be grouped into houses led by a team of teachers.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1995

House G.O.P.'s Split to Delay Bank Bills

BY KEITH BRADSHAW

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 — After an exchange of sharply worded notes that settled nothing, House Republican leaders have agreed to postpone action on any banking legislation until at least late September or October.

Representative Gerald B. H. Solomon of upstate New York, the powerful chairman of the House Rules Committee, said in an interview today that because of a dispute among Republicans over insurance, banking legislation "is not on the agenda" before the House's scheduled adjournment on Friday for an August recess. Bankers and their allies had tried over the last week to arrange a vote in the next several days.

The House Banking Committee approved two bills earlier this summer. One would dismantle the regulatory barriers separating the banking and securities industries. The other would eliminate many rules on how banks handle the daily business of making loans and taking deposits. But both bills have become bogged down in squabbles over the extent to which banks should be allowed to sell insurance or merge with insurance companies.

If anything, the stance of the insurance interests that have blocked a bill has grown tougher in recent weeks. Mr. Solomon, an ally of the insurance industry, wrote to the House majority leader, Representative Dick Armey of Texas, that he would allow a vote on whether to allow banks to merge with insurance companies only if Federal regulators were barred from expanding the authority of banks to sell insurance.

The consensus among top Republicans to put off action reflects the party's divisions on these bills, which run deeper than its differences on most business issues. The depth of the split was evident in the memorandums exchanged by House leaders, copies of which were obtained from lobbyists and Congressional aides.

Representative David Dreier, a California Republican who is a senior member of the Rules Committee, sent a memo last week to Mr. Armey, asking for a quick vote on terms that would be advantageous to bankers. A quick vote, he wrote, would have had "the added advantage of removing this political albatross from the necks of our leadership (and our colleagues) sooner than later."

But that prompted a blistering memo to Mr. Armey from Mr. Solomon. "If the Dreier proposal is allowed, those of us who are unalterably opposed to the expansion of bank insurance powers will bring this bill down," Mr. Solomon wrote.

"And Dick, you can count on it."

In the political struggle, Mr. Solomon, a former bank director, stockbroker and insurance agent, has al-

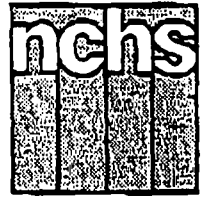
lied himself most closely with independent insurance agents. The agents have lobbied frantically this summer to block both bills after the House Banking Committee approved an amendment to the deregulation bill that would let banks merge with insurance companies and possibly sell insurance through their branches. Independent insurance agents say that would put many agents out of business.

Mr. Solomon said he was slightly more optimistic than he was a month ago that the House would eventually approve both banking bills. The insistence of the banking industry's allies on insurance provisions has weakened this summer as it has become more clear that such provisions could prevent the passage of any banking legislation, he said.

But even if the House were to approve the bills, their future in the Senate would be uncertain. Alfonse M. D'Amato of New York, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, has not even conducted hearings yet on the key issue of whether to repeal provisions of the 61-year-old Glass-Steagall Act that separate the banking and securities industries. And Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin has warned that he would recommend a Presidential veto if the House deregulation bill was not stripped of provisions that would eliminate many requirements that banks lend in low-income neighborhoods.

Vol. 43, No. 6, Supplement • March 22, 1995 (Corrected and reprinted)

Monthly Vital Statistics Report



Final Data From the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION/National Center for Health Statistics

Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1992

by Kenneth D. Kochanek, M.A. and Bettie L. Hudson, Division of Vital Statistics

TWS
is
the
report

Selected contents

Highlights.....	1
Deaths and death rates	2
Expectation of life	3
Cause of death.....	5
HIV infection	8
Hispanic deaths	9
Firearm deaths.....	9
Drug-induced deaths.....	9
Alcohol-induced deaths...	9
Marital status	10
Educational attainment.....	10
Infant mortality	10
Hispanic infant mortality.....	11
Maternal mortality.....	11
Report of autopsy	12
References	12
List of detailed tables	14
Technical notes.....	69

Highlights

In 1992 a record 2,175,613 deaths were registered in the United States, 6,095 more than the previous high of 2,169,518 deaths recorded in 1991 and 27,150 more deaths than in 1990. The death rate for 1992 was 852.9 deaths per 100,000 population compared with the rate of 860.3 in 1991 and 863.8 in 1990. Provisional data indicate that the death rate increased in 1993. The age-adjusted death rate, which eliminates the distorting effects of the aging of the population, was at a record low of 504.5 per 100,000 U.S. standard million population, 1.8 percent below the 1991 rate of 513.7 and 13.9 percent below the 1980 rate of 585.8. The age-adjusted rate decreased for the white and black populations between 1991 and 1992.

For most of the 10-year age groups for males and females, death rates declined between 1991 and 1992, but rates increased for ages 35-44 years. The

cause of death contributing most to the increase in death rates for males and females aged 35-44 years was Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

In 1992 life expectancy at birth reached a record high of 75.8 years. Women currently are expected to outlive men by an average of 6.8 years, and white persons are expected to outlive black persons by an average of 6.9 years. White females continue to have the highest life expectancy at birth (79.8 years), followed by black females (73.9 years), white males (73.2 years), and black males (65.0 years). Although life expectancy for black males increased in 1992, it was still below the peak attained in 1984. The gain in life expectancy of 0.3 year for the total population can be explained primarily by decreasing death rates for Diseases of heart and Accidents and adverse effects, despite increases in death rates for HIV infection and Diabetes mellitus.

NOTE: This report has been reprinted to correct errors. Changes appear in shaded areas on pages 17, 20, 21, 26, 29, 51, and 57. Please discard original report dated December 8, 1994.

Acknowledgments

This report was prepared in the Division of Vital Statistics under the general direction of Harry M. Rosenberg, Chief of the Mortality Statistics Branch. Thomas D. Dunn of the Statistical Resources Branch provided statistical tables and content review. Charles E. Royer of the Systems and Programming Branch provided computer programming support. Staff of the Registration Methods Branch and the Technical Services Branch provided consultation to State vital statistics offices regarding collection of the death certificate data on which this report is based. This report was edited by Patricia Kearon-Williams and typeset by Jacqueline M. Davis of the Publications Branch, Division of Data Services.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics



