

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	Pam to HRC [partial] (1 page)	04/30	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Ann O'Leary
OA/Box Number: 19586

FOLDER TITLE:

Violence

2013-0436-S

rc1262

RESTRICTION CODES**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

"I can see that you are down. I can see that you have a mad heart. The question is, what are you going to do with it?"

HEWITT JOINER, STREET WORKER (BELOW)



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / JONATHAN WIGGS

City mobilizes to stem gangs' lure

By Charles A. Radin and Daniel Vasquez
GLOBE STAFF

Billy Stewart, chief probation officer at Dorchester District Court, is standing in the library of the Grover Cleveland Middle School in Fields Corner, rocking and rolling.

"Don't front me, I won't front you," Stewart says, telling 31 fifth and sixth graders in their own street language that this is no time for bravado. "What we are going to say to you today, this is not a threat. This is part of your education."

The kids, selected for known or suspected association with the Crips and the Bloods, the infamous gangs from Los Angeles, shift uneasily in their too-small chairs.

Stewart is in their face. At their back stands a ring of ministers from black churches, uniformed police officers, "suits" from the departments of youth services and probation. The heavies have come to the Grover to warn the youngsters that a massive law-enforcement assault is being mounted against the gangs, and to offer them help staying out of the crossfire.

"We're starting to hear things we don't

like. We're starting to hear Crips. We're starting to hear Bloods," Stewart says.

"Believe me! Believe me! BELIEVE ME!" His voice starts at drill sergeant volume and rises to a shout. "This is not going to happen."

The surprise summons to the library was the first fruit of an effort quietly and intensively planned over the last three weeks to destroy the notorious West Coast gangs' footholds in the city, and to counter a resurgence of interest in local gangs.

Leaders of the Boston Ten Point Coalition, the Archdiocese of Boston, the School Department
GANGS, Page B4

City mobilizes to stem gangs' lure

■ GANGS

Continued from Page A1

ment, the gang squad, and numerous other police units are participating in the drive to intervene in the lives of youth who are not yet confirmed gang members, but who are believed to be on the road to membership in the Crips or the Bloods. The Thomas A. Edison and William Howard Taft middle schools in Brighton also have been visited by the police-ministerial alliance, and visits to Dorchester, Brighton, and East Boston high schools are planned.

"Lately, as seems to be happening everywhere, there is an increase in gang activity [in the neighborhood] around the school," says Grover Cleveland principal Jose Duarte. "We are taking preventive steps, rather than waiting for things to happen."

That attitude is in sharp contrast to Boston's response to the rise of gangs in the late 1980s, when a prolonged period of official denial contributed to an explosion of murder and violence which took years to suppress. This time denial has been short-lived, and the response includes sympathy for would-be gang members and constructive approaches to their families, as well as a tough line toward committed gang members.

In recent weeks, 18 gang-involved high school youths have been pulled in and imprisoned for parole violations in an effort to send out the coalition's message of zero tolerance for renewed gang activity.

Over the same period, police developed a list of more than 200 at-risk youths who were not yet deeply involved. Last night, teams of ministers and law-enforcement officers began visiting their homes, talking with them and their parents in an effort to steer them away from gang involvement. The message is similar to what the kids heard in the Grover Cleveland library and at the Taft Middle School. There, street worker Hewitt Joiner said to one boy with a man-sized body — a candidate for "gang enforcer" — to avoid the lure of the street. "I can see that you are down. I can see that you have a mad heart. The question is, what are you going to do with it? Don't let it lead to gangs. That will lead you nowhere."

"We love you, we care about you. . . . Otherwise we wouldn't be here," says the Rev. Prince Woodbury, pastor of the Church of All Nations, who takes the floor from Stewart. A giant of a man, he has a voice and manner as gentle as Stewart's are tough. The children squirm even more, expressions of cockiness, worry, embarrassment, and amusement playing across their faces.

Then it's back to tough stuff.

"You have been identified as gang members or wannabes," gang squad officer Mark Buchanan tells the youngsters. "Something goes down, you are who they're gonna sweat. . . ."

"As God is my witness, Boston is not going back where it was. If we have to put you under the jail, so be it."

...

Six months ago, Boston was basking in the national spotlight as a result of its anti-gang and community policing efforts. The city, which had reeled in horror at the slaughter of children in its streets in the early 1990s, had not recorded a juvenile homicide in two years.

There were straws in the wind: LA gangs were known to be expanding their influence eastward, making major inroads in the Midwest, the central South, New York. A Boston police report obtained by the Globe last spring attributed half the violent incidents in the schools the previous year to youth claiming Crip or Blood colors. MBTA and school officials were seeing disturbing signs in new graffiti, hand signs, and taste in bandanas.

But most veterans of the battle to suppress the local gangs a few years earlier did not take these indicators very seriously. The nascent Crips and Bloods were dismissed as play-actors, without organization or leadership.

