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TIME AROUND THE WORLD

THE YEAR 2000 IS...

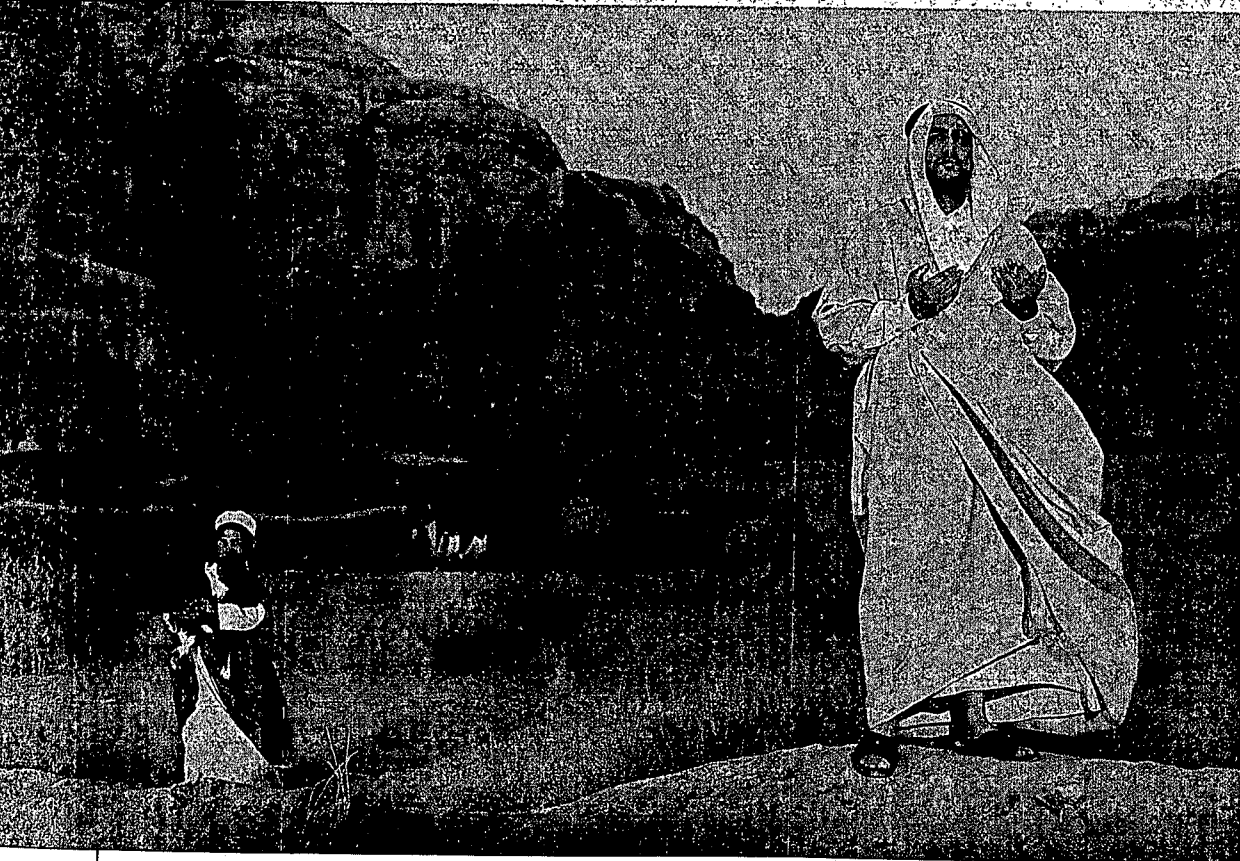
You think it's the start of a new millennium? Guess again. For millions, from the Yangtze to Yucatán, it's just another spin around the sun.

By David Ewing Duncan • Photography by Pierre Perrin

BUDDHIST

2543

When Pope Gregory XIII updated the Christian calendar in 1582, immodestly attaching his name for all time, only Europeans identified Year One with the birth of Christ. Elsewhere, people marked time using dozens of different systems. For many Buddhists, Year One corresponds with the death of Buddha, around 543 B.C. But few followers of Siddhartha's Way subscribe to such linear dating. Believing that life works in cycles, these Tibetan monks (right) from the Gyuto monastery in northeastern India follow a calendar that comes full circle every 60 years. In this variation, related to the Chinese calendar, each year is named after an animal and an element. February 6, 2000, marks the end of the Year of the Earth Hare and the beginning of the Year of the Iron Dragon.



MUSLIM

1420

In A.D. 610, a 40-year-old merchant in the Arabian desert is said to have had a vision compelling him to found a new religion. Twelve years later, Muhammad fled persecution in Mecca, crossing the sands to Medina.

Known to Muslims as the Hegira, this trek marks the start of the Muslim calendar in 622. Purely lunar, it runs in alternating months of 29 and 30 days. The Muslim year has only 354 days, 11 fewer than the solar year. Result: Seasons fall backward, and birthdays come earlier and earlier. Imam Asam al Khatib (above) scours the skies for each new moon so that he can announce the start of the new month to bedouins in Jordan.



HINDU 1921

Maharaja Sawai Man Singh (above) stands near one of the largest sundials in the world in Jaipur. Built between 1726 and 1734 by one of his ancestors, the astronomer-king Sawai Jai Singh II, the gnomon towers 90 feet and casts a shadow that can track equinoxes and solstices,

and keep time to within a minute. Hindu calendars are mentioned in the *Rig-Veda*, the Hindu scripture penned in the second millennium B.C. Originally a lunar calendar, today's version was revised in A.D. 79—Year One in the Hindu calendar, known as 1 Saka. Updated again in 1957, it now operates on the Gregorian leap-year system. Religious holidays are calculated according to the positions of the sun and the moon.

CHINESE 4697

Nearly five millennia ago, Huang Di, China's "Yellow Emperor," is said to have invented the compass, cofounded Taoism, developed early principles of astronomy and, in 2637 B.C., established China's calendar. Many revisions (and emperors) later, today's calendar runs



ETHIOPIAN 1993

In the 7th century A.D., Islam's armies surged into North Africa, stopping short of Ethiopia, which remained Christian. But isolated from the rest of Christendom, Ethiopians dated Christ's birth to A.D. 7. Abune Paulos (above), patriarch

of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, oversees a calendar similar to that of ancient Egypt—with 12 months of 30 days and a 13th month of five days. In nearby Egypt, Coptic Christians follow the Calendar of the Martyrs, so called because it begins in A.D. 284, the year Diocletian, a notorious persecutor of Christians, became emperor of Rome. For Copts, our next year will be their 1716.



cycles, each year named for a
tion and for one of 12 animals
d to the Chinese zodiac. The Chinese
s currently in the 16th year of
60-year cycle: the Year of the Rabbit.
of the Dragon starts on February 5,
next Chinese New Year. Beijing
Liu Yan Ying (right), photographed
at Wall, is an expert on ancient
stronomy.



MAYAN 5119

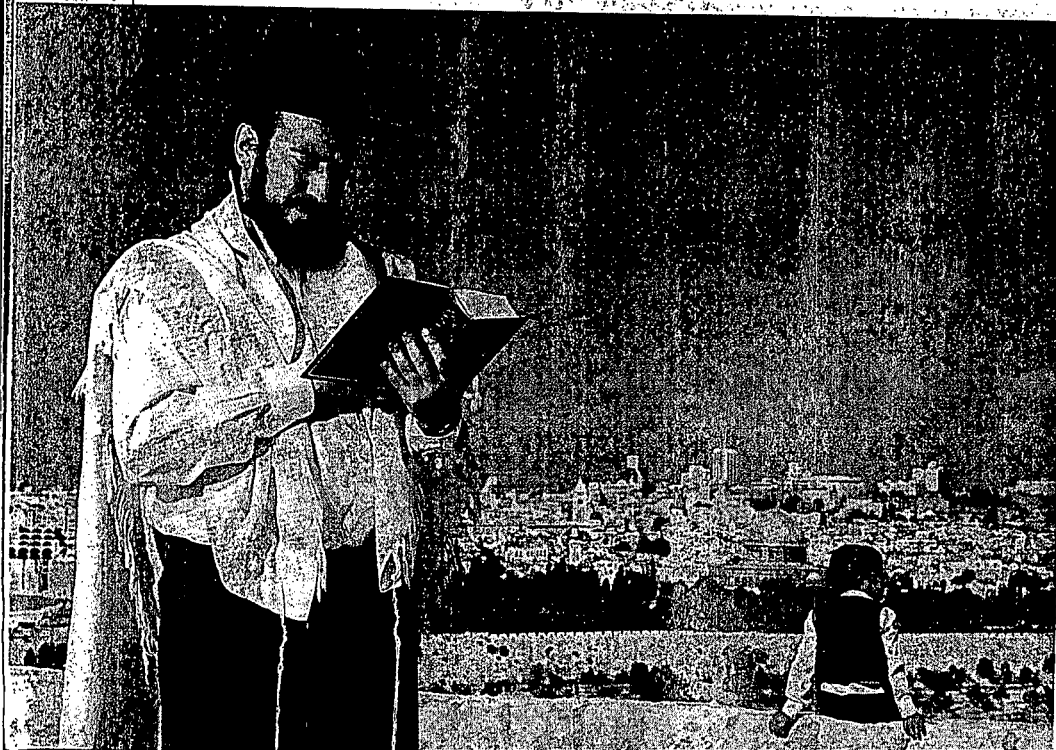
If the apocalypse fails to arrive in 2000, we still have December 23, 2012, to worry about. That's when the 5,130-year Great Cycle of the

Maya supposedly ends, with a world-drenching torrent gushing from the jaws of a serpent. Brilliant astronomers and mathematicians, the Maya were among the first to develop a calendar based on the true seasonal year, with 365 days. Obsessed with time, they also concocted a 260-day calendar

for astrological predictions; and a third based on the moon's phases. To mark major events in their calendar, the Maya often performed human sacrifices. Juana Ventura (above), a Guatemalan woman of Mayan descent, prays in the ruins of Tikal, amid buildings believed to be aligned according to the stars.