Monthly Vital Statistics Report • Vol. 43, No. 6(S) • March 22, 1995

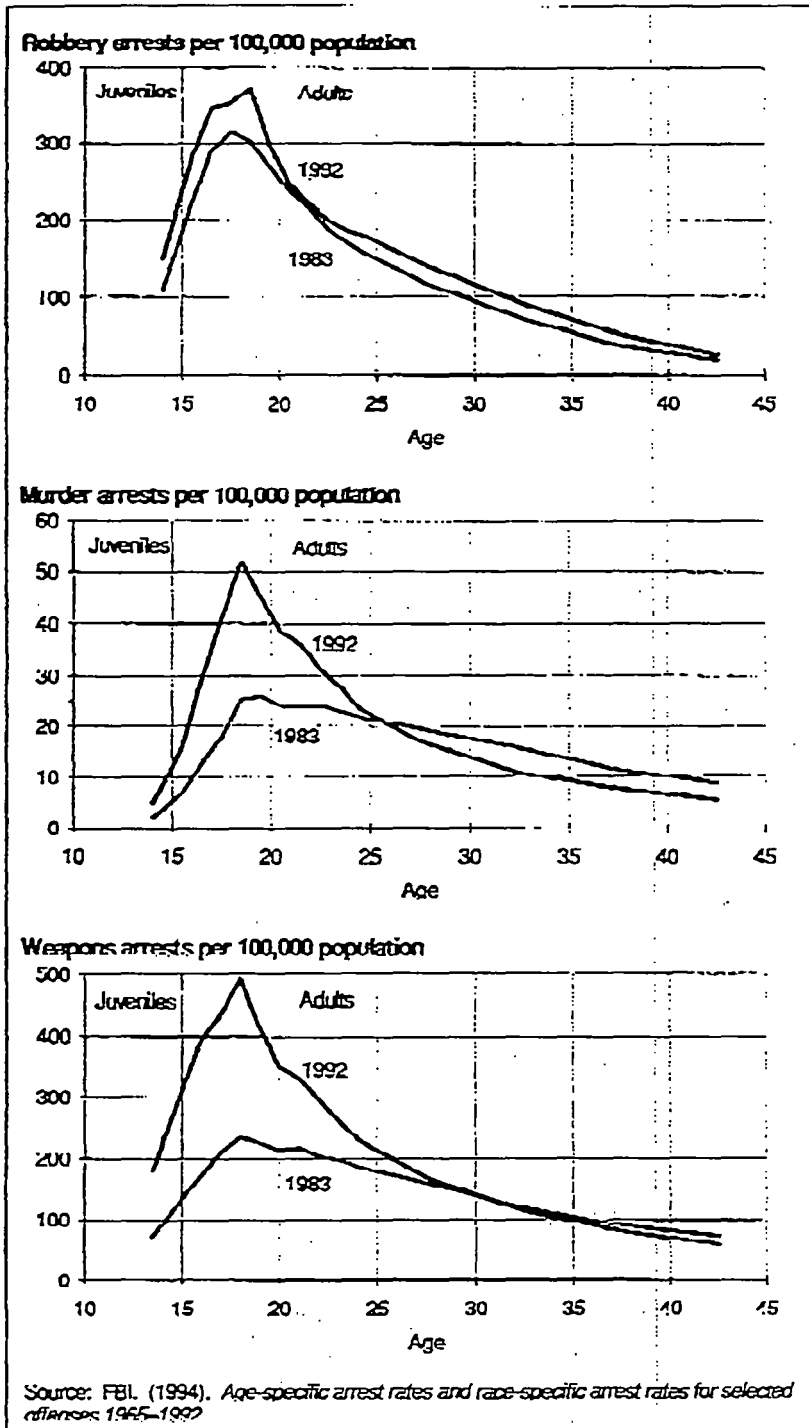
31

Table 6. Deaths and death rates for the 10 leading causes of death in specified age groups, by race and sex: United States, 1992—Con.
 [Rates per 100,000 population in specified group. For explanation of asterisk preceding cause-of-death codes, see Technical notes]

Rank order ¹	Cause of death, race, sex, and age (Ninth Revision, International Classification of Diseases, 1975)	Number	Rate	Rank order ¹	Cause of death, race, sex, and age (Ninth Revision, International Classification of Diseases, 1975)	Number	Rate
Black, 85 years and over				Black male, 5–14 years			
...	All causes	143,126	5,516.1	...	All causes	1,162	41.2
1	Diseases of heart.390–398,402,404–429	52,149	2,009.8	1	Accidents and adverse effects.E800–E949	497	17.8
2	Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues. . .140–208	34,809	1,333.8	...	Motor vehicle accidents.E810–E825	231	8.2
3	Cerebrovascular diseases.430–438	12,118	467.0	...	All other accidents and adverse effects.E800–E807,E826–E949	266	9.4
4	Diabetes mellitus.250	5,540	213.5	2	Homicide and legal intervention. . . .E960–E978	188	5.9
5	Pneumonia and influenza.480–487	4,938	190.3	3	Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues. . .140–208	83	2.9
6	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and allied conditions.490–496	4,028	155.2	4	Congenital anomalies.740–759	50	1.8
7	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis.580–589	2,699	104.0	5	Diseases of heart.390–398,402,404–429	45	1.8
8	Septicemia.038	2,419	93.2	6	Suicide.E950–E959	29	1.0
9	Accidents and adverse effects.E800–E949	2,267	87.4	7	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and allied conditions.490–496	28	1.0
...	Motor vehicle accidents.E810–E825	516	19.9	8	Human immunodeficiency virus infection.*042–*044	26	0.8
...	All other accidents and adverse effects.E800–E807,E826–E949	1,761	67.5	9	Anemias.280–285	20	0.7
10	Hypertension with or without renal disease.401,403	1,588	61.6	10	Pneumonia and influenza.480–487	11	*
...	All other causes.Residual	20,781	800.1	...	All other causes.Residual	207	7.3
Black male, all ages ³				Black male, 15–24 years			
...	All causes	148,630	977.5	...	All causes	7,169	269.4
1	Diseases of heart.390–398,402,404–429	37,040	246.8	1	Homicide and legal intervention. . . .E960–E978	4,107	154.4
2	Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues. . .140–208	32,155	214.4	2	Accidents and adverse effects.E800–E949	1,328	49.9
3	Homicide and legal intervention. . . .E960–E978	10,131	67.5	...	Motor vehicle accidents.E810–E825	862	32.4
4	Human immunodeficiency virus infection.*042–*044	8,925	59.5	...	All other accidents and adverse effects.E800–E807,E826–E949	468	17.5
5	Accidents and adverse effects.E800–E949	8,238	54.9	3	Suicide.E950–E959	478	18.0
...	Motor vehicle accidents.E810–E825	3,607	24.0	4	Diseases of heart.390–398,402,404–429	188	7.4
...	All other accidents and adverse effects.E800–E807,E826–E949	4,631	30.9	5	Human immunodeficiency virus infection.*042–*044	192	7.2
6	Cerebrovascular diseases.430–438	7,421	49.5	6	Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues. . .140–208	152	5.7
7	Pneumonia and influenza.480–487	3,822	25.5	7	Anemias.280–285	50	1.9
8	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and allied conditions.490–496	3,569	23.8	7	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and allied conditions.490–496	50	1.9
9	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period.760–779	3,469	23.1	9	Congenital anomalies.740–759	44	1.7
10	Diabetes mellitus.250	3,271	21.8	10	Pneumonia and influenza.480–487	29	1.1
...	All other causes.Residual	28,589	190.6	...	All other causes.Residual	541	20.3
Black male, 1–4 years				Black male, 25–44 years			
...	All causes	985	77.6	...	All causes	26,035	642.8
1	Accidents and adverse effects.E800–E949	319	25.6	1	Human immunodeficiency virus infection.*042–*044	8,590	137.4
...	Motor vehicle accidents.E810–E825	85	6.8	2	Homicide and legal intervention. . . .E960–E978	4,590	95.7
...	All other accidents and adverse effects.E800–E807,E826–E949	234	18.8	3	Accidents and adverse effects.E800–E949	3,046	63.5
2	Congenital anomalies.740–759	102	8.2	...	Motor vehicle accidents.E810–E825	1,405	29.3
3	Homicide and legal intervention. . . .E960–E978	95	7.6	...	All other accidents and adverse effects.E800–E807,E826–E949	1,641	34.2
4	Diseases of heart.390–398,402,404–429	56	4.5	4	Diseases of heart.390–398,402,404–429	2,787	57.7
4	Human immunodeficiency virus infection.*042–*044	56	4.5	5	Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues. . .140–208	1,758	36.7
6	Pneumonia and influenza.480–487	31	2.6	6	Suicide.E950–E959	908	18.9
7	Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues. . .140–208	27	2.2	7	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. . . .571	823	13.0
8	Anemias.280–285	25	2.0	8	Cerebrovascular diseases.430–438	592	12.3
9	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period.760–779	21	1.7	9	Pneumonia and influenza.480–487	457	9.5
10	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and allied conditions.490–496	13	*	10	Diabetes mellitus.250	297	6.2
...	All other causes.Residual	220	17.7	...	All other causes.Residual	4,407	91.8

See footnotes at end of table.