"We laid back a little, thinking we had broken up all the gangs," says Milton Britten Sr., supervisor of field services in the state probation department. "Until they killed that kid [Eric Paulding, who was shot in December], I think a lot of people felt the gang problem had been solved. While people were enjoying the success, the Crips and Bloods and others were organizing."

If the Paulding slaying was a wake-up call, the murder of Juan Perello Corporan in mid-February, and a brutal early March attack in Brighton, in which Crips allegedly

saulted a Blood with a hammer and a machete, triggered action.

On Feb. 17, Teny Gross, a city of Boston street worker assigned to the Ella J. Baker settlement house, and Lieutenant Mike Hennessy, a veteran officer of the school police force, met during a memorial walk for Corporan on Bowdoin street in Dorchester. The men knew each other well, and had been discussing the rise in interest in Bloods and Crips for a year.

"I was seeing more fights," Gross says. "We talked about understaffing, about having trouble getting people to notice."

The street worker contacted people the two men knew through Operation Cease Fire, an alliance of government agencies and nongovernmental organizations forged in the earlier period of street violence. And he arranged for Hennessy and Boston Police Lieutenant Gary French, head of the city's gang squad, to meet with leaders of the Ten Point Coalition on the issue of Crips and Bloods.

The assault in Brighton occurred March 4. By the time of the Ten Point meeting March 11 and a special cease fire meeting the following day, the question was not whether to act, but how fast. "That case sort of kicked us off," French says. "It made us say, 'Hey, the ante has been upped, we gotta do something.'"

The response was far greater, and faster, than he had expected. At the request of the Rev. Jeffrey L. Brown, pastor of Union Bap-

tist Church in Cambridge and a leader of the coalition, Cardinal Bernard F. Law called a meeting at his residence on March 14, to broaden religious-community involvement in the issues. Mayor Thomas M. Menino followed suit on the afternoon of St. Patrick's Day to draw schools chief Thomas W. Payzant and key principals and headmasters into the mix.

"Because of partnerships, because of community policing, we have the network, the resources to deal with these issues," Menino says. "Are these Crips and Bloods gang members organized? Copycats? Do they have mentors? We don't know yet, but we have acted to get out in front of it."

...
"Chon," a 17-year-old Vietnamese from Revere, is hanging in The Arcade on lower Washington Street, in downtown Boston, flying his colors. The white, Old English-style "OSB" stitched on his baseball cap identifies him as a member of the Oriental Street Boys; the royal blue cap, worn in this location, marks him as a Crip.

Today he's boasting about his gang's female counterpart, the Oriental Street Girls, who also are Crips. "Wherever you find OSBs, you find OSGs," he brags, but "Crow," his buddy says that's small time.

"We're Crips, we're big. We're nationwide," says Crow, 19. "We're all blue. Wherever I go, I meet blue. The Crips bring us all together. We just find each other. It's fate."

Police estimate at least 200 people are af-

filiated with Crips and Bloods gangs in Boston and neighboring cities. They say the groups in Boston proper are younger, more loosely organized, and less involved in guns and drugs than more established franchises in Lowell, Lawrence, Lynn, and other, smaller cities.

Gang members, and some school and community workers who have watched the growing trend toward Crips blue, Bloods red, and the associated graffiti and hand signals, say numbers are larger and connections with older members in the other cities more direct than police suspect.

Crow said his Revere gang has more than two-dozen male members, ranging in age from 14 to 30, and "we're connected to a lot more others out there, believe me. ... Eventually we all meet up. It's fate."

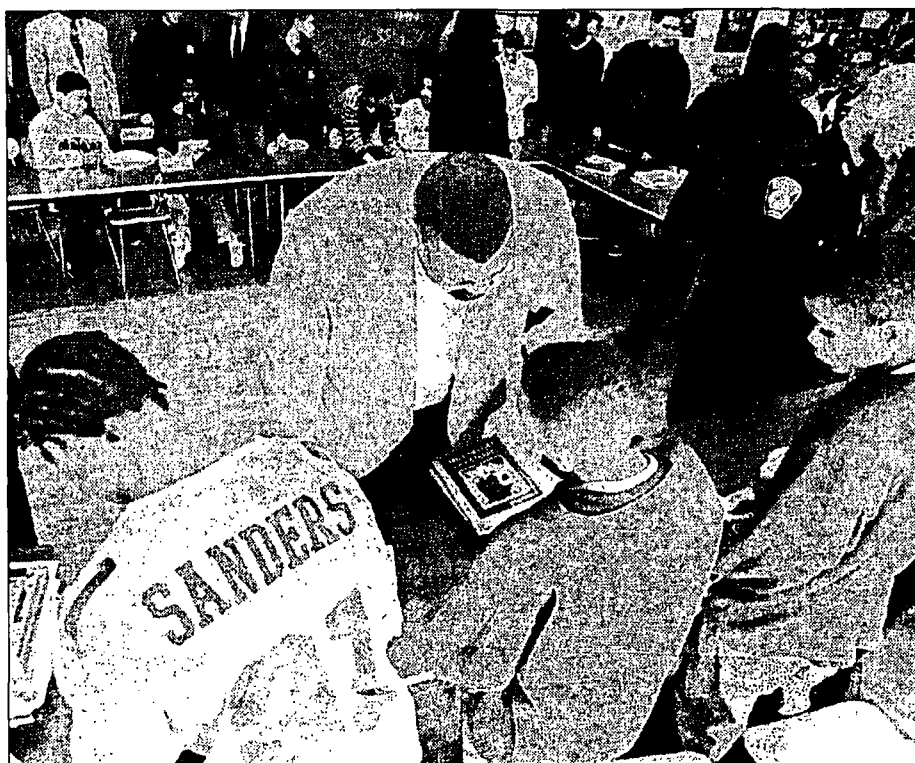
Founded during the 1970s, the Crips and the Bloods are street rivals from South Central Los Angeles who have evolved into violent opponents, fueled by drugs and guns. The Crips, who wear blue, were founded first, and the red-clad Bloods soon followed; chapters for both groups mushroomed. Police say Crips and Bloods are a substantial part of the 150,000 gang members in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, and chapters have spread to cities nationwide, including Chicago, New York, and Little Rock, Ark.