HEBREW 5760

Scrolling backward to Adam and Eve, Jewish scholars, centuries ago, tallied the ages of biblical heroes and heroines and dated the creation of the universe to 3761 B.C.E.—Year One in the Hebrew calendar. Another calendar wedded to the moon, it counts months from one full orb to another, with a 13th "leap month" added every few years to close the gap between lunar and solar cycles. Leap years run about 384 days, normal years 354. David Ben-Hamou (left), who studies the correlation between the origin of the world according to sacred Hebrew texts and current scientific knowledge, stands on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. ●



Mr. Zadora's Class
Grade 6
Killingly Intermediate School
1599 Upper Maple Street
Dayville, CT 06241

December 20, 1999

Dear President Clinton and Vice President Gore,

We are sixth graders at Killingly Intermediate School. We are located in Northeastern Connecticut in a town called Killingly. In Mr. Zadora's class we write daily in our journals about the United States and world events. We use the Channel One television program and newspapers as a source of information. As we enter the new millennium these are a few ideas and concerns we would like to share with you.

In only a few days a new era will come in our presence. A new period of time, a time that many of the younger generation come to believe holds confusion. We as young adults and adults know that nothing too damaging will occur.

Yes, some of our computers may crash on the strike of twelve this New Year's morning but that is as harsh as matters may get. Although some of our earth's technology will be put on hold during the new millennium many things may happen in the new years that will be in the best interest of our earth. The infectious disease or virus known as AIDS will be demolished from our home planet earth by educating our children.

Through education society will come to the conclusion that the most important and precious gift in the entire world is the presence of World Peace. And that world peace doesn't just take place in your back yard but all over the globe. This gift is more valuable and priceless than all the money, gold, and jewels in the world.

In the future people will know that groveling for money and land is a selfish act of the past, which contains no sensibility, just nonsense. Nonsense

that will just start and rage more commotion than there was laid before them in the beginning of their differences. People and leaders alike will realize that overcoming the world or even just one country is foolish and will know that God didn't put us here to fight, but to live in harmony. To do that is a feat larger than overcoming one another. It is a feat easy for us to accomplish, but so hard for us to see, so hard for us to understand.

In our future no student will walk through school halls afraid of a sudden act of violence in that facility. No one will ever live in fear of losing their life because of their skin color or their religion, a choice, which was chosen by their great ancestors before them. Nor will people live in shame of who they are. Whether they are Japanese, Portuguese, Hispanic, or American, it would not matter, they should be able to walk the streets and be proud of what their identity is. People can again be proud of who they are without the raging hatred for the differences in one another. People will appreciate each other's differences and know that we are all equal.

With the occurrence of world peace, we as one may be capable of destroying the happening of poverty and homelessness. We will be able to give everyone that occupies our earth a place to call home, a place to go home to everyday after work. A location you could feel safe and secure.

Along with demolishing poverty we could stop the fatal substances called drugs from ruining the lives of our fellow humans. Explaining to others how these materials could end your life with one little puff, sniff or injection. A world without drugs should be in our future.

Yes, what we are saying sounds impossible, a fantasy, but nothing is impossible. Hundreds of years ago we believed that to put a man on the moon was something that would only occur in ones mind and dreams, but look at us now we have already accomplished that dream. We are now trying to find a new a place for us to call home far beyond our planet earth; we are even trying to overcome the aging process. If you ask us to grasp the goal of having world peace, for the entire world to act as one it is not even close to impossible. We believe if we can help our children, our future leaders, to find their way to purity and love for all mankind and to teach them that there is no future in racism. Then, we can find that the success and glory of world peace will grow and blossom into a never dying flower. The key to all happiness and peace is our children, our young generation.

In order to live in peace, violence should not be looked at as a solution to our problems. We must take a step into the right direction and show them our leaders of tomorrow how to grow this flower of peace and how to unlock this door that is keeping us from seeing this gifts happiness and harmony.

Sincerely,

Andrew Tryon Lynliendreau Kenneth Talley
Jason Wedell Daquanna J. Coates
Zach Perron Sarah Gollsneider Samantha Verrette
Courtney Brown Jeff Washburn John Reed * Heather Two
Chris Reck Heidi Strain * Ryan Weaver *
Katelyn Robitaille Danielle Dunne's Regina Cook
Justin Jensen Sarah Laker Julia Dombkowski
William J. Foster

The Bible tells us that thousands of years before the creation of the calendar that turns so uncommonly this month, Abraham encountered three men by a grove of oaks, welcomed them into his home, and offered them food. They, of course, were angels of God. And so the Talmud, the Jewish interpretation of religious law, teaches, "Should anyone turn aside the right of a stranger, it is as though he would turn aside the right of the most high God." Jesus said that to love one's neighbor as you love yourself was the single most important commandment after loving God. The Koran tells us to be good not just to our near of kin, but to their neighbors; not just to neighbors we know, but to foreign neighbors; not just to companions travelling with us, but to strangers we encounter along the way. That simple lesson, that we should see the spark of divinity inside every human being, and love them as ourselves, is perhaps the central teaching of all three great religious traditions fathered by Abraham. And still, it is the hardest for us to learn.

As we cross the threshold into this amazing third millennium, with its bold promise of answers to so many of our greatest challenges – how to feed a growing population, how to protect our natural environment and grow the economy, how to unravel the mysteries of the human gene and black holes in the universe – humanity's greatest challenge remains its oldest one: how to overcome our fear of those who are different.

Fear leads to distrust and hatred. It is then a short step to dehumanization and violence. The magnitude of violence committed in this century against human beings simply because of their differences is breathtaking – the Holocaust and the massacres in Rwanda; Bosnia and Kosovo; the Middle East and Ireland; in Wyoming, in Chicago, in Texas, and in California. At the same time, the world's slow, but ever-growing resolve to stand firm against violence and for peace gives great cause for hope.

To strengthen that resolve, to join the search for peace, to welcome strangers and love our neighbors, is a profound obligation we all share as we enter the 21st century. It requires much from us as America, and much from each of us as individuals.

For America, we must accept the responsibility that comes with the unparalleled political, economic, and military influence we enjoy today. We must do what we can to stand against those who want to harness human fears in the service of selfish political aims. We must do what we can to protect humanity from those who sow division and encourage violence in their ruthless pursuit of individual power. Our response in every case cannot and should not be the same. Sometimes, the exercise of collective military force will be justified and feasible – as it was in Kosovo. Sometimes, concerted economic and political pressure will be a better answer – as it proved to be in East Timor.

While we cannot do everything everywhere, we must not, and will not, be indifferent to the hounding and slaughter of innocents anywhere. That is why we support, and will continue to support, efforts like those by Africans to resolve the deadly conflicts that have raged across their continent. We must continue to demand that other nations join us in accepting shared responsibility: as the nations of West Africa did when they acted to restore peace in Sierra Leone; as Asian and Pacific nations have done to keep the peace in East Timor; and as our 19 NATO allies did when we joined together to stop the crimes against humanity being committed in Bosnia and Kosovo.

*We are on the
brink of something
better.*

Beyond the sinister manipulation of self-aggrandizing political leaders, violence can become a reflex of basically good people who have spent too many years living at odds with others under intolerable conditions. In the powerful words of William Butler Yeats: "Too long a sacrifice can make a stone of the heart." In such cases, we must use what influence we have to convince leaders that they must choose the future their children inherit: a new millennium blessed with the possibility of peace, or another bloody century like all those that have gone before it. That is what we are trying to do in the Middle East, and in Northern Ireland.

It is not easy. The fear of those who seem profoundly different comes from the most primitive, dark recesses of our souls. It is no wonder that we have been fighting to overcome it for millennia, and struggle still.

There are strong signs of hope: the growing acceptance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; civil rights movements across the globe; allied actions in the Balkans; the peace processes in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, South Africa, East Timor; the growing number of successful multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-religious democracies.

On the edge of the new millennium, the advances of science confirm the teachings of faith. Those mapping the human genome have discovered that, genetically, all humans are 99.9 percent the same. Genetically, your neighbor is practically yourself!