C-3



Robbery arrest rates increased much less than aggravated assault rates

Robbery arrest rates increased in all age groups from 1983 to 1992. However, the growth was less than half of violent crime overall. The age groups with the smallest increases were those in their early twenties, with the juvenile increases similar to those of persons above age 25.

Murder rates declined in most age groups from 1983 to 1992

In 1992 persons above age 25 were arrested for murder at substantially lower rates than they were in 1983. For example, the murder arrest rate for persons ages 35-45 declined nearly 25% over the 10-year period. In stark contrast, murder arrest rates for juveniles and young adults soared, with increases far greater than in any other violent crime category. The average increase for juveniles was double the average increase for young adults.

The fact that murder arrests for all adults increased just 9% between 1983 and 1992 masks two very different trends within the adult age group. The substantial declines in murder arrest rates for adults above their midtwenties almost offset the very large increases in murder arrests of young adults.

As in all violent crimes, 18-year-olds had the highest arrest rate for murder in 1992. However, the pattern of age-related growth in murder arrest rates was not mirrored in any other violent offense, but was paralleled in weapons arrests.

A juvenile's risk of becoming a victim of a nonfatal violent crime increased between 1987 and 1991

NCVS monitors changes in nonfatal violent victimizations

The National Crime Victimization Survey asks respondents to report on crimes in which they were the victim, which obviously excludes fatal incidents. Nonfatal violent victimizations include rape, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault.

The risk of violent victimization has increased for juveniles and young adults in recent years

Between 1987 and 1991 the risk that a person between the ages of 12 and 17 would become a victim of a nonfatal violent crime increased 17%. Over this period the risk of violence increased from 61 to 71 violent victimizations per 1,000 juveniles. During the same period the risk of violence for those ages 18-24 increased 24% from 66 to 81 per 1,000. The risk of violent victimizations for age groups above age 24 declined with age, and the risks that they would become the victim of a nonfatal violent crime did not increase between 1987 and 1991.

During the same period the risk of personal theft for juveniles decreased from 114 to 101 per 1,000, although this decrease was not significant statistically.

Recent changes in juvenile victimization rates varied by race and ethnic group

Changes in a juvenile's risk of violent crime differed by race and ethnicity. The rate of violent victimization for non-Hispanic whites increased 21% between 1987 and 1991, from 57 to 69 per 1,000. During the same period, the violent victimization rate for blacks remained constant. Black juveniles had a violent victimization rate of 84 per 1,000 in 1991. The victimization rate for white-Hispanic juveniles increased more than 40% to a level equal to that of whites, but due to their small numbers in the NCVS sample, this difference was not statistically significant.

The increase in risk of violent victimization for young adults (ages 18 to 24) was greater for blacks than for whites from 1987 to 1991. Violent victimizations among non-Hispanic whites

increased 25% (from 67 to 84 per 1,000) and among blacks 48% (from 67 to 99 per 1,000).

The nature of nonfatal violence against juveniles did not change much between 1987 and 1991

In the case of serious violence (rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) no statistically significant changes occurred in the nature of juvenile victimizations. The proportion involving serious injury declined from 11% to 7% but this difference was not statistically significant. The percent of serious violent incidents resulting in injury remained essentially the same (37% in 1987 and 35% in 1991) as did the proportion resulting in hospital stays. The proportion of serious violent incidents in which weapons were used also remained essentially the same from 1987 (66%) to 1991 (67%).

Between 1987 and 1991 no statistically significant changes occurred in the places where serious violence occurred, in the reporting of these events to the police, or in the characteristics of juvenile victims.

The increased risk of violent victimization from 1987 to 1991 among juveniles ages 12-17 stems largely from an increase in simple assault rates

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Population ages 12-17 (in millions)	20,756	20,346	20,049	20,102	20,370
Total violent victimizations	1,258,000	1,245,000	1,294,000	1,328,000	1,448,000
Victimizations per 1,000 population:					
Crimes of Violence*	61	61	65	66	71
Robbery	8	9	10	11	10
Aggravated assault	15	16	14	16	15
Simple assault	36	36	39	37	44

* Includes data on rape not displayed as a separate category.

Source: Moone, J. (1994). Juvenile victimizations: 1987-1992. *OJJDP Fact Sheet*.

Cities In Schools
525 North Tryon Street, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28202
Fax Number (704) 335-0697

CITIES IN SCHOOLS**Cover Page for Fax Transmission**

Date:

8/7/95

Time:

1:05 pm

To:

Filo McAsee

Fax No.

202 456-6218

THERE ARE 3 PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET.

MESSAGE:

Rev Diggs is Host
of Progressing
Baptist Convention
in Charlotte on Wednesday

From:

Cynthia Marshall
(704) 335-0601

IF THIS TRANSMISSION IS INCOMPLETE OR ANY OTHER TRANSMISSION ERRORS OCCUR PLEASE
NOTIFY (704) 335-0601.

Church, school coalition a success

■ All institutions must help redirect young lives.

By THE REV. HAROLD S. DIGGS

I was a wintry day in December 1990 when I received a phone call from the office of Calvin Wallace, then the acting superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, requesting a meeting with me at my earliest convenience.

Having an open-door policy concerning persons wishing to talk with me, I immediately arranged a conference the next day that was convenient for him. In the next day or two, Wallace, accompanied by his Battle, came to my office.

We met in the Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church conference room so we wouldn't be disturbed, and I asked the office manager not to disturb me unless my wife called.



Diggs

Once in the conference room, Wallace and Battle began to unfold to me this dream they had for helping public school students who were experiencing difficulties in regular classes.

As they talked, I began to feel a sense of joy about their proposed program because the Lord had blessed our church with facilities that could help make these dreams become realities.

After conferring with our deacons and trustees, they unanimously agreed that little more than 12,000 square feet of floor space would be leased to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to house the first Alternative School — namely Mayfield Alternative School.

Subsequently, on Jan. 22, 1991, the Mayfield Alternative School opened, using a part of the educational facilities at Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, 700 Sugar Creek Rd. W.

The goal was to mend the broken educational lives of 50 senior high school students with 15 staff people.

I must admit, at first, that with the destructive attitudes and actions of some of the students, I wondered if we had made a mistake by entering into an agreement where a school of this nature would be housed in our church.

But, as the first graduation exercises were held, and as the expressions of gratitude were given by various students who spoke and sang, I realized that we were making a difference.

When the students' grades improved to A grades at the alternative school, it reinforced my belief that this coalition between Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Mayfield had been a good arrangement.

By the way, upon learning that Mayfield Alternative School was one of the two schools that met 100% of the performance goals set by Supt. John Murphy for the 1992-93 school year, I said to myself and to members of the church, "I'm glad we did."

I believe there must be mutually concerned efforts put forth by all of our institutions so that we might be able to redirect the lives of our young people.

We must do all we can or we must accept part of the guilt and part of the blame for their not becoming all they can.

□□□

The Rev. Harold S. Diggs is the pastor of Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church.



I should have done more to support my candidate

With the elections now over, I have learned a tough lesson. My candidate did not win. I watched the results on TV anxiously. It was close, but percentage points made one of the candidates a loser.

I did my job and voted. I came from Florida just in time to vote by the polls closed. I even felt our husband to see whom he was voting for. I didn't want him to cancel my vote.

What went wrong? I want to ask for my candidate to find out more. I put my candidate's sticker on my car and baked some goodies for a fund-raiser.