Those who join the Crips or the Bloods say these groups, which call themselves "nations," offer more than the local gangs which preceded them. Their relatively long history



GLOBE STAFF PHOTOS / JONATHAN WIGGS

Zina Jacque (above), an associate pastor at Union Baptist Church, getting a young man's attention as she appealed to him yesterday at the Taft Middle School in Brighton to avoid gang activity. At right, the Rev. Prince Woodberry praying with boys after speaking to them about the dangers of gang involvement.



has been recorded in books, movies and television; their colors are recognized by other gang affiliates in the same way, they say, that ordinary city residents recognize McDonald's golden arches or Boston Celtic green.

Crips and Blood recruitment in Boston was first noticed in 1995 – not coincidentally, the year a determined effort to smash the strongest, most violent local gangs scored a series of major victories. The humbling of the local powers, according to some law enforcement and school sources, created an opening for gangs from outside the area.

In October of that year, several young Bloods ran up to Hennessy of the school police. "I remember turning around and seeing about 20 [Crips], all dressed in blue," chasing the Bloods, Hennessy says. "That's when I knew we had something here."

"They want to belong to something different than their brothers' gangs. Something bigger and badder," said Boston gang unit officer David Singletary, one of the leaders in the initiative against the LA gangs.

Police say Boston and other East Coast street gangs have no formal links to Los Angeles, although they do wear the same street colors and uniforms: Baggy clothes, old-style Nike tennis shoes, Adidas jackets, and a single bandana.

Unlike LA, where most Crips and Bloods keep to separate camps, in Boston the gangs often intermingle. Unlike California gangs, they are not bound to specific neighborhoods.

Gang-unit officer Kenneth Israel says the loose lines are evidence of disorganization and poor imitation. But he also acknowledges the looser structures are harder for police to track. "Before, if you wanted to find a Castlegate member, you would just go to Castlegate Street. But these kids are different. They're not just from one place."

Another difference between Boston and other cities is that the new groupings of Crips and Bloods here can include white, black, Hispanic and Asian youths. In Los Angeles, most of the members are black.

"They are dealing with the issues of race and ethnicity, but for a negative purpose," says the Ten Point Coalition's Brown.

The multicultural character of the local Crips and Bloods, and their relative freedom from geographic boundaries, were among Brown's reasons for seeking the help of the Archdiocese of Boston, which has influence in outlying cities, and in relatively new immigrant groups, such as the Vietnamese, which include many Catholics whose children were at risk.

Despite the community and official concern over their growth, the new gangs have yet to impress the majority of kids on the streets.

"Nah, man, the Crips and Bloods ain't [expletive] out here. They stick to themselves," is a typical street-corner comment. "But if they want something, then bring 'em on. We got something for them."

That's what police fear – that Crips and Bloods will mature and begin to compete with known Boston street gangs for territory, firepower, and the drug trade that invariably attracts older gang members. That competition could lead to a renewal of serious street warfare here.

"Right now these are babies, these are kids playing cowboys and Indians," Hennessy says. "That's where we want to keep it."

...

Outside the Ella J. Baker House, patrol cars flash through the Four Corners section of Dorchester, sirens wailing. Across Washington Street in Corbet Park, freshly painted graffiti on the basketball court announce the presence of Crips in the neighborhood.

Inside, Woodbury and Brown are talking to the volunteers who began visiting the families of at-risk youth last night. The meeting is short and to the point. Woodbury runs through the recommended operating procedure; Brown sums up.

"We have our act together," he says. "Now is the time to move, to show what the people of God can do."

Finally he tells them to remind the kids they visit: "If there's peace, there's going to be jobs. No peace, no jobs. That's essential."