Therefore, let our most important new millennial year's resolution be to reach across the superficial divides; to stand against fear and hatred of strangers within our midst and far away; to go beyond tolerance to respect and celebration of the differences that make life more interesting; to embrace the common humanity that is God's great gift to us all.

healthy
intolerance
for suffering
intolerance for others,
21st century, develop
an intolerance for
suffering

Develop a healthy intolerance

We can't choose not to know any more,
we can only choose not to act
intolerance will increase
with globalization

slavery - until
ordinary Americans -
now, we need
out some of the gay
inequality.

- we have never known
more than we
do right now -
but now we
have to act on
that knowledge

12/03/99 12:00 pm
Orzulak

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS
WASHINGTON, DC
DECEMBER 6, 1999**

It occurs to me that at some point tonight, somebody in America will be flipping through channels, and they will come across the speech we just heard. They may stop and listen, or they may not. They may know what the Taliban is, or they may not. But I wonder if that person will stop and think even for a moment that in nearly half the world, doing what Belquis (Bel-KEYS) just did -- simply standing and speaking freely -- could get her arrested, jailed, beaten, and even tortured. And I wonder if that person will realize that until people like Eleanor Roosevelt came along, the rest of the world was powerless to do anything about it.

We talk about what it takes to establish democracy, but I think we sometimes forget how long it took the world to agree on what freedom actually meant. It wasn't until half a century ago that the world came together to say: this is what it means to be free. These are the rights to which every human being is entitled.

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights says it in simple words: all human beings are free and equal in dignity and human rights. All human beings are endowed with reason and conscience. All human beings have the right to a standard of living adequate to health and well being. In her memoirs, Eleanor Roosevelt recalled that with every right articulated, delegates from the Soviet Union tried to add the words "these rights are guaranteed by the state." But that's the whole point -- they're not. Human rights are indivisible. Dignity has no color, race, religion, or gender. Abuse is wrong whatever society or ideology. No state should have the power to take these rights away -- because no state has the power to grant them in the first place.

The real genius of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is that for the first time, it said that what a country does to people within its own borders is not its business alone. It said to all the world that what you do to your own people matters to the rest of us -- and not only are we allowed to be involved, we are obligated to be involved.

We in the United States know how hard it is to live up to these principles. Our nation was founded on the belief that all are created equal -- yet many of our founding fathers owned slaves. One hundred years ago, Eleanor Roosevelt was a 15 year-old girl growing up in a country where women could not vote. Half a century ago, if the standards of the Universal Declaration were held up to segregated schools and lunch counters in the South, we would have failed every test. Our journey as a nation has been long, but it has been a journey worth making.

This Century has taught us that even though human rights are endowed by the hand of our Creator, they are ensured by the hearts and hands of men and women who inch by inch -- through quiet acts of everyday courage -- have moved our world forward. We are here today to honor five brave Americans whose lives have made a difference.

When Burke Marshall first met Robert Kennedy, the two of them sat across a table from each other for ten minutes and didn't say a single word. It was the only time in the 1960s that Burke Marshall would be silent. As Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Kennedy Administration, he stood in the gap between the government and those who sought to dismantle Jim Crow. John Lewis, who received this same award last year, once recalled that whenever Martin Luther King or James Farmer needed to talk to somebody in Washington, they always had a two-word solution: call Burke. And Burke and Bobby would always find new ways to use the law to bring down another barrier or tear down another wall. His work was crucial to passing the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act. After he had helped shape a new America, Burke Marshall later worked equally hard to shape young minds at Yale Law School. I know – because I was one of them. Burke, thank you for all you have done for our country.

When Leon Sullivan was eight years old, he walked into a grocery store, slapped a nickel on the counter, looked the shopkeeper in the eye and said, "I want a Coke." Of course, this being segregated South Carolina, the shopkeeper threw him out. That was the beginning of his life's work. Reverend Sullivan went on to write the Sullivan Principles, which encouraged companies around the world to be socially responsible. By compelling dozens of businesses to de-segregate their plants in South Africa, his work helped bring down apartheid. Today, as the founder of an annual conference in Africa; as the leader of more than 100 Opportunity Centers around the world to teach job skills; and as the author of the new Global Sullivan Principles, which have already encouraged more than a dozen companies to sign social responsibility pacts worldwide, Leon Sullivan is still changing the world. Reverend, thank you for keeping your eyes on the prize for nearly 80 years.

For those of you who wonder if there is a divine plan guiding our lives, consider this: in Spanish, the name Dolores Huerta means "sorrowful orchard." If she has her way, her name will be the only sorrowful orchard in America. Dolores Huerta began her career teaching young migrant children, but she couldn't stand seeing kids come to class hungry and needing shoes. She thought could do more by organizing farm workers. In 1962, she and Cesar Chavez co-founded the United Farm Workers of America. While Cesar Chavez worked the fields, Dolores Huerta worked the boardrooms and the state houses -- negotiating contracts and fighting for laws that have lifted the lives of thousands of Americans. Her secret, Cesar Chavez used to say, is that she is "totally fearless – both mentally and physically." In the process, she found time to raise 11 children. Time has not slowed her down. Just last week, she was in Seattle – where she was holding my feet to the fire. Dolores, thank you for all you are still doing to promote the dignity of millions of American workers.

It is no accident that when America opened its arms to Kosovar Albanians earlier this year, one of the first calls that went out was to the Fordham section of the Bronx, to a Dominican nun who was already lining up medical care and organizing clothing drives. Scripture tells us that "if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like noon day." If that's true, there are very few people who live their lives in more sunshine than Sister Jean Marshall. Disturbed by the sight of refugee families picking up garbage off the street to feed their children, in 1983 Sister Jean founded St. Rita's Immigrant and Refugee Center. In the years since, she has helped more than 20,000 refugees from Vietnam to Cambodia to Bosnia who have fled persecution and abuse overseas. At St. Rita's, they go to learn English, find a job or home, see a doctor, and deal with

emotional scars. Sister Jean, thank you for all you are doing to make democracy real and dreams come true for thousands of our most vulnerable citizens.

Lastly, there are very few Americans who have done more to directly build on Eleanor Roosevelt's efforts to promote women's rights around the world than Charlotte Bunch. Gloria Steinem once observed that for every question that comes up regarding women's rights, sooner or later someone asks the question, "what does Charlotte think?" Starting in the early 1970s, what she thought was that not enough people were organizing leaders on a global scale to fight for women's rights. She founded the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University, and worked to build a world-wide network of activists. As a result, when the World Conference on Human Rights visited Vienna in 1993, for the first time, there was a network in place to raise international awareness of issues like discrimination against women, violence against women, and gay and lesbian issues. And for the first time, thanks largely to the work of Charlotte Bunch, the United Nations acknowledged that women's rights are human rights. Charlotte, we thank you for your vision and your courage.

We honor these five Americans today with the thanks of a grateful nation. But if we truly want to honor their work, we must stay committed in the places where the glory has not come yet, and continue to speak out for human rights around the world. We do so because it is the right thing to do – but also because it is the surest path to a world that is safe, democratic, and free.

For all the fantastic progress we have made in this Century, all the new discoveries in science, the biggest problem we face is the oldest problem of human society: people tend to be afraid of people who don't look like them, and don't worship God the way they do, and come from a different place. And when you're afraid of somebody, it's just a short step to disliking them. If you dislike them, it's a short step to hating them. If you hate them, it's a short step to dehumanizing them. And once you do that, you don't feel bad about killing them.

In too many places – from totalitarian states like North Korea to military dictatorships like Iraq and Burma – there are leaders all too willing to exploit those differences for personal gain. It doesn't just happen because people can't get along – it's because people live in places where the ability to express themselves peacefully is denied. That's why the Universal Declaration gives us the right to call for improvement in other nations, while we continue to improve ourselves. In the absence of free speech, we must be their voices. And as long as I am President, our nation will continue to speak out.

The whole world has been concerned by Russia's actions in Chechnya. Two weeks ago at the OSCE Summit in Turkey, I raised the issue directly with President Yeltsin. Every nation of the world can understand Russia's desire to overcome the terrorism and lawlessness in Chechnya, because it is vital to Russian stability and security. But you don't fight terror with terror. No matter how pure Russia's intentions are in Chechnya, there is simply no excuse for killing innocent men, women, and children. In the end, if the means undermine the goal, the extremism that Russia is trying to combat will only intensify. I believe the force of international opinion is beginning to have an effect. We must continue to speak out, and to urge Russia to find a political solution to this problem.

In Afghanistan, we have worked closely with the United Nations to bring sanctions against extremism of the Taliban, while ensuring that the Afghan people continue to receive food and humanitarian assistance. We are Afghanistan's biggest donor. Today, I am pleased to announce that we are making an additional \$3.5 million available to help Afghan refugee women and children get the medical care and attention they need. And for those who seek asylum in the United States, we will be raising the ceiling for those women in the most vulnerable circumstances. But these are temporary solutions. We must continue to work until that day when Afghanistan has a government as good as its people.