I have to ask myself, "What could I have done?" I have sent a donation to my candidate. Perhaps I could have helped with transportation or calls. There was more I could have done.

Next election my candidate will have more support from me.

Episode over license sticker was maddening, wasteful

In early October our daughter was on a Sunday night about 8:30 p.m. get some schoolwork from a class when she was stopped by a Pine police officer. Frightened, she was over only to be told that her license renewal sticker had not been renewed. He then gave her a ticket for \$60 and her to appear in court one month later.

I was angry to find out that yes, I bought the sticker and affixed it to tag but somewhere along the way so one had stolen it and the registra-

Terry - 6133

Dick Morris
would like to see
you in Rm 164
as soon as possible,
scripture

Religion

Schools are alternatives to dropping out

Programs borrow space in churches

By DEBRA WARLICK
Staff Writer

Kids who might have fallen through the cracks in regular schools are on their way up at Mayfield and Wesley Uptown alternative schools.

Because students who struggle academically or socially in a normal school environment are often at-risk for dropping out, three partners pooled their energies to keep kids in school.

Cities in Schools, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and area churches joined to create a new system for students who need extra attention and a smaller environment to succeed — instead of trying to bend the students to fit the system.

Mayfield's second school year began Aug. 21 for its 50 high school students, with classes and offices housed in Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church at 700 W. Sugar Creek Rd.

Wesley Uptown Alternative School will open officially at First United Methodist Church, 501 N. Tryon St., on Nov. 4.

"Churches make excellent partners. They're located all over the community. Our goal is to have an alternative school in each of the five (school system) feeder areas: Olympic/Souih, Northwest, Garinger/Independence, West Charlotte and Harding/Myers Park," said Iris Batt'e, a dropout prevention specialist for the school system and the administrator of alternative schools.

The numbers bode well for future alternative schools — of the 52 students who attended Mayfield last year, 95% stayed in school, and 61% were promoted to the next grade.

There are seven teachers for the 50 students in grades nine through 12.

"Our students have the potential to be successful, and with all the services we offer, (such as) smaller classes, outside agency assistance . . . , volunteer tutors, we'll help them succeed," said Cindy Syner, a case manager from the Department of Social Services currently "on loan" to the Cities in Schools program.

"They have a say-so here — they have taken on ownership of the school, in their home schools, many wouldn't have been the types to initiate anything," said Carolyn DeBerry, site coordinator.

Now, some of the former at-risk kids participate in a student mediation program to work out problems, as well as the Green Team, a recycling and environmental group.

Mayfield plans to open a day-care center by the end of September, a move to stave off potential dropouts.

"The number of single parents in the school system is one of the causes of dropping out. We've had students who were coming just on the days they could get day care," said Essie Shipp, day-care director.

Two students who would benefit by on-site day care are Tanya Crawford, 17, and Taneeka Patterson, 15. Both single mothers of boys, Tanya's son is 1 month old and Taneeka's is 4 months.

"Here, they help you more with the (school) work. With less students, you get more done," said Tanya. "I'd rather for (my son) to be here because I'm here."

For Taneeka, if day care isn't available, school might not be either.

"(Day care) would be great. I won't have to try to take him somewhere else. I can just come here with him," she said.

Even without day care, the schools serve a necessary purpose, said the school's admin-



TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

Alternative school: Math teacher Allen Nice-Webb helps Mayfield School student Norma Barnes on a computer terminal. Mayfield is in its second year as an

alternative school under Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Cities in Schools program, at Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church on Sugar Creek Road.

istrators — and all involved are eager in their plans to provide alternative schooling.

Cities in Schools, a program formed in 1986 to encourage students to graduate from high school, first appeared on the doorstep of First United Methodist Church last spring and has now made its way to the fourth floor where the classroom space is.

"The (Cities in Schools) office happened to move to a building right next door to the church, and we invited the ladies to come

have lunch with us," said David Bigham, church administrator. "We wanted to make them aware of the space we had, and when they saw it, little bells must of went off in their head."

At that time, the church had just completed a study showing that members wanted to get more involved with the area's youth.

"Cities in Schools just landed on our doorstep," said Bigham.

The University of Michigan

News and Information Services

412 Maynard
Ann Arbor, Michigan
48109-1398

July 17, 1995 (7)
Contact: Diane Swanbrow
Phone: (313) 747-4416

**Smoking rates climb among American teen-agers,
who find smoking increasingly acceptable and
seriously underestimate the risks.**

FOR RELEASE AT 6:00 A.M. EDT, THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1995.

EDITORS: For more information about the study, contact Lloyd D. Johnston, Ph.D., the principal investigator, at (313) 763-5043.

ANN ARBOR---Reporting on their 20th national survey of American high school seniors, and their fourth national survey of eighth- and tenth-grade students, scientists at the University of Michigan Survey Research Center conclude that cigarette smoking is rising among young Americans.

"For more than a decade we have been reporting that the smoking rate among American high school seniors was holding constant despite the accumulating evidence of smoking's lethal effects, despite the many new restrictions on cigarette smoking, and despite the fact that smoking has fallen considerably among adults," states Lloyd D. Johnston, the principal investigator of the study.

Johnston and colleagues Jerald G. Bachman and Patrick M. O'Malley have directed the Monitoring the Future Study of licit and illicit drug use for over 20 years, under a series of research grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

(more)

(7) Cigarettes—Page 2

"We are now in a period of clear and continuing increase in cigarette smoking among teens. Twelfth-graders showed an increase in smoking which began in 1992, while the eighth- and tenth-graders have shown a steady increase since first surveyed in 1991," states Johnston. (See Figure 1) "This is extremely bad news for the health and longevity of the next generation."

The proportional increase in smoking is greatest among the eighth-graders, who are 13- to 14-years-old. Their rate of current smoking—that is, smoking any cigarettes in the past 30 days—rose by 30 percent between 1991 and 1994, from 14.3 percent to 18.6 percent. Tenth-graders' current smoking rate increased by more than two-tenths, from 20.8 percent to 25.4 percent over the same interval. Among high school seniors, the current smoking rate has been increasing since 1992, and has risen by one-eighth, from 27.8 percent to 31.2 percent in 1994. (See Figure 1 and Table 1.)

"While the daily smoking rates are at lower levels, the increases in them are of the same order of magnitude," states Johnston, "and, of course, a great many of the lighter smokers at these young ages are on their way to becoming heavy smokers." The daily smoking rates for eighth-, 10th- and 12th-grade students in 1994 are 9 percent, 15 percent, and 19 percent, respectively.

The investigators conclude that teen-agers greatly underestimate the dangers of smoking, with only about half of all eighth-graders believing that smokers run a great risk of harming themselves by smoking a pack or more daily. (See Figure 4.) At 13 to 14 years old, eighth-graders are at an age by which a great many of those who will eventually become smokers have already begun to smoke.

"From some of our earlier work we also know that teen-agers greatly overestimate their ability to stop smoking once they have begun," Johnston observes, "so they are making decisions about whether or not to smoke at a very early age, with little or no appreciation of the likely consequences of those decisions."

In fact, even before they finish high school, a majority (56 percent) of the half-pack-

(more)

(7) Cigarettes--Page 3

a-day smokers say they tried to quit smoking and found they could not. Many of them have tried to quit on multiple occasions.

"We know that once a birth cohort establishes a particularly high or low rate of smoking in adolescence, relative to other birth cohorts, it continues to maintain a relatively high or low rate throughout the life cycle," adds O'Malley, who has written on this subject using follow-up surveys of previous high school graduating classes. "Thus the higher rates that we are observing now are likely to remain high later in life for these children."