The message plays both ways, Brown stresses afterward: "Without jobs, there's no peace. We have to get the message to businesses and the rest of society. We have to own up to our responsibilities and bring resources to these kids, or else this thing is going to blow up in our faces."

The Boston Globe

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1998

The Boston Globe

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Early intervention against gangs

Boston police officers who specialize in youth gang violence are seeing a growing obsession with the clothing styles, hand signals, and feuding customs of national gangs, including the infamous Bloods and Crips. The attraction, particularly in Boston's middle schools, where the problem is most acute, stems largely from adolescent fantasies. But the violent outcomes will be real and gruesome if the trend goes unchecked.

Rather than just preach about respect and responsibility, clergy and lay workers from the Boston Ten Point Coalition have joined with members of the Boston Police Department's youth violence strike force to identify "wannabe" gang members and school them in the consequences of gang involvement. Teams of police officers and clergy are already visiting the homes and classrooms of students, some as young as 11, who fancy themselves urban outlaws. Catholic clergy, school principals, probation officials, and Department of Youth Services workers reinforce the effort.

The home visit component in particular is in-

genious. Pastoral workers provide the youths with a sense of a true brotherhood that emphasizes peaceful resolution of conflicts and self-awareness. The presence of police officers, who try to remain in the background, still speaks plainly to the potential for prosecution and imprisonment. Even parents prone to distraction or denial will have difficulty ignoring the significance of these visits.

Police estimate that as many as 300 local youths are mimicking the national gangs. At least two serious assaults in Brighton have been linked to a gang feud of Bloods-Crips imitators. Asian youngsters, according to police, gravitate to the Bloods. Black youths incline toward the Crips. They are all leaning into an abyss. About half of the 35 gang members first identified by police about two years ago are already in jail.

"We have to walk out there boldly," says the Rev. Jeffrey L. Brown, a board member of the Ten Point Coalition. More foundation and corporate support for such innovative urban ministries will ensure that they walk with strength in numbers.

Subtitle B – Other Matters

Sec. 511. Study of Marketing Practices of Motion Picture, Recording, and Video/Personal Computer Game Industries.

(a) Study. –

(1) In general.—The Federal Trade Commission and Attorney General shall jointly conduct study of marketing practices of the motion picture, recording, and video/personal game industries.

(2) Issues examined.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Commission and the Attorney General shall examine –

(A) the extent to which the motion picture, recording, and video/personal computer industries target the marketing of violent, sexually explicit, or other unsuitable material to minors, including whether such content is advertised or promoted in media outlets in which minors comprise a substantial percentage of the audience;

(B) the extent to which retail merchants, movie theaters, or others who engage in the sale or rental for a fee of products of the motion picture, recording, and video/personal computer industries—

(i) have policies to restrict the sale, rental, or viewing to minors of music, movies, or video/personal computer games that are deemed inappropriate for minors under the applicable voluntary industry or labeling systems; and

(ii) have procedures compliant with such policies;

(C) whether and to what extent the motion picture, recording, and video/personal computer industries require, monitor, or encourage the enforcement of their respective voluntary rating or labeling systems by industry members, retail merchants, movie theaters, or others who engage in the sale or rental for a fee of the products of such industries;

(D) whether any of the marketing practices examined may violate Federal law; and

(E) whether and to what extent the motion picture, recording, and video/personal computer industries engage in actions to educate the public on the existence, use, or efficacy of their voluntary rating or labeling systems.

(3) Factors of determination. – In determining whether the products of the motion picture, recording, or video/personal computer industries are violent, sexually explicit, or otherwise unsuitable for minors for the purposes of paragraph

(2)(A), the Commission and the Attorney General shall consider the voluntary industry rating or labeling systems of the industry concerned as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) Report.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission and the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) Authority. – For the purposes of the study conducted under subsection (a), the Commission may use its authority under subsection 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act to require the filing of reports or answers in writing to specific questions, as well as to obtain information, oral testimony, documentary material, or tangible things.

SEC. 506. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) Antitrust laws.--The term "antitrust laws" has the meaning given such term in the first section of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12) and includes section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45).

(2) Internet.--The term "Internet" means the combination of computer facilities and electromagnetic transmission media, and related equipment and software, comprising the interconnected worldwide network of computer networks that employ the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol or any successor protocol to transmit information.

(3) Movies.--The term "movies" means motion pictures.

(4) Person in the entertainment industry.--The term "person in the entertainment industry" means a television network, any entity which produces or distributes television programming (including motion pictures), the National Cable Television Association, the Association of Independent Television Stations, Incorporated, the National Association of Broadcasters, the Motion Picture Association of America, each of the affiliate organizations of the television networks, the Interactive Digital Software Association, any entity which produces or distributes video games, the Recording Industry Association of America, and any entity which produces or distributes music, and includes any individual acting on behalf of such person.

(5) Telecast.--The term "telecast" means any program broadcast by a television broadcast station or transmitted by a cable television system.