America's destiny has always been to use our strength to help others. For all the challenges that remain, we enter the new millennium more hopeful than we have been at any time the past 100 years. The second half of the Century began with 18 delegates coming together in the United States to stand up for human rights. We should all be heartened that the end of this Century saw 18 nations come together with the United States to stand up for human dignity and reaffirm those basic rights in Kosovo, and then again in East Timor. We must build on that progress as we enter a new Century.

But we know this work must begin at home. The tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration was celebrated with a book called "In Your Hands." At the anniversary celebration, Eleanor Roosevelt reminded us that "human rights begin . . . in small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any map. Yet they are the world of the individual person. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere." Today, we honor that message by honoring five people whose lives are testaments to those words. May their work inspire all of us for generations to come.

Commander, read the citations.

Back in 1897, at a ceremony celebrating the 100th birthday of my home state of Tennessee, Governor Bob Taylor peered into the bold new world of the 20th Century and made a few predictions. He said: "I see the sun darkened by clouds of men and women flying in the air. I see throngs of passengers entering electric tubes in New York and emerging in San Francisco two hours before they started. I see leaders sitting in their horseless carriages and singing the harvest song, while the self-adjusting reapers sweep unattended through the fields cutting and binding and shocking the golden grain. I see swarms of foreign pauper dukes and counts kissing American millionaire girls across the ocean through the kissaphone."

It's quite a stunning vision, but who could blame his optimism? America in the 19th Century had witnessed inventions like the locomotive, the telegraph, the steamship, and the electric light bulb – all immense leaps, not only in commerce and transportation, but in human ingenuity. As Stephen Ambrose has written, "at the beginning of the 19th Century, people thought nothing was possible. By the end of the century, people thought anything was possible."

But who could have imagined that in the 20th Century, we would split the atom, splice the gene, invent the microchip, and land a man on the moon? Who could have imagined that with one click of a button, a child in the most remote corner of the world could have access to an entire world of knowledge?

Today, we stand at the dawn of a new century with our eyes wide open and our mouths agape at the possibilities of the future. New advances in science and technology are allowing us to explore vast new frontiers -- from a galaxy 12 billion light years away to the smallest genetic switch inside a human cell. Today, the road of discovery is rapidly becoming a highway of light and speed connecting our largest cities to the smallest villages across the globe. More than any other time in history, our newest discoveries are making it possible to renew our oldest values and make real what centuries of human experience have aspired to create – to end suffering, to eradicate disease, to promote freedom, to educate our children, and to lift up families and nations. In a world once limited by borders and geography, the only limits we face today are the limits of our own imagination.

Like our predecessors 100 years ago, few among us can begin to imagine where that road will take us in the 21st Century. But one thing that we do know for sure is that the discoveries of tomorrow will depend in large part on the decisions we make today. The promise of unlimited possibility bring with it a certain measure of obligation – to try new things, to believe in what we can't see, and to boldly follow wherever the road may take us. That is why President Clinton and I have proposed a landmark initiative called IT², which will provide record funding for long-term information technology research to create new supercomputers, develop a successor to the transistor, and strengthen the U.S. role as a global leader while creating new industries, new companies, and new jobs.

So far as I know, America doesn't have a kissaphone yet. But whether you are reading this issue in a massive flying machine that darkens the air, traveling someplace between New York and San Francisco on a highway of asphalt or information, or riding in a horseless carriage light years away from that day in Tennessee, this year's awardees breathtakingly show -- America today is measuring up to its obligation with the same sense of wonder, the same

Two thousand years ago, the calendar that turns at midnight began with a flock of shepherds, the birth of a child, and a single light in the sky. As we look heavenward again tonight, the brightest light we see will come from the constellation Orion, which has guided travelers for centuries. From December to April, it is the only star system visible from every inhabited point on Earth. It's appropriate that the light from one of those stars – which we will see tonight -- began its journey here almost exactly 1,000 years ago.

In the time it took that light to reach the Earth, Erickson sailed, Ghengis fought, Galileo drew, Leonardo painted, Gutenberg printed, Mozart composed, Elizabeth led, Jefferson wrote, Edison invented, Gandhi preached, Mother Theresa healed, and Mandela was freed.

Today, we say goodbye to a millennium in which peace came and went, empires rose and fell, freedom marched around the world, and the human spirit shined. We say farewell to a Century in which humanity split the atom, spliced the gene, invented the microchip, and landed a man on the moon. And we say hello to a new Century which promises to see our children go further, reach higher, dream bigger, and accomplish more than any generation that came before. In a world once limited by borders on a map, the only limits we face today are the limits of our own imagination.

For all the progress we have made in this Century, for all the new discoveries in science, the greatest challenge we face is the oldest problem of human society: how to overcome our fear of those who are different.

- while we share same world, we use different calendar

- kids, good hands

- int'l ctr, 1/2 world, not millennium

- 2,000 yrs ago - Orion

- Ghengis

- say goodbye

- cross threshold - oldest problem

- magnitude of violence

- we have never known - have to act

- intolerance ... intolerance for suffering

- respect - must accept responsibility

- poverty

- Ackinley -

- never known more
about each other

world peace, goodwill

- faith

Draft 12/22/99 11:30am
Lowell Weiss

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
TOAST REMARKS DURING MILLENNIUM "CREATORS DINNER"
THE WHITE HOUSE
December 31, 1999

Ladies and gentleman, good evening. And welcome to the White House. Tonight, I rise to offer three brief toasts. The first is to you. It is truly an honor to turn this page in history with all of you – for you have contributed so indelibly to the narrative of this American Century.

The second toast is to my wife – for it is she who has inspired the nation to honor our past and imagine our future as we welcome the new millennium. Over the past two years leading up to this unforgettable night, no one has done more to imbue this milestone with national purpose – and I am deeply grateful.

The third toast is the most daunting – for I am called upon to do justice to a thousand years in four minutes or less. In the State of the Union, they give me a whole hour to talk about a single year. Even then, I always run long.

Tonight, we are rising as a nation to the mountaintop of the millennium. Behind us we can see the great expanses of the American experience. Before us lie vast frontiers of possibility yet to explore.

This is a wonderful vantage point for our nation – and a remarkable time to be alive. We are ending this 1,000 year sweep of history at a moment of soaring optimism. Never before has America had the combination of economic prosperity, social progress, and national self-confidence, with the absence of internal crisis or an external threat. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity to build that “more perfect union” of our founders dreams.

When our children’s children look back on the century we leave tonight, they will see that this time of unlimited promise was not preordained. They will see that it was earned – by men and women who did not merely celebrate our nation’s oldest ideals, like trophies under glass, but kept them bright with use.

They will see that we earned this moment through the triumph of freedom. From the beachheads of Normandy to the buses of Montgomery, patriots from all walks of life have risen heroically to advance the march of human liberty.

They will see that we earned this moment through the triumph of discovery. At the outset of the century, not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted all the miracles of science that have emerged from our labs: Antibiotics and vaccines, silicon chips and the Internet, telescopes that can peer into the origins of our universe, the soon-to-be-complete blueprint for life itself.

And they will see that we earned this moment through the triumph of creativity. For what was true of the ancient civilizations is just as true today: National power may spring from economic and military might, but national greatness emanates from ennobling contributions to the life of the mind and the body of art. In this century, our artists of the page and canvas, stage

and screen have drawn on diverse cultural traditions and given rise to a wealth of uniquely American forms. [*need quotation on American contributions to art*]

The new century and new millennium before us will bring a cascade of new triumphs. Already we see new hope for peace in lands bedeviled by ancient hatreds. We see new technologies both expanding and opening the storehouse of human knowledge for people across the globe. We see scientists rapidly approaching the day when newborns can expect to live well past 100 years and children will know cancer only as a constellation of stars.

But by far my most solemn prayer for the new millennium is that we will find it in our hearts to keep growing together, as one America, as one people. Just look around you. Look at the glowing diversity of race and background that illuminates America's house on this historic night. Frankly, I have never seen such a vivid illustration of what I have believed all my life – that the human spirit is distributed equally across the human landscape.

I cannot help but think of how America would be different – how history would be different -- if you had not been allowed the chance to imagine, invent, and inspire. By the same token, I cannot help but dream of how our future could be different if we could give every child in America this same chance to live up to his or her God-given potential. That is the future I hope every American will take a moment to imagine in this millennial year. That is the future I pray we can all join together to build.

* * *

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International Edition**Special Issues****Millennium in a Nutshell Edition**

The CW wouldn't presume to play the arbitrary game of choosing the most important figures of the last 1,000 years. But here are some folks who will be remembered long after the computers crash and our headaches go away. Apologies to all who were left off the list—at least you can see them on the History Channel. One last question: will Dick Clark be around for Y3K?