The increases in smoking are very broad. They are found among boys and girls, those planning to go to college and those not (the latter tend to have much higher smoking rates), in all regions of the country, and in large cities as well as rural areas. (See Table 2.) The investigators also note that the increases are found at all socioeconomic levels and in all three of the largest racial/ethnic groups (whites, African-Americans and Hispanics). No segment of the population is being spared these increases, so all parents should be concerned, caution the investigators.

As to the likely causes of this recent upturn in smoking among American youth, the investigators point to several factors. "In addition to their unrealistically low perception of the dangers of smoking, there has been a clear weakening of peer norms against smoking," Johnston points out. (See Figure 3 and Table 3.) "While the majority still say they disapprove of regular smoking, that proportion has been declining steadily since the early 1990s.

"In the larger context, of course, we still must explain why these smoking-related attitudes are changing, or in the case of perceived risk, why they are not changing," Johnston says. The dangers teens associate with regular pack-a-day smoking have held fairly steady in recent years and even may have begun to decline in 1994. (See Figure 4 and Table 3.)

"For one thing, children are bombarded with images of the benefits of smoking by an industry advertising and promotion effort which approaches five billion dollars per year. Cigarette smoking is continually associated with social success, sexual attractiveness, a

(more)

(7) Cigarettes---Page 4

healthy demeanor, exciting sporting activities, a cool and tough image for the boys, a slender body and liberated spirit for the girls, autonomy and independence for both sexes, and so on," says Johnston. "What else could an American adolescent want?

"And, in case the younger children don't get the point, they now have a cartoon character with which to identify. Past research has shown that he is widely known to them.

"Further, many movies and television programs portray smoking as more common and socially acceptable than it in fact is among the general population," Johnston adds, "and it is my impression that smoking by the characters in movies and television dramas has become even more frequent. But, even if it just held steady, it would present an unrealistic portrayal, because among adults both the use of cigarettes and the acceptability of smoking have been declining substantially."

Price is still another factor which may have contributed to the increase in smoking by young people, according to the investigators. The tobacco companies cut prices on major brands beginning in early 1993. In addition, the many new promotional prizes in effect reduce the price of the product and serve to reward use.

The investigators find that cigarettes are almost universally available to teen-agers. Three-quarters of eighth-graders and 90 percent of 10th-graders say that cigarettes are "fairly easy" or "very easy" for them to get. The investigators do not even bother to ask 12th-graders the question, believing that virtually all of them would report easy access to cigarettes. (See Table 3.) There is no evidence that availability has changed much, however. "We have never made a serious effort to control children's access to cigarettes, which itself sends a message that adults don't care much if they smoke," observes Johnston.

The recent increase in cigarette smoking coincides with a sharp increase in marijuana use among American teens, as reported by the same study, and the investigators observe that the increase in smoking may in fact be contributing to the rise in marijuana use.

"Cigarette smoking and marijuana smoking are very highly correlated, with cigarette

(more)

(7) Cigarettes---Page 5

smoking usually coming first," notes Johnston. "When you think about it, in order to smoke marijuana, youngsters must learn to take smoke into their lungs, which is not a normal behavior for any species. Cigarette smoking provides excellent training for just that."

The implication of this increase in adolescent smoking for the country's future rates of disease, early death, disrupted families, worker productivity, and health care costs cannot be overestimated, say the investigators. "As we and many others have observed previously, cigarettes will kill far more of today's children than all other drugs combined, including alcohol. But because these consequences do not emerge for a few decades, we seem to be much less concerned about them. If cigarette smoking killed quickly, like drunk driving does, the country would be treating the current rates of adolescent smoking as an extreme emergency."

#####

The study, titled "Monitoring the Future," was also widely known as the National High School Senior Survey. It has been conducted under a series of research grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Surveys have been carried out each year since 1975 by the University of Michigan Survey Research Center. In 1994, the seniors comprised about 16,000 seniors in 139 public and private high schools nationwide, selected to be representative of all seniors in the continental United States. They completed self-administered questionnaires given to them in their classrooms by U-M personnel. Beginning in 1991, similar surveys of nationally representative samples of eighth- and 10th-graders have been conducted annually. The 1994 eighth-grade sample contained about 18,000 students in 150 schools, and the 10th-grade sample contained 16,000 students in 130 schools. In all, approximately 50,000 students in about 420 public and private secondary schools are now surveyed annually.

####

[cig]

TABLE 1

Long-Term Trends in Prevalence of Cigarettes for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Lifetime																				
8th Grade																	44.0	45.2	45.3	46.1
10th Grade																	55.1	53.5	56.3	56.9
12th Grade	73.6	75.4	75.7	75.3	74.0	71.0	71.0	70.1	70.6	69.7	68.8	67.6	67.2	66.4	65.7	64.4	63.1	61.8	61.9	62.0
Thirty-Day																				
8th Grade																	14.3	15.5	16.7	18.6
10th Grade																	20.8	21.5	24.7	25.4
12th Grade	36.7	38.8	38.4	36.7	34.4	30.5	29.4	30.0	30.3	29.3	30.1	29.6	29.4	28.7	28.6	29.4	28.3	27.8	29.9	31.2
Daily																				
8th Grade																	7.2	7.0	8.3	8.8
10th Grade																	12.6	12.3	14.2	14.6
12th Grade	26.9	28.8	28.8	27.5	25.4	21.3	20.3	21.1	21.2	18.7	19.5	18.7	18.7	18.1	18.9	19.1	18.5	17.2	19.0	19.4
1/2 pack+/day																				
8th Grade																	3.1	2.9	3.5	3.6
10th Grade																	6.5	6.0	7.0	7.6
12th Grade	17.9	19.2	19.4	18.8	16.5	14.3	13.5	14.2	13.8	12.3	12.5	11.4	11.4	10.6	11.2	11.3	10.7	10.0	10.9	11.2
Approximate Ns:																				
8th Grade																	17500	18600	18300	17300
10th Grade																	14800	14800	15300	15800
12th Grade	9400	15400	17100	17800	15500	15900	17500	17700	16300	15900	16000	15200	16300	16300	16700	15200	15000	15800	16300	16400

NOTE: Level of significance of difference between the two years indicated: s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001.

SOURCE: The Monitoring the Future Study, The University of Michigan.

TABLE 2
Cigarettes: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence
by Subgroups for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders

	Percent Who Smoked in Last 30 Days								
	8th Grade			10th Grade			12th Grade		
	1991	1994	'91-'94 change	1991	1994	'91-'94 change	1991	1994	'91-'94 change
<i>Approximate N =</i>	17600	17300		14800	15800		15000	16400	
Total	14.3	18.6	+4.3sss	20.8	25.4	+4.6sss	28.3	31.2	+2.9ss
Sex:									
Male	15.5	19.3	+3.8sss	20.8	26.6	+5.8sss	29.0	32.9	+3.9ss
Female	13.1	17.9	+4.8sss	20.7	23.9	+3.2ss	27.5	29.2	+1.7
College Plans:									
None or under 4 yrs.	29.2	36.6	+7.4sss	36.5	42.2	+5.7ss	38.1	40.9	+2.8
Complete 4 yrs.	11.8	16.1	+4.3sss	17.3	21.7	+4.4sss	24.2	28.0	+3.8sss
Region:									
Northeast	13.7	17.8	+4.1ss	22.4	24.5	+2.1	30.5	33.2	+2.7
North Central	15.5	18.5	+3.0s	22.9	28.8	+5.9sss	34.6	36.2	+1.6
South	15.7	19.5	+3.8ss	21.2	25.7	+4.5ss	25.4	30.7	+5.3sss
West	10.0	18.0	+8.0sss	16.7	20.1	+3.4s	23.2	24.0	+0.8
Population Density:									
Large MSA	12.8	14.7	+1.9	19.7	23.5	+3.8ss	26.2	29.3	+3.1s
Other MSA	14.9	20.4	+5.5sss	20.3	25.4	+5.1sss	29.3	30.7	+1.4
Non-MSA	14.8	17.8	+3.0ss	22.7	26.7	+4.0ss	28.6	33.8	+5.2sss

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two indicated years: s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001.