Subtitle B--Other Matters

SEC. 511. STUDY OF MARKETING PRACTICES OF MOTION PICTURE, RECORDING, AND VIDEO/PERSONAL COMPUTER GAME INDUSTRIES.

(a) Study.--

(1) In general.--The Federal Trade Commission and the Attorney General shall jointly conduct a study of the marketing practices of the motion picture, recording, and video/personal computer game industries.

(2) Issues examined.--In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Commission and the Attorney General shall examine--

(A) the extent to which the motion picture, recording, and video/personal computer industries target the marketing of

violent, sexually explicit, or other unsuitable material to minors, including whether such content is advertised or promoted in media outlets in which minors comprise a substantial percentage of the audience;

(B) the extent to which retail merchants, movie theaters, or others who engage in the sale or rental for a fee of products of the motion picture, recording, and video/personal computer industries--

(i) have policies to restrict the sale, rental, or viewing to minors of music, movies, or video/personal computer games that are deemed inappropriate for minors under the applicable voluntary industry rating or labeling systems; and

(ii) have procedures compliant with such policies;

(C) whether and to what extent the motion picture, recording, and video/personal computer industries require, monitor, or encourage the enforcement of their respective voluntary rating or labeling systems by industry members, retail merchants, movie theaters, or others who engage in the sale or rental for a fee of the products of such industries;

(D) whether any of the marketing practices examined may violate Federal law; and

(E) whether and to what extent the motion picture, recording, and video/personal computer industries engage in actions to educate the public on the existence, use, or efficacy of their voluntary rating or labeling systems.

(3) Factors for determination.--In determining whether the products of the motion picture, recording, or video/personal computer industries are violent, sexually explicit, or otherwise unsuitable for minors for the purposes of paragraph (2)(A), the Commission and the Attorney General shall consider the voluntary industry rating or labeling systems of the industry concerned as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) Report.--Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission and the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) Authority.--For the purposes of the study conducted under subsection (a), the Commission may use its authority under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act to require the filing of reports or answers in writing to specific questions, as well as to obtain information, oral testimony, documentary material, or tangible things.

→ Neera

NY

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May 3, 1999

To: Marsha Berry, Room #100
Fax: (202) 456-7805

Fr: Holly Munter Koenig
Executive Director

Re: Committee Participant

Dear Marsha:

Thanks to you and the rest of Mrs. Clinton's staff for adding to the success of New York Women in Communication's Matrix Awards held recently here in New York City. Mrs. Clinton was wonderful – as usual – as she presented Katie Couric's award for broadcasting.

The following letters just past my desk since I'm also Executive Director of a number of other national associations; this one in comic book publishing. It's about how Michael Silberkleit, Co-publisher of Archie Comics and President of the national organization, the Comics Magazine Association of America, wishes to serve on the new committee currently being developed to deal with violence in our schools. Michael would certainly be an asset. Just hoping that these letters are getting into the right hands so that he hears from someone.

Thank you again.

Enclosures



325 FAYETTE AVENUE
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(914) 381-5155
TELEFAX (914) 381-2335

May 3, 1999

By Fax to: (202) 456-6244

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to The First Lady
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer:

On April 29th, I served as Principal For A Day at P.S. 137 on the lower east side of Manhattan. At the town meeting that followed, I told the audience of my experiences that day, and of how I felt like Mr. Weatherbee, the principal of Riverdale High, the school Archie attends.

On a more serious note, I explained how as a comic book publisher, I felt that my company has a responsibility to our young readers to provide stories that are non violent and promote family values. I sat right behind Mrs. Clinton, and when I spoke, I detected that she was an Archie fan.

On April 30, I learned that President Clinton is forming a committee of media people to meet in Washington to discuss ways to curb violence in our schools. I faxed the enclosed letter to the First Lady offering my services to be on the committee. When my secretary phoned the White House today, she was told that the letter should have been faxed to you as Chief of Staff to Mrs. Clinton.

For almost 60 years, Archie and his pals have been role models to the young people of America and we stand ready to serve in any way in this new venture.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Michael I. Silberkleit".

Michael I. Silberkleit
Chairman/Publisher



325 FAYETTE AVENUE
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By Fax to: (202) 456-5199

April 30, 1999

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Yesterday I was honored to be Principal for a Day at P.S. 137 on the lower East Side of Manhattan. At the Town Meeting that followed I sensed that you were an Archie fan when I told the audience about bringing 600 Archie Comic Books to our school and discussing reading and Archie's principles and values with the first to sixth graders we addressed. I also detected a bit of nostalgia when I mentioned that I published Archie comics and felt like Mr. Weatherbee, the principal at P.S. 137.

Today I heard on the news that President Clinton is forming a committee of media people to meet in May and discuss plans to deal with violence in our schools, drinking, use of seat belts, etc. The purpose of this letter is to offer my services to be on this committee.