Subject	Score	C.W.
Elizabeth I	↑	One tough lady. <i>She</i> would have kicked Saddam's tail, as she did the Spanish Armada.
Chaplin	↑	"The Little Tramp" was first movie star—even if all four wives were teenagers.
Mao	↓	Led a long march that kept China down for decades. Cool jackets, though.
Darwin	↔	"Origin of Species" transformed science and society, though GOP still skeptical.
Mandela	↑	Survived jail, apartheid and Winnie. Oh, and transformed a nation.
Wright Bros.	↔	Upside: Invented the airplane. Downside: Forgot to give us legroom.
Newton	↑	"What goes up must come down." But that was before tech stocks.
Dylan	↑	Why is <i>he</i> here? The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind.
Geronimo	↔	Apache warrior tried to save Human Beings from genocidal invaders (us).
Genghis K.	↓	Gave barbarians a bad name. Would have done well on Wall Street.
Mozart	↔	Wrote some catchy tunes, but more obnoxious than Richard Simmons.
Oprah	↑	



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	-	If an alien being landed on Earth and said, "Take me to your leader," she'd be the one.
Einstein	↑	Everything is relative, but this guy was a real genius. Super hair, too.
Gutenberg	↑	Without his printing press, no progress possible. He's our type.
Washington	↑	The Man Who Would Not Be King set a precedent for giving up power.
Napoleon	↓	Short, French and ultimately a loser. And what was he doing with that hand?
Edison	↑	Invented light bulb, phonograph, forerunner of movie camera. But what's he done for us lately?
Michelangelo	↑	Best ceiling painter ever. But Giuliani would have banned his "David."
Armstrong	↑	The real Man on the Moon gets extra credit for not cashing in.
Montezuma	↔	Aztec emperor duped by Cortes. He got his revenge, though too late to enjoy it.
Madonna	↔	Material Girl stretched her 15 minutes into a career with blond ambition. Hi, Mom!
Basho	↑	The Haiku master / Like Mount Fuji in winter / CW digs him
Jordan	↑	Athlete of the millennium, even though he couldn't hit the curveball.
Ruth	↑	Proved hot dogs, beer and lovin' as good as steroids. Babelicious!
Freud	↔	The original couch potato's slip is showing. Whatever that means.
King Arthur	↓	Hosted Boogie Knights of the Round Table. Thanks a lot, Lancelot.
Galileo	↑	His telescope got him in hot water. But he kept his focus.
Hitler	↓	A half-century later, the question remains: How did it happen?
Leonardo	↑	A real Renaissance man. Too bad he lived before

patents and IPOs.

Sanger	↑	Pioneered birth-control movement in the 1920s, ending the rhythm and blues era.
Ali	↑	The Greatest floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee. But boxing's not sweet, or a science.
Catherine the Great	↔	Strong Russian queen, but couldn't resist the mane attraction.
Stalin	↓	Strong Soviet dictator, but couldn't resist murdering millions.
Columbus	↔	Got a little lost on the way to India, but discovered the Caribbean vacation.
Gandhi	↑	Passive resistance gave peace a chance everywhere. Bonus: Invented dress-down Friday.
Austen	↑	Arguably the best novelist ever. Plus, gave Gwyneth Paltrow her breakthrough role.
Churchill	↑	Helped save the world with a whisky in his hand. The real man of the century.
Joan of Arc	↑	Boy, was she hot! Downside: To this day, the inspiration for tedious movies.
Gen. Tso	↔	After all the battles, 19th-century Chinese general known in West only for his chicken.
Shakespeare	↑	The best writer ever gets the last word on the millennium. "All's well that ends well."

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Jeff -

I checked whether there were other stars you might be interested in at about 1000 ly and found three. These are:

~~Unicorn~~
a) S Moncerotis = HIP 31978. This is a well-known variable star, and also a double star. It is within the "Christmas Tree [star] cluster" = NGC 2264, and near the "Cone Nebula", in Monoceros. It's not particularly bright, at $V=4.7$ (variable), so would be just below visibility from D.C. The Hipparcos parallax of 0.00319" puts this at about 1022 light years (as opposed to 997 for Beta Cam). There are nice photos available of this region of the sky from various sources if that matters.

~~b) Phi [sub] 1 Orionis = HIC 26176. This is at 985 ly, magnitude $V=4.39$. There are three "faint" stars in the head of Orion, and this is the one on the southwest side.~~

c) Epsilon Canis Minoris = HIC 36041, at 988 ly, $V=4.99$. Canis Minor is Orion's small hunting dog.

As we discussed, and as you can see from the distances, the main concern is that these are not quite "exactly" at 1000 ly away. It's difficult to say what the uncertainty is in the Hipparcos distances are here (at least without some more checking) but they are probably a few percent - but it's hard to say whether e.g. the S Mon 1022 ly distance is significantly different from 1000 ly.

Finally, just wanted to note two mistakes in my previous message. Camelopardalis is a giraffe (not a camel). Also, to get parsecs from light years, divide by 3.261 (not 3.216).

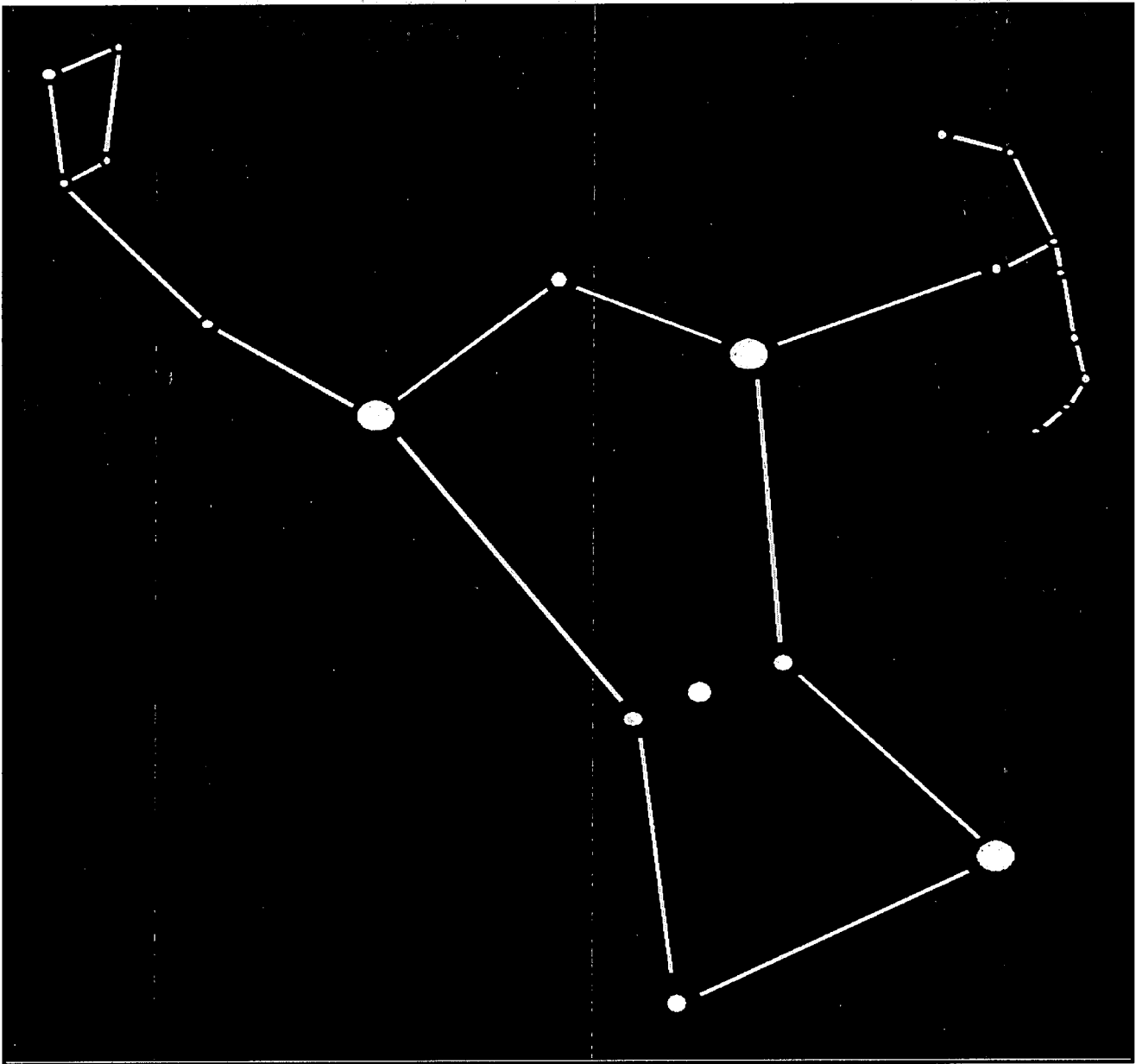
Hope this helps.

Regards,
- Brent

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Orion - The Constellation

The constellation Orion has been the brightest group of stars in the winter sky for hundreds of years. From December to April it is visible from every inhabited point on Earth. Ancient stargazers said the familiar sight resembled a hunter. The Syrians called Orion "Al Jabbar," which translated means "the giant." Seven supergiant stars outline the figure of the hunter. Two stars at the top of the figure are the shoulders. Two stars at the bottom of the rectangle are the knees. Lastly, the three middle supergiants across the waist form the belt and glittering sword. Dimmer stars form the right arm and the shield or lion's skin in the left hand.