SOURCE: The Monitoring the Future Study, The University of Michigan.

TABLE 3

**Trends in Availability and Attitudes About Smoking One or More Packs of Cigarettes per Day,
for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders**

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	'93-'94 change
Perceived Risk^a																					
8th Grade																	51.8	50.8	52.7	50.8	-1.9
10th Grade																	60.3	59.3	60.7	59.0	-1.7
12th Grade	51.3	56.4	58.4	59.0	63.0	63.7	63.3	60.5	61.2	63.8	66.5	66.0	68.6	68.0	67.2	68.2	69.4	69.2	69.5	67.6	-1.9
Disapproval^b																					
8th Grade																	82.8	82.3	80.6	78.4	-2.2ss
10th Grade																	79.4	77.8	76.5	73.9	-2.6ss
12th Grade	67.5	65.9	66.4	67.0	70.3	70.8	69.9	69.4	70.8	73.0	72.3	75.4	74.3	73.1	72.4	72.8	71.4	73.5	70.8	69.8	-0.8
Availability^c																					
8th Grade																		77.8	75.5	76.1	+0.6
10th Grade																		89.1	89.4	90.3	+0.9
12th Grade																					
Approximate Ns^d:																					
8th Grade																		17500	18600	18300	17300
10th Grade																		14800	14800	15300	15800
12th Grade	1900	3100	3400	3600	3100	3200	3500	3500	3300	3200	3200	3000	3300	3300	2800	2500	2500	2600	2700	2600	

NOTE: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent classes: s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001.

SOURCE: The Monitoring the Future Study, The University of Michigan.

^aThe question text was: How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day? Answer alternatives were: (1) No risk, (2) Slight risk, (3) Moderate risk, (4) Great risk, and (5) Can't say, drug unfamiliar. The percent saying "great risk" is shown.

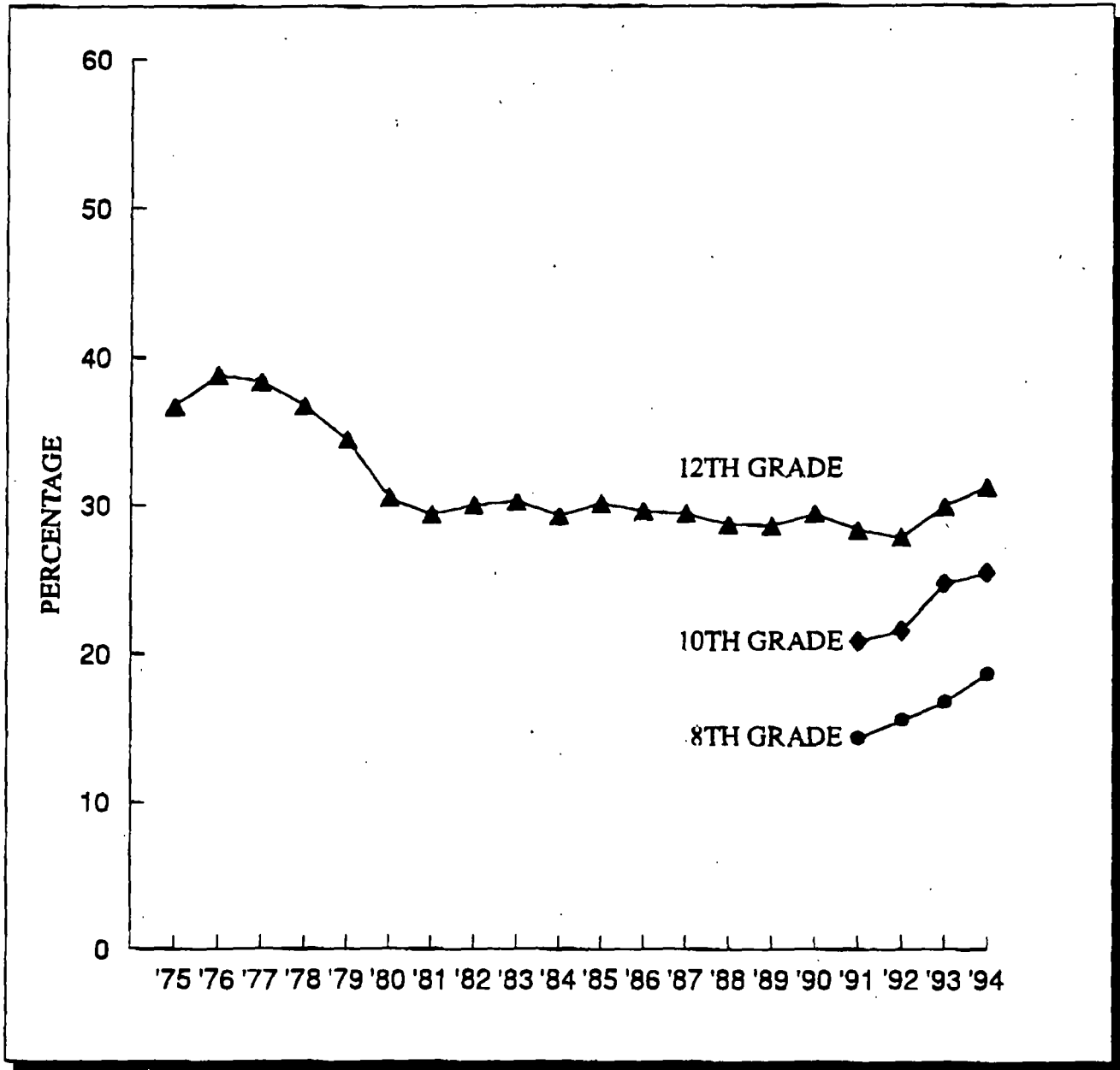
^bThe question text was: Do you disapprove of people smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day? For 12th graders the question asked about people who are "18 or older." Answer alternatives were: (1) Don't disapprove, (2) Disapprove, and (3) Strongly disapprove. For 8th and 10th graders: there was another category - "Can't say, drug unfamiliar" - which was included in the calculation of these percentages. The percent saying they "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove" is shown.

^cThe question text was: How difficult do you think it would be for you to get cigarettes, if you wanted some? Answer alternatives were: (1) Probably impossible, (2) Very difficult, (3) Fairly difficult, (4) Fairly easy, (5) Very easy. For 8th and 10th grades, there was another category - "Can't say, drug unfamiliar" - which was included in the calculation of these percentages. For 12th graders: question not asked. The percent saying cigarettes are "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get is shown.

^dFor 8th and 10th graders: N for Availability in 1992 is one-half of N indicated.