Besides being Chairman and Co-publisher of Archie Comics, I am President of the Comics Magazine Association of America. I feel that we publishers have a responsibility to the young people of America to bring forth a product that expresses strong family values and promote reading. I have a very strong desire to be on the President's Committee.

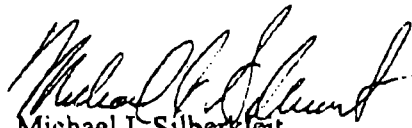
Archie Comics have been published for almost sixty years and are totally non-violent and our stories revolve around Archie and his pals' day to day experiences in school, at home, and amongst his friends. The Archie characters are roll models and known to parents, grandparents and millions of children alike.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
April 30, 1999
Page 2

Our Website, www.archiecomics.com is receiving millions of "hits" each month and is growing by millions each month. We as parents have an obligation to the children of America. Archie Comics are reader breeders, and I stand willing to serve in any way I can on this committee. I look forward to hearing from the White House.

Sincerely,

ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.



Michael I. Silberkleit
Chairman/Publisher
MIS/kg

PARENTS LEAD WAY AS STATES DEBATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS

BILLS IN 25 LEGISLATURES

Support Rises Among the Poor, but Critics Fear Cutbacks for Public Education

A1 By MICHAEL JANOFSKY

ALBUQUERQUE, Jan. 26 — One mother said it was the violence. Another said it was the drug dealing. A third said it was the growing number of children she noticed each day smoking, hugging and kissing in the schoolyard.

One by one, two dozen parents from low-income neighborhoods here in southwest Albuquerque explained how fear and anguish had led them to remove their children from public schools and enroll them in private schools costing as much as \$2,000 a year.

Their stories unfolded as part of a plea to lawmakers to enact a school voucher program that would let them use public funds to help pay private school tuition. It is a plea that has caught the ear of Republicans here, particularly Gov. Gary E. Johnson, who is proposing what would be the most ambitious voucher program in the country.

But the parents' heartfelt passion is being met with equal fervor by other politicians, as well as teachers and their union representatives, who fear that taking money out of public schools would hasten their erosion.

It is a debate playing out across the country with increasing intensity as more than 25 legislatures consider bills that would create some type of system in which public dollars would be used for private and parochial schools like the Abundant Life Christian School here, where many parents pay \$2,000 a year for each child they enroll.

Even with violence, drugs, crowding and unqualified teachers undermining achievement in many public schools, few measures, if any, including New Mexico's, are expected to pass this year. But forces on both sides — and experts who have studied the public and private financing of education — say support for school vouchers is growing so rapidly, especially in poor neighborhoods, that more cities and states will eventually implement programs through legislation or statewide ballot initiatives.

"A lot of people have been talking about this issue for quite a few years," said Eric Hirsch, a senior policy specialist for the National Conference of State Legislatures, who tracks education issues. "A lot of states aren't quite there yet, but there are a lot of proposals out there."

Paul Peterson, a professor of government at Harvard who has studied the existing programs, said the

growing popularity of charter schools around the country was strong evidence that more voucher programs were inevitable. Charter schools are public schools that operate largely free of state and local regulations and unions. They are intended to provide a creative alternative to traditional public schools but must demonstrate progress or risk being closed.

"Every time something is introduced that provides more choice, it is never taken away," Professor Peterson said. "Parents really like it so politicians can't afford to take it back. Vouchers may creep along because the political opposition is so intense, but it'll happen."

Only five public voucher programs are operating now — in Milwaukee, Cleveland, Florida, Minnesota and Arizona — each serving a relatively small percentage of children.

Here in New Mexico, legislation proposed last year and again this month by Governor Johnson, a Republican in his second term, would exceed them significantly by offering each of the state's 316,000 children in public schools a voucher worth \$3,500 a year that could be used for tuition at any private or parochial school in the state.

"You would like to have a choice," said Geri Paiz, a disgruntled mother who pulled the last three of her six children out of public schools this year and is now paying \$1,000 each for them to attend Catholic schools. "What they don't realize is that many parents would jump at the chance to have a choice."

For now, the slow pace of acceptance is largely owing to efforts of politically active and well-organized opponents, including unions like the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, who have strong ties to the Democratic Party.

They contend that using public dollars to help some students get into private schools hurts those left behind by taking money away from teacher salaries, school construction and teaching materials. They also

argue that private and parochial schools, which have the right to accept or reject applicants, would take only higher-performing children, leaving public-school classrooms filled with a higher percentage of students with learning, language and behavioral problems.

Independent studies of the Milwaukee and Cleveland programs have found that students who use vouchers to attend private schools perform at a slightly higher rate than public-school students. A greater advantage, as the studies show, may be satisfaction among parents — for having the choice and for feeling secure that their children are learning in a safer environment.

But researchers like Kim Metcalf, a professor of education at Indiana University, say the programs are too young and too small to draw any definite conclusions, and some results may reflect factors that have little to do with the classroom.