The star at the right shoulder of Orion is the red supergiant Betelgeuse, one of the largest

stars known in the sky. It is much larger than our sun yet its size and brilliance change periodically. Betelgeuse, often pronounced "beetle juice," means "armpit of the giant" in the ancient Arabic language. Rigel, a blue-white supergiant, is located at Orion's right knee. This supergiant is six times hotter than our sun. Rigel means "the left leg of the giant" in the Arabic language. An area near the belt which appears to be a star is actually the Great Nebula or M42, a cold and dark cloud consisting of gas and dust where hundreds of new stars are being created. This stellar nursery covers 20,000 times the diameter of our solar system.

The legends of Orion, the giant and great hunter, come from Greek and Roman mythology. All legends include Artemis the Greek goddess of the Moon and the hunt. Her name was Diana in Roman mythology. In one story, Artemis fell in love with Orion and neglected her duties of lighting the night sky. Her twin brother, Apollo, saw Orion swimming in the ocean sea and challenged his sister to hit a spot among the waves. Not realizing that the spot was Orion, Artemis shot and killed him. She discovered his death when the body washed up on the shore. Artemis was grief stricken and immortalized Orion by placing his body and his hunting dogs, Canis Major and Canis Minor, in the sky. Artemis' grief is the reason that the Moon looks so cold and sad.

Other legends attribute Orion's death to the giant scorpion, Scorpius. In another story, Orion, the great hunter blessed by the gods, became insensitive to the killing of animals. His increased enjoyment of the killing of animals came to the attention of Artemis who sent the scorpion to kill him. The scorpion attacked and stung him. As he was dying, the healer Ophiuchus gave him an antidote to save his life. Orion recovered and realized that all life is precious. Because of his repentance, he was later placed in the sky with the scorpion.

On a clear winter night, Orion is one of the easiest constellations to find because it has the brightest stars. The supergiant stars that outline the giant hunter are much larger and thousands of times more luminous than our sun. The special surprise of the constellation, however, is the Great Nebula, a place where stars are born.

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Draft 12/20/99 4:30pm
Lowell Weiss

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
TOAST REMARKS DURING MILLENNIUM "CREATORS DINNER"
THE WHITE HOUSE
December 31, 1999**

Ladies and gentleman, good evening. And welcome to the White House. Tonight, I rise to offer three brief toasts. The first is to you. It is truly an honor to turn this remarkable page in history with all of you — for you have contributed so mightily to the narrative of this American Century. *indebtedly?*

The second toast is to my wife — for it is she who has inspired the nation to honor our past and imagine our future as we welcome the new millennium. Over the past two years leading up to this unforgettable night, no one has done more to imbue this milestone with national purpose — and I am deeply grateful.

The third toast is the most daunting — for I am called upon to do justice to a thousand years in three minutes or less. In the State of the Union, they give me a whole hour to talk about a single year. Even then, I always run long.

Tonight, we are rising as a nation to ^{a new} mountaintop of the millennium. Behind us we can see the great expanses of the American experience. Before us lie vast frontiers of possibility yet to explore.

[This is a wonderful vantage point for our nation — and a wonderful time to be alive.] We are ending this 1,000 year sweep of history at a moment of soaring optimism. Never before has America had the combination of economic prosperity, social progress, and national self-confidence, ~~with the absence of internal crisis or an external threat~~. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity to build that "more perfect union" of our founders dreams.

When our children's children look back on the century we leave tonight, they will see that this time of unlimited promise was not preordained. They will see that it was earned — by men and women who did not merely celebrate our nation's oldest ideals, like trophies under glass, but kept them bright with use.

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to a degree
And they will see that we earned this moment through the triumph of creativity. *power*
For what was true of the ancient civilizations is just true today: National greatness springs not only from economic and military might, but also through ennobling contributions to culture and art. In this century, our artists of the page and canvas, stage and screen have drawn on diverse cultural traditions and given rise to a wealth of uniquely American forms.

*national greatness
emanates from
something less easily
measured: the life of the mind, the reach of the
imagination*

The new century and new millennium before us will bring an ever-accelerating cascade of new triumphs. Already we see new hope for peace in lands bedeviled by ancient hatreds. We see computers and digital networks both expanding and opening the storehouse of human knowledge for people across the globe. We see scientists rapidly approaching the day when newborns can expect to live well past 100 years and children will know cancer only as a constellation of stars.

But by far my most solemn prayer for the new millennium is that we will find it in our hearts to keep growing together, as one America, as one people. Just look around you. Look at the glowing diversity of race and background that illuminates America's house on this historic night. Frankly, I have never seen such a vivid illustration of what I have believed all my life -- that the human spirit is distributed equally across the human landscape.

I cannot help but think of how America would be different -- how history would be different -- if you had not been allowed the chance to imagine, invent, and inspire. By the same token, I cannot help but dream of how our future could be different if we could give every child in America this same chance to live up to his or her God-given potential. That is the future I hope every American will take a moment to imagine in this millennial year. That is the future I pray we can all join together to build.

* * *

wise man said "alive," he would squeeze and kill the bird.

So he posed the question to the wise man. And the wise man looked at the fresh young man, looked at his hands, and said, "As you wish, my son."

=====

Joke in a Nov. 9, 1995 speech by Andrew Cuomo to the Maryland Women's Democratic Club:

This guy goes into a bar and starts talking with another guy who's been sitting there a while. The guy who was already there tells the newcomer, "You know, this is an amazing building. You can jump off the roof and not die."

The new guy says, "You're crazy."

So the first guy says, "No, I'll show you," and takes him up to the roof. He jumps off, lands on his feet and comes back to the roof.

The new guy says, "You're right, that is amazing," and jumps off. He hits the ground, boom, flatter than a pancake, dead as a doornail. The bartender turns to the first guy and says, "Boy, Superman, you're a mean drunk."

Moral of the story: Congressional Republicans are mean drunks. They're drunk on power. The people they represent, the wealthiest Americans and special interests, have the resources to withstand a jump off the roof. But they're trying to get everyone else to jump, too -- children, old people, the poor, the disabled. And they're going to land as flat as pancakes.

The following is a nicely done challenge to Americans, which ended a 10/23/95 speech to NYSARHO:

There's no doubt about the size of the challenge ahead of us. But is this the first time America has faced daunting challenges? Hardly.

America has met economic, technological, and social challenges head-on. We faced challenges in World War I, World War II. Just look around you to see the monuments to our capacity. The highways we've built, the tunnels, the bridges. All amazing feats, all positive, all still paying dividends from the initial investment.

We did all these things and more with boldness, courage, self-confidence, even cockiness. We built bridges. Can you imagine the nerve it took to say:

"No, really, we can build a bridge between NY and NJ. It hasn't been done before? That's all right, we can do it."

"We want to build 500 miles of subways underneath the city. Can't be done? Oh, yes it can."

"You want to bounce a telephone signal off a Sputnik so that a five-ounce phone rings in my pocket? No problem."

And we didn't just build physical bridges. We built bridges between people. That's what Social Security was all about, that's what Medicare and Medicaid were about. That's what the great civil rights legislation of the 1960s was about. The labor movement has been about building bridges between people of all backgrounds.

Where did we get the manpower to dig the tunnels, lay the wire, and pour the concrete covering this great nation?

Where did we get the brain power to criss-cross subway lines across our cities, land hundreds of planes on the busiest airfields in the world, build the computer chip that sparked a global explosion of information that continues today?

Where? From our will -- from our willpower.

From the will of government? Yes. From the will of industry? Yes. But, most importantly, from the will of the people -- active, concerned citizens.

President Clinton points out that if you identify any social problem, someone somewhere in America has come up with an answer. We just have to praise what works and use it as a model for the rest of u.

This isn't time for fear and division, it's a time for boldness and creativity.

If we need to build the best telecommunications system in the world, let's do it.

If we need the best air transport system in the world, let's build it.

If we need to rebuild our cities to stay competitive, we can do it.

It's time for Americans to build bridges again.

COMPUTER PROBLEMS

I'm sure you're all aware of the problem that governments and companies everywhere are going to have with the year 2000 problem, when all the computers are going to go haywire when the year 2000 arrives, because they're not equipped to read "00" and process it as 1900 instead of 2000. We have a task force to deal with it at HUD. You probably have some staff assigned to tackle the problem in the counties, too.

Well, that's not the only computer problem you may have to deal with. My staff has told me that their computers have been attacked recently by a wave of new computer viruses.

One is called the "AT&T virus." Every three minutes it tells you what great service you're getting.

It often comes in tandem with the "MCI virus." Every three minutes it reminds you that you're paying too much for the AT&T virus.

The "PBS virus" stops your computer every few minutes to ask for money.

The "Texas virus" makes sure it's bigger than any other file. And then there is the "New York virus," which is similar to the Texas virus, but it comes with hand gestures.

Watch out for all of these.

NOT EASY BEING A FEDERAL OFFICIAL

It is not easy being a Federal official, I'll tell you. President Kennedy said that once he got into office, what surprised him most was to find that things were just as bad as he'd been saying they were.