FIGURE 1

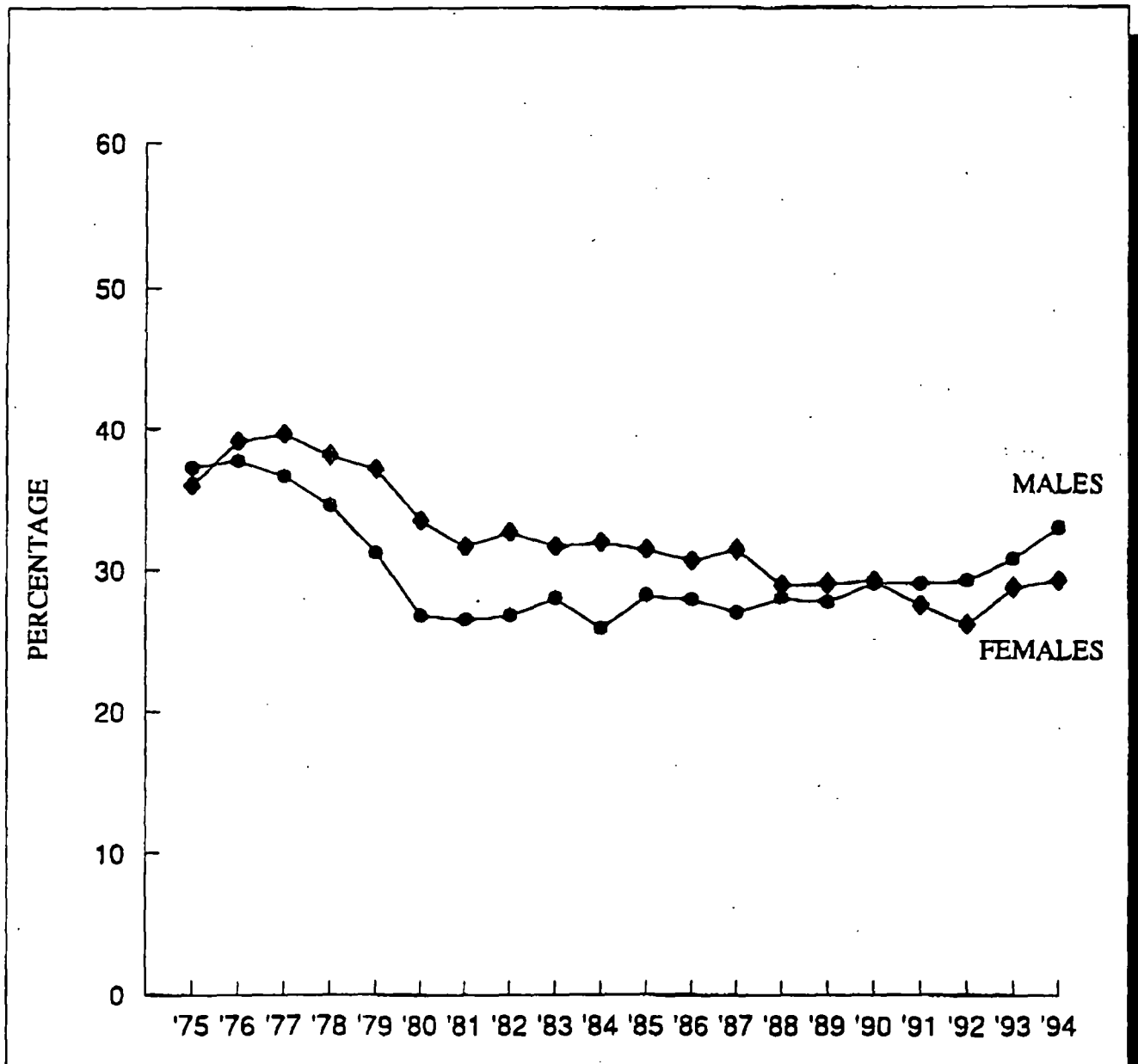
**Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Cigarette Smoking
for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders**



Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, The University of Michigan. See Table 1 for exact numbers.

FIGURE 2

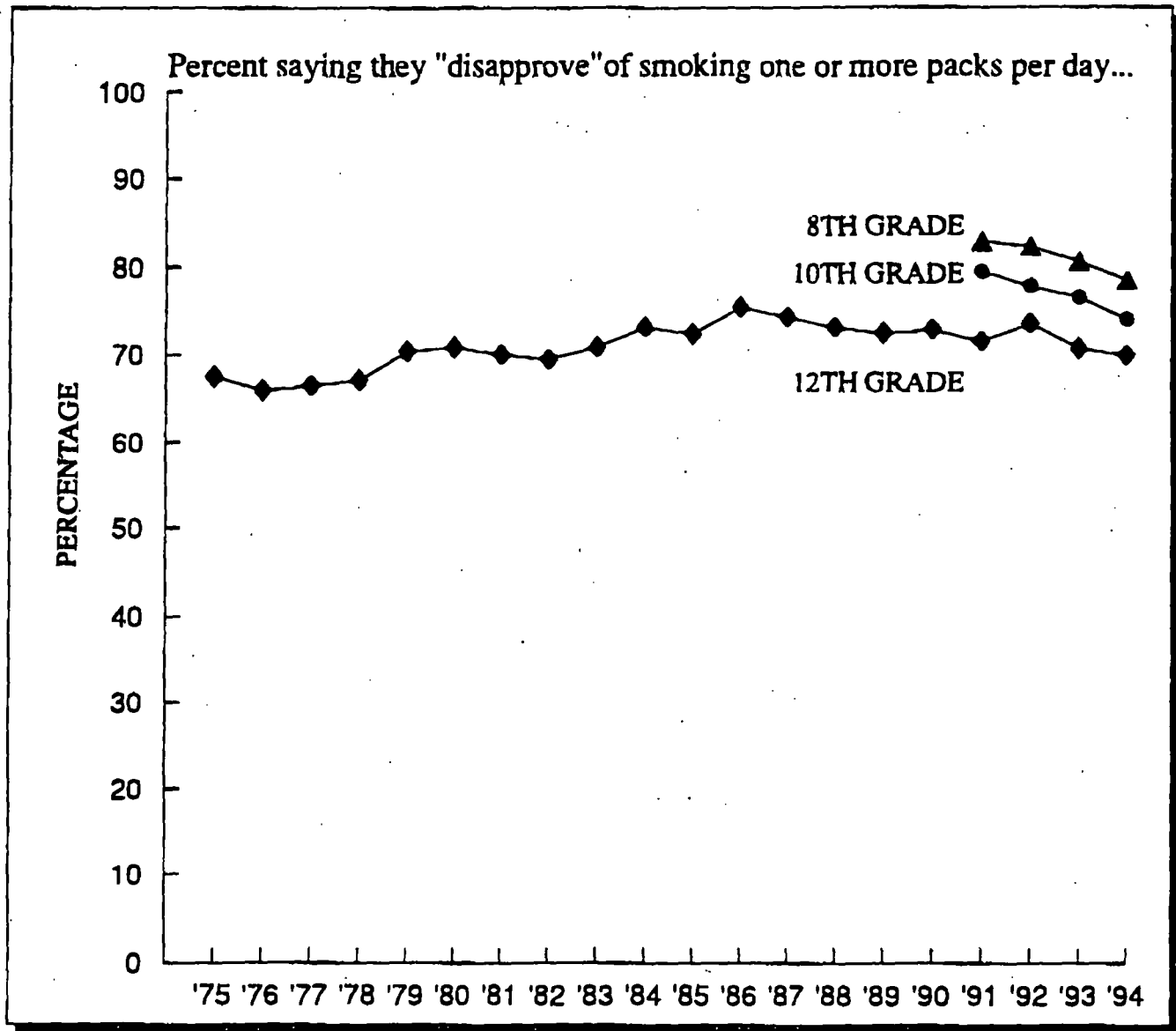
**Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Cigarette Use, by Gender
Twelfth Graders**



Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, The University of Michigan. See Table 2 for exact numbers for selected years.