"If you look at the performance of kids in private versus public schools,

the private schools look substantially better," Mr. Metcalf said. "But there's a probability that private-school parents are better-educated, make more money and provide more intellectual stimulus at home."

Mr. Peterson said, "Nobody finds them bad for kids, and there is a tremendous enthusiasm from parents."

Despite their growing appeal among parents, private-school vouchers have achieved virtually no support at the national level since the Bush administration and, until recently, not much more in state legislatures, which have been debating the issue for more than 20 years. Ballot initiatives have fared no better, failing decisively in Michigan (1978), Oregon (1990), Colorado (1992) and California (1993).

To create a choice for parents, cities and states have more often allowed them to enroll children in any public school, the case in New Mexico, and have approved more charter schools, which now number



As time ran out, Kevin Dyson lunged to score but could not escape Mike Jones as the Rams won the Super Bowl, 23-16, over the Titans in Atlanta.

Rams Win Super Bowl Thriller, as Titans Fall a Yard Short

By MIKE FREEMAN
 ATLANTA, Jan. 30 — It was a fitting end for this St. Louis Rams team of castoffs. The quarterback, Kurt Warner, was bagging groceries at one point at a store in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The wide receiver, Isaac Bruce, was once labeled as a player whose injured hamstrings made the news more than his touchdown catches. The coach, Dick Vermeil, succumbed to what he called burnout, leaving the profession for almost two decades.

Then came a miraculous play, on the biggest stage in football, and

suddenly the three men were not the punch line to a joke. They were Super Bowl heroes.
 Warner, with just 1 minute 34 seconds left in the game, connected on a 73-yard pass to Bruce for the game-winning touchdown, a play that will surely go down in championship lore. It broke a 16-16 tie and made the Rams 23-16 winners over the Tennessee Titans tonight in Super Bowl XXXIV.

St. Louis then held on, barely, halting Tennessee only when receiver Kevin Dyson was tackled by linebacker Mike Jones about a yard short of sending the game into overtime on the final play.

It was one of the most exciting Super Bowls ever, culminating a year in which no-name players like Warner turned from pumpkins to Pro Bowlers and nontraditional teams like the Titans and the Rams went from embarrassment to being championship contenders.
 Several years ago, while out of professional football, Warner was busy asking people if they wanted paper or plastic while working in a grocery store, but tonight he threw for a record 414 yards, breaking Joe Montana's mark of 357 in Super Bowl XXIII against Cincinnati in 1989. Warner, whom Vermeil compared with Montana last week, was voted

the game's most valuable player.
 "I guess it is sort of a storybook ending," said Warner, who played in the Arena League and N.F.L. Europe before landing in the National Football League in 1998 as a backup.
 "When you think about where I was and where I am now, it seems pretty incredible."
 The cast of players in this game who were great is long. Bruce had 162 yards on 6 catches, while Rams receiver Torry Holt set a Super Bowl record with reception yardage by a rookie, 108. Titans quarterback Steve McNair, only the second black quar-

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Unlikely Clash: Bradley Fights With McCain

Both Woo Independent Voters in the Primary

By RICHARD L. BERKE
 MANCHESTER, N.H., Jan. 30 — Inside a V.F.W. hall in Franklin, N.H., this afternoon, it seemed like another routine campaign day for Senator John McCain. But as he was speaking inside, something far from ordinary was happening outside: A cluster of Bill Bradley workers, brandishing big blue signs for the Democrat, tried to drum up support for their candidate from voters who had gathered to hear Mr. McCain, an Arizona Republican.

It was no accident. Katherine Soffer, a Bradley worker, said the campaign's internal polling found that there were "quite a significant number of independents on the fence between McCain and Bradley."
 Only two days before the primary in New Hampshire on Tuesday, Mr. Bradley, a former senator from New Jersey, and Mr. McCain are locked in an improbable struggle over a tiny pool of truly independent voters who are allowed to cast ballots in the Democratic or Republican contest and, it so happens, are torn between the two men.

It seems particularly unlikely because they are hardly political look-alikes. Mr. Bradley does not wince when he is called a liberal. Mr. McCain happily calls himself a conservative. But in the closing stretch of the campaign, both candidates have intensified their pitches to independent-minded voters by emphasizing their proposals to reform the campaign finance system — and by portraying themselves as Washington iconoclasts.

Such competition between candidates in different parties is highly unusual and reflects, in part, an influx of new voters into this state who are less rooted with one party or another.

It makes for an unlikely scene on the campaign trail. An old pickup truck parked near a Bradley event in Concord today had two bumper stickers, one for Mr. Bradley and one for Mr. McCain. It was only fitting that in between the stickers was a "Live Free or Die" license plate, reflecting the state slogan that celebrates New Hampshire's maverick image.

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PARENTS LEAD WAY AS STATES DEBATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS

BILLS IN 25 LEGISLATURES

Support Rises Among the Poor, but Critics Fear Cutbacks for Public Education

By MICHAEL JANOFSKY
 ALBUQUERQUE, Jan. 28 — One mother said it was the violence. Another said it was the drug dealing. A third said it was the growing number of children she noticed each day smoking, hugging and kissing in the schoolyard.