Well, Henry warned me ...

As I said, it's not easy being a Federal official. Have you heard the story of the Rabbi, the Hindu, and Federal official?

Well, the Rabbi, the Hindu and the Federal official were out in the country one night, and it's very cold, raining very hard, they're in the middle of a terrible storm.

They don't have any place to spend the night, so they walk up to a house and knock on the door. A farmer answers, and in the middle of the night he's a little distressed to see the Rabbi, Hindu and the Federal official standing there. He says, "What can I do for you?"

They answer, "There is a terrible storm and we have no place to stay. Can you give

us shelter tonight?"

The farmer says, "Well, I don't have any room here in the house, but you can bed down with the animals in the barn if you want."

The three say okay, thank the farmer, and go into the barn.

The farmer goes back inside the house and tries to go back to sleep. A few minutes later he hears a knock on the door.

The farmer comes down a little distressed, opens the door and there is the Rabbi. The Rabbi says, "You know there is a pig in the barn and it violates every principle I have to lay with pigs and I can't do that. Don't you have any other space?"

The farmer says no, and the Rabbi says, "Well, then, I am going to have to leave." He says goodbye, trudges out into the storm, and the farmer goes back to bed.

A few minutes later there is another knock on the door. The farmer again comes downstairs and opens the door. This time he finds the Hindu standing there. The Hindu says, "You know there is a cow in the barn and it violates every principle I have to lay with cows and I can't do that. Don't you have any other space?"

The farmer says no, and the Hindu says, "Well, then, I am going to have to leave." He says goodbye, trudges out into the storm, and the farmer again goes back to bed.

A few minutes later, the farmer is trying to go back to sleep when he hears yet another knock on the door. Now he's getting a bit disturbed. He stomps downstairs, flings open the door, and this time the cow and the pig are standing there.

That's the respect a Federal official gets!

GOVERNMENT CAN HELP, BUT IT'S UP TO YOU

HUD's relationship with local governments reminds me of a story about a farmer who refused to leave his farm even though it was being threatened by floods.

The police drove up as the waters began to rise and asked him to evacuate with them. The farmer said, "No, I'm a God-fearing man, the Lord will watch over me, I'm going to stay."

But the waters continued to rise until everything but the house was underwater. This time the police came by in a boat and asked the farmer to leave. Again the farmer

said, "No, I'm a God-fearing man, the Lord will watch over me, I'm going to stay."

Finally the water rose so much that it covered the entire house, except for the very peak, where the farmer was sitting when a police helicopter flew over and told the farmer he had to come with them. Once again the farmer said, "No, I'm a God-fearing man, the Lord will watch over me, I'm going to stay."

Well, finally, the waters rose some more and the farmer drowned. He went up to Heaven, being a God-fearing man, and when he arrived he said to God, "I've always been a God-fearing man, why didn't you save me?"

And God said, "I sent you a car, a boat, and a helicopter, what more do you want?"

The moral of the story is that we can help, but in the end it's really up to you to decide how to use the resources we provide.

GIVING PEOPLE A STAKE IN SOCIETY

We have to give people a stake in society. When they own a home and have a job, they act differently, they react rationally to the economic incentives they have. It's like the story of the guy who had his coat stolen.

The guy goes to the police and just as he's explaining what happened, he sees the thief walk by, wearing his coat!

Well, the guy gets all excited, and jumps up and points and he and the policeman run outside to nab him.

The thief sees a cop and a coatless guy running after him and figures out the jig is up, and he takes off running down the street. The policeman yells for him to stop or he'll shoot and draws his weapon.

At this point, the guy who had his coat robbed envisions his beautiful coat with a hole in it and yells, "Shoot him in the pants!"

He's an owner, he has some property, and he doesn't want to see his property damaged. We have to give folks a stake in society.

=====

Secretary Cuomo used this story at his luncheon speech to the National League of Cities this past Monday:

It's the story of the farmer with the blind horse.

A guy comes upon a horse tied to a cart at the side of the road. The cart is filled high with rubble, overloaded with stones and stumps.

The horse has patches over both eyes -- it's blind.

The guy asks the farmer, "How that can that one blind horse pull such an overloaded cart?"

The farmer says, "Watch," and climbs atop the cart, a whip in his hands.

He yells out, "Go Trigger," and snaps his whip. Nothing happens.

He yells out, "Go Susie," and snaps his whip. Nothing happens.

He yells out, "Go Lightning," and snaps his whip. Nothing happens.

Then he yells out, "Go Champ," snaps his whip, and the horse begins to strain against his reins. Finally the overloaded cart inches forward. The horse continues to strain and the cart begins to move very slowly down the road. He begins to pick up a little speed and after about 100 yards, the guy comes running up to the farmer with a question: "That's amazing that the horse can move the cart, but why did you call out all those names before he started to move it?"

The farmer says, "The horse is blind, not stupid. If he thought he was pulling alone, he wouldn't even try!"

Moral of story (I think): Everybody in the federal system of governance has to pull his own weight for things to get done. One party can't do it alone successfully. (The blind horse did, but only under great strain and only very slowly.)

=====

What an honor to follow Bob Beckel and Arianna Huffington, Washington's oddest couple since James Carville and Mary Matalin.

It is not easy being a Federal official, I'll tell you. President Kennedy said once that when he got into office, the thing that surprised him most was to find that things were just as bad as he'd been saying they were.

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The farmer says no, and the Rabbi says, "Well, then, I am going to have to leave." He says goodbye and trudges out into the storm and the farmer goes back to bed.

A few minutes later there is another knock on the door. The farmer again comes downstairs and opens the door. This time he finds the Hindu standing there. The Hindu says, "You know there is a cow in the barn and it violates every principle I have to lay with cows and I can't do that. Don't you have any other space?"

The farmer says no, and the Hindu says, "Well, then, I am going to have to leave." He says goodbye and trudges out into the storm and the farmer again goes back to bed.

A few minutes later, the farmer is trying to go back to sleep when he hears yet another knock on the door. Now he's getting a bit disturbed. He stomps downstairs, flings open the door, and this time the cow and the pig are standing there.

That's the respect a Federal official gets!

That reminds me of a story about a farmer who refused to leave his farm even though it was being threatened by floods.

The police drove up as the waters began to rise and asked him to evacuate with them. The farmer said, "No, I'm a God-fearing man, the Lord will watch over me, I'm going to stay."

But the waters continued to rise until everything but the house was underwater. This time the police came by in a boat and asked the farmer to leave. Again the farmer said, "No, I'm a God-fearing man, the Lord will watch over me, I'm going to stay."

Finally the water rose so much that it covered the entire house, except for the very peak, where the farmer was sitting when a police helicopter flew over and told the farmer he had to come with them. Once again the farmer said, "No, I'm a God-fearing man, the Lord will watch over me, I'm going to stay."

Well, finally, the waters rose some more and the farmer drowned. He went up to Heaven, being a God-fearing man, and when he arrived he said to God, "I've always been a God-fearing man, why didn't you save me?"

And God said, "I sent you a car, a boat, and a helicopter, what do you want?"

The moral of the story is that we can help, but sometimes it's up to you.

LET ME PUT ASIDE MY PREPARED SPEECH AND TALK TO YOU DIRECTLY:

I had an official HUD speech that I was going to deliver today.

And this is an official HUD speech, you can tell, because those of you who have worked with HUD -- or a lot of federal agencies for that matter -- you quickly realize an official federal HUD document. Because, you see, they don't use language at HUD. Those people who have worked with HUD know. They don't even use words. Everything at HUD is an acronym.

So the speech would start: Hi! I'm the HUD Secretary, I oversee a range of programs and agencies: CDBG, FHA, HOPWA, PD&R, PIH, Ginnie Mae. How are you this afternoon?

I'm not going to give you this speech because I would be afraid, not that I would put you to sleep, but that I would put myself to sleep at this rate.

"THE BIRD STORY"

Lawyers like to tell juries something they call "the bird story." You've probably heard it. There was a very wise man who could answer any question. A fresh young man thought he could fool the wise man.

He closed his hand around a small bird, and he asked the wise man whether the bird was dead or alive. If the wise man said "dead," he would open his hand and the bird would fly away. If the

We are now less than 10 hours away from an experience that will not be shared again for the next 1,000 years – the turning of a new millennium. But as we meet today in this International Center, we also recognize that for half the world, the year 2,000 means very little. According to the Muslim calendar, we are in the year 1420. For Buddhists, it is 2543. For Mayans, it is the year 5119. And the Hebrew calendar tells us that this is the year 5760.

We come here today not to celebrate a common calendar, but our common humanity, and

Of course, the year 2000 has special meaning to Christians around the world. ButBut as we meet today in this international center, we also recognize that for half the world, the year 2,000 in this international center that we gather in today, we also recognize that for more than half the world, we also recognize that for

We are now less than 10 hours away from an experience that will not be shared again for the next 1,000 years – the turning of a new millennium. Throughout this past year, we have seen many tributes to the men and women – the inventors, leaders, and pioneers -- who helped shape the world we share. Many times, those tributes have honored the wisdom and dedication and pure genius that made the 20th Century what it is. But I think we should pause for a moment today to remember that the 20th Century was shaped not just by courage, but by confidence and boldness and even cockiness.