FIGURE 3

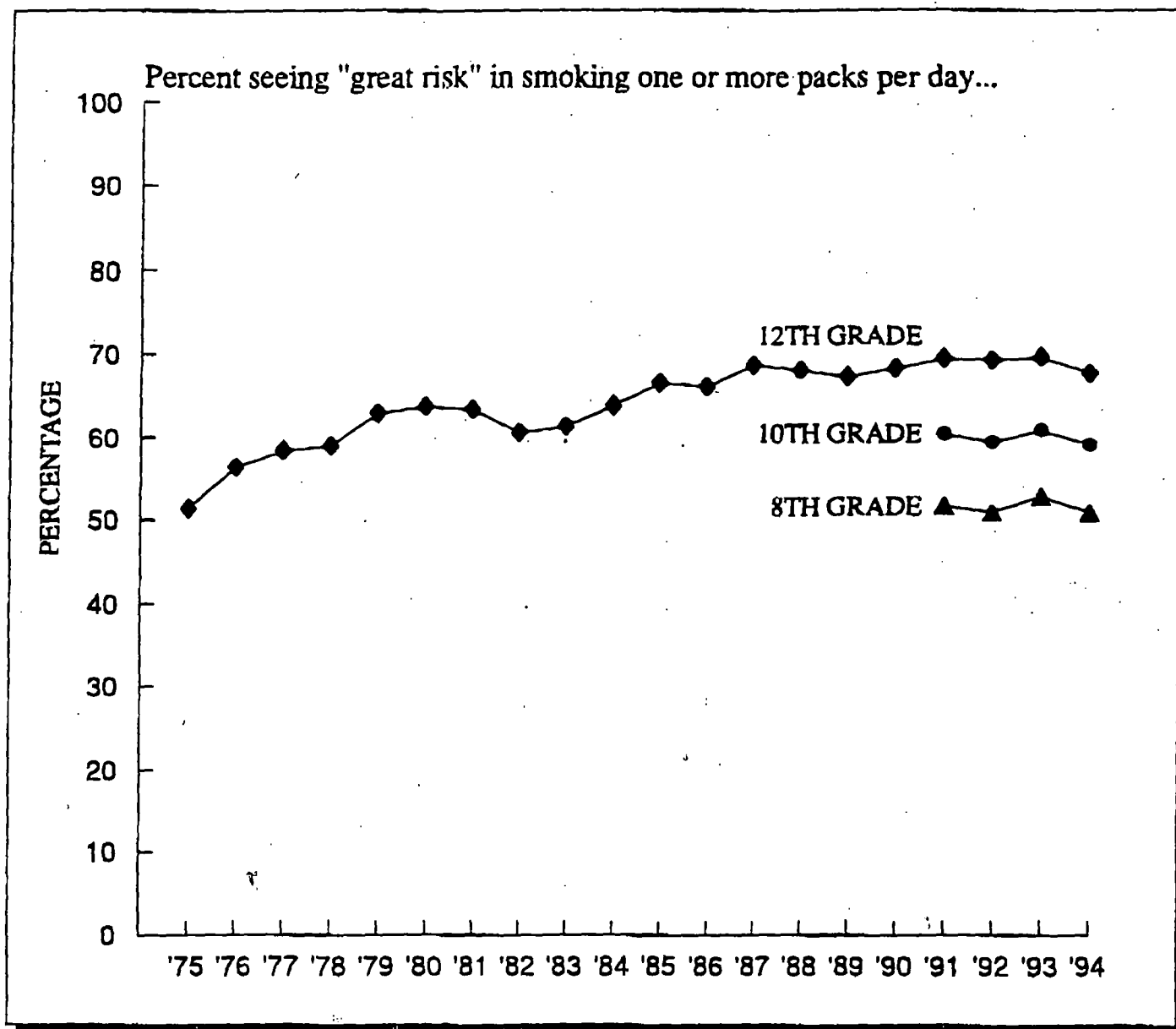
**Trends in Disapproval of Smoking
for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders**



Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, The University of Michigan. See Table 3 for exact numbers.

FIGURE 4

**Trends in Perceived Harmfulness of Smoking
for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders**



Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, The University of Michigan. See Table 3 for exact numbers.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
TEEN HEALTH CONNECTION
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 9, 1995**

[Acknowledgements: Medical Director Dr. John Johnston; Executive Director Barbara Zeigler]

- I'm glad to have this opportunity to visit the Teen Health Connection. I'm looking forward to hearing from each of you about how the Teen Health Connection has helped you.
- Earlier today, I spoke to the Progressive Baptist Convention about the four deadly threats to today's young people: violence, pregnancy, drugs, and smoking. Each of these can have a long-term negative effect on a young person's health and economic well-being.
- Teenagers today see and experience things that adults of my generation could not have imagined. You are faced with a vast range of conflicting images presented to you by the media. Although your parents and teachers may be telling you to do the right thing -- often everything you see is telling you otherwise.
- Teens who aren't healthy can't learn and can't grow up to be productive members of our society. That's why it is so important for you to have a place to turn where you can get straight answers about what you can do to help yourself.
- The Teen Health Connection is an example of how well a public-private partnership can work. With support from health care providers, businesses, and state and local funds, the Teen Health Connection fills a void in this community.
- I spoke in my Inaugural Address about how there's nothing wrong with America that can't be fixed by what's right with America. I am committed to finding and celebrating the best of what America has to offer -- and the Teen Health Connection is certainly a perfect example.
- I'd like to commend Dr. John Johnston and Barbara Zeigler for seeing a need in their community and taking the initiative to do something about it. We need more of that in this country.



August 7, 1995
SPEECH TO THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

DATE: August 9, 1995
LOCATION: Charlotte Convention Center
Charlotte, North Carolina
TIME:
FROM: Alexis Herman
Ben Johnson

I. PURPOSE

To request support for your legislative and policy initiatives and build support among a key constituency.

II. BACKGROUND

The Progressive Baptist Convention is composed of more than 1800 churches and has a membership of 2.5 million people. The Rev. Bennett W. Smith of New York is the newly elected president of the organization. He succeeded the Rev. Charles Adams of Detroit, one of your most loyal supporters. The Progressive Baptists are considered to be the most liberal denomination among African American Baptists.

The Progressive Baptist Convention was organized in 1961 at the height of the Civil Rights Movement and was the denominational home and platform of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King addressed every annual convention until his death in 1968. The Progressive Baptist Convention is heralded and respected among all African American Baptists because of its unrelenting support of civil rights. Rev. Garner Taylor, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Rev. Benjamin Hooks, the Rev. Otis Moss and the Rev. William Gray are just a few of the Convention's well known and respected members.

The organization strongly supported Rev. Jesse Jackson during each of his runs for the presidency. While he is not advocating another Jackson run, Rev. Smith is considered one of Rev. Jackson's closest friends and supporters. The Rev. Jackson is expected to attend the convention but has not been scheduled to speak thus far. You also have many supporters in this organization. Several, including the Rev. Otis Moss, have voiced generous praise for your affirmative action speech and for the leadership you are providing for the nation.

While the audience will be predominantly Progressive Baptists, you will be speaking before the first ever Joint Session between the Progressive Baptist Convention and the Alliance of Baptists. This first-ever event coincides with the sesquicentennial observation of the 1845 division of Baptists along racial and regional lines over the issue of slavery. The Alliance of Baptists, headed by the Rev. John Ewing Roberts has been in dialog with the Progressive Baptist Convention for the past four years seeking common ground and a new day in race relations in the country.

III. PARTICIPANTS

6,000 Baptists ministers

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press

V. SEQUENCE (SEE DANNY)

VI. REMARKS

Prepared by speechwriters with input from OPL

*Alliance of Baptists
Stan Hastings - First Baptist Church - 745-7609*