We are now less than 10 hours away from an experience that will not be shared again for the next 1,000 years – the turning of a new millennium. In recent weeks, we have seen many tributes to the men and women who helped shape the past century.. Tributes to the courage and genius and vision of inventors and leaders who helped

We are now less than 10 hours away from an experience that will not be shared again for the next 1,000 years – the turning of a new millennium. Over the past few weeks, we have seen many tributes to the leaders and inventors and pioneers across the world who have shaped this world we live in. Those

sense of discovery, and that same sense of courage as the millennium we are leaving behind. And we don't have a moment to waste. Because our future and our world are waiting.

12/17/99 12 pm

SAMUEL R. BERGER
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
HOLIDAY REMARKS TO NSC STAFF
DECEMBER 17, 1999

I'd like to begin with an important announcement: this is the last speech I will give in the old millennium, and more importantly, the last speech in which I will refer to the upcoming new millennium. At last, we are almost across the bridge to the 21st century! I hope you've all figured out what the hell we do when we get there.

We're not only on the edge of the new millennium. We're also smack-dab in the middle of Sheba Crocker's birthday, which always falls two weeks before a new millennium. (Which is why she looks so young).

And before I forget, let me take this opportunity to invite all of you to the special millennium party that will be held in two weeks in the Trans-National Threats Directorate: Dick Clarke's Y2K American Bandstand. I haven't figured out how Dick will man the Y2K center from here and still broadcast New Years Eve from Time's Square.

This is one of those rare moments when we get to pause and remember why we are all here – beyond the fact that Tracey Jacobson ordered us all to be here. It's a time to celebrate our religious beliefs, be it Christian, Jewish, Muslim or the Redskins. And it's a rare opportunity to emerge from our offices and put faces on all of those emails – to say “so that's what Steve

Andreasen looks like,” or “Bruce Riedel really ought to get outside a little more,” or “David Leavy has more gravitas than last year.”

All of you know what a special place to work the NSC is. There are no holiday bonuses. There is the illusion of vacations, but you’ll just have to cancel them, so why bother. Many of you have deeper familiarity with acronyms like FARC and UCK than you do with the names of your family members. By the way, you can solve this problem by naming your children after foreign policy entities. My son, UNSCOM, can tell you all about it.

It’s hard to put into words how much I appreciate the work you do, how much that work matters, and how much I value the sacrifices your families make that allows you to do this work. But let me just say this: as we celebrate with our families here, a million people in Kosovo are at home with their families because of the work many of you helped to do. Millions of people across the Middle East have a real chance to end fifty years of conflict and insecurity. Millions were spared a war between India and Pakistan. Victims of natural disasters from Central America to India had a better chance to survive. Millions stand to benefit from ambitious new debt relief. Millions from Nigeria to Northern Ireland to Indonesia and East Timor are building a future they can shape for themselves. And the people of the United States can look forward to that new millennium knowing that our country is strong and secure and that our ideals really are ascendant throughout the world – in fact, as well as in Malinowski’s speeches. None of this progress could have happened without your willingness to work unbelievably hard to make it happen.

Your work is more than just work, it's really a kind of ... poetry. And since we don't give bonuses, there is no better way to repay your service than with ... more poetry. Accordingly, with more than a little help from Ted and Tom, let me try some Yuletide verse to put us all in the holiday mood:

'Twas the night before Christmas

And through the EEOB

All the staffers were stirring

Writing memos to me

The burn bags were hung

By the furnace with care

I gingerly placed

All your memos in there

One from Dasher and Prancer

And Baker and Blinken,

From Leary and Hammonds,

And even Wolf Blitzen

A wintry snowstorm

Of NSC prose

I gave a quick nod

Up the chimney it rose

Then I asked myself:

Was that the right thing to do?

Will I know what to say

When I brief you know who?

Will I remember the spelling

Of Djukanovic?

And who had the action

On Hurricane Mitch?

Which side in Iran

Do we think wears a halo?

And why are we letting

Fredonia in NATO?

And what was that threat

That respects no frontiers?

Is it drugs? Global warming?

Or Santa's reindeers?

So I asked James B. Steinberg

Just what should be said

He scribbled a note

Which could not be read

And without the help

of your information

I started to feel

A New Isolation

And I knew it was time

For me to reach out

To the hard-working staffers

I cannot live without

I told Leavy I'd never

Again be irate:

Arrange me a lecture

At Ohio State!

Told Lieberthal I'd take

His advice just as long

As he pledges to join

The Falun Gong

When Bruce came to brief me

On South Asia's arms race

I gave him a star and

A smiley face

When Miles reported

We lost CTBT

I gave him a hug

And called him "a sweetie."

Bought Carlos Pascual

A book on Rasputin

I loved your memo

On Vladimir Putin

Told Christopher Hill

I said what I meant

I'm giving your whole staff

A winterized tent

Told Mara Rudman

It's OK if you / make us

Do yet another

Script on Vieques

I praised Jamie for keeping

Us all out of court

Told Tom his new speech

Was too good and too short

And Gayle, oh Gayle

You're going to love it

I'm giving Africa

Half of our budget

Now Mona informs me

I'd be much correcter

If I made sure to mention

Each Senior Director

So on Comet, on Cupid,

Arturo and Mary,

On Binnendijk, Ian

Eric and Gary!

You all taught me a lesson

I'll never unlearn

Your memos, while boring,

Are too good to burn

I want to reward you

In a special way:

You don't have to work

This Christmas day

But still, when night falls

And the whole world is sleeping

Your phones will be buzzing

And your beepers be beeping

So let me exclaim

'Fore we turn out the lights

Happy Christmas to all

May you all reach new heights

In sum, and more seriously, let me thank all of you for an extraordinary year of unsurpassed achievement. While I know it's unwise to make grandiose, pre-millennial predictions, I also know that the world is a better place than it was a year ago, and looking out at all of you, I know

you share my determination that the coming year offers us a special opportunity to advance the interests of the American people in peace and a better world. I look forward to celebrating that with you a year from now.

On behalf of the President, and on my own behalf, happy holidays and thank you for a job well done.

Back in 1897, at a ceremony celebrating the 100th birthday of my home state of Tennessee, Governor Bob Taylor peered into the bold new world of the 20th Century and made a few predictions. He said: "I see the sun darkened by clouds of men and women flying in the air. I see throngs of passengers entering electric tubes in New York and emerging in San Francisco two hours before they started. I see leaders sitting in their horseless carriages and singing the harvest song, while the self-adjusting reapers sweep unattended through the fields cutting and binding and shocking the golden grain. I see swarms of foreign pauper dukes and counts kissing American millionaire girls across the ocean through the kissaphone."

It's quite a stunning vision, but who could blame his optimism? America in the 19th Century had witnessed inventions like the locomotive, the telegraph, the steamship, and the electric light bulb – all immense leaps, not only in commerce and transportation, but in human ingenuity. As Stephen Ambrose has written, "at the beginning of the 19th Century, people thought nothing was possible. By the end of the century, people thought anything was possible."

But who could have imagined that in the 20th Century, we would split the atom, splice the gene, invent the microchip, and land a man on the moon? Who could have imagined that with one click of a button, a child in the most remote corner of the world could have access to an entire world of knowledge?

Today, we stand at the dawn of a new century with our eyes wide open and our mouths agape at the possibilities of the future. New advances in science and technology are allowing us to explore vast new frontiers -- from a galaxy 12 billion light years away to the smallest genetic switch inside a human cell. Today, the road of discovery is rapidly becoming a highway of light and speed connecting our largest cities to the smallest villages across the globe. More than any other time in history, our newest discoveries are making it possible to renew our oldest values and make real what centuries of human experience have aspired to create – to end suffering, to eradicate disease, to promote freedom, to educate our children, and to lift up families and nations. In a world once limited by borders and geography, the only limits we face today are the limits of our own imagination.

Like our predecessors 100 years ago, few among us can begin to imagine where that road will take us in the 21st Century. But one thing that we do know for sure is that the discoveries of tomorrow will depend in large part on the decisions we make today. The promise of unlimited possibility bring with it a certain measure of obligation – to try new things, to believe in what we can't see, and to boldly follow wherever the road may take us. That is why President Clinton and I have proposed a landmark initiative called IT², which will provide record funding for long-term information technology research to create new supercomputers, develop a successor to the transistor, and strengthen the U.S. role as a global leader while creating new industries, new companies, and new jobs.

So far as I know, America doesn't have a kissaphone yet. But whether you are reading this issue in a massive flying machine that darkens the air, traveling someplace between New York and San Francisco on a highway of asphalt or information, or riding in a horseless carriage light years away from that day in Tennessee, this year's awardees breathtakingly show -- America today is measuring up to its obligation with the same sense of wonder, the same

sense of discovery, and that same sense of courage as the millennium we are leaving behind.
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