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ALTERNATIVE CARE GAINS A Foothold

Traditional Scientists Testing Unconventional Therapies

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG
 BALTIMORE — In the year he has suffered from osteoarthritis, Harold Katcoff has followed his doctors' advice, to no avail: aspirin, steroids, the latest anti-inflammatory drugs. The pills, he says, offer little relief from the stabbing pain in the back of his knees. So Mr. Katcoff, an 80-year-old retired pharmacist, is trying Chinese medicine instead. Or at least, he thinks he is.

Every Tuesday and Thursday since late November, Mr. Katcoff has come here, to Kerner Hospital,

FOLK CURES ON TRIAL
 A special report.

to see an acupuncturist who pokes him with 20 needles, 9 in each leg and 2 in the belly, and then hooks the probes to a mild electrical current. The patient is convinced that the therapy works. "It's fantastic," Mr. Katcoff says. But in the same breath, he admits that he cannot be certain if the effect is real, or imagined.

That is because Mr. Katcoff may be receiving sham acupuncture — needle sticks in places where, according to the theories of traditional Chinese medicine, they should not do any good. He is a volunteer in a \$2.5 million federally financed study, run by a rheumatology professor and a family-practice doctor at the University of Maryland. The study represents a new wave in academic medicine: the application of rigorous, Western scientific methods — including the gold standard of medical research, the placebo, or fake therapy, as a control — to test alternative therapies, from ginkgo biloba to shark cartilage to a mystical Chinese healing art known as qi gong.

Just five years ago, many academics would not have gone near such studies, for fear they would become a laughingstock. And while alternative therapies remain hugely controversial to the staid world of science —

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Dad Was President (but Please, No Dynasty Talk)

By R. W. APPLE JR.
 WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 — They were on the same platform on Saturday, George Bush and George W. Bush, father and son, former president and would-be president, plus the family matriarch, Barbara Bush, and three of George W.'s four siblings, seeking votes in the New Hampshire primary.

But you will incur the Bushes' wrath if you compare their family to the four other well-known American political clans, the Kennedys.
 "That really irks me," the former president said the other day, in one of the rare interviews he has given about his son's presidential candidate. "We're not like them. We don't do press about everything, and we certainly don't see ourselves as a dynasty. 'D' and 'L' — those two words, dynasty and legacy — irritate me. We don't feel entitled to anything."

But isn't talk about dynasties justified, maybe inevitable, he was asked, with the eldest son, George W., the governor of Texas who is running for president, and another son, Jeb, the governor of Florida, both following in the footsteps of their father and their grandfather, Prescott Bush, a longtime senator from Connecticut? With a fair chance that George W. could become the first presidential son since John Quincy Adams to enter

the White House?

"What kind of fellow was Quincy?" the elder Bush replied, taking refuge from a question in the kind of jokey banter that characterizes the family. "Was he an aristocrat, or was he as good a guy as George?"

George W. Bush may be the candidate of the Republican regulars, but he, too, disclaims dynastic credentials. In Midland, Tex., where he grew up, he said in a separate interview, "you were judged apart from your pedigree — Texas is like that." Yes, he followed his father to Andover and Yale, the only Bush of his

generation to do so, but unlike his father, he was neither a scholar nor an athlete, and he was a bit uncomfortable at both.

Though he tapped his father's compendious mailing list for donors, the younger Bush strives to send the message that his is a Texas-based, not a Washington-based, campaign. He often wears cowboy boots. He tells crowds in New Hampshire, "my area code is 512, not 202" — Austin, that is, not Washington. And except for foreign-policy advisers, he has

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John McCain and his wife, Cindy, were showered with confetti after a weekend event in New Hampshire.

MORE ON THE CAMPAIGN

DEMOCRATS SPAR Bill Bradley said a 1996 fund-raiser could cost Al Gore the election; Mr. Gore accused his rival of divisive attacks. PAGE A19

VOTERS WUNCE To many independent voters and undecided Democrats, Bill Bradley's attacks on Al Gore are troubling. PAGE A19

Russians Awaken to a Forgotten SS Atrocity

By MICHAEL WINES

YANTARNY, Russia, Jan. 30 — At the start of the death march in Kibitsburg, they numbered about 7,000 — the vast bulk of them women, most quite young, all clad in wooden-soled shoes, thin rags emblemized with yellow six-pointed stars and telephone wire belts on which were strung their cups and tin-can bowls.
 By the time they reached a vacant lock factory in this nondescript seaside village, after two days and 25 miles of brutal winter weather, there may have been 4,000 left. They remained perhaps four days, then were berded down a bucolic cobblestone lane and past dilapidated workers' cottages to an abandoned amber mine on the shore of the Baltic Sea.

It was there, 55 years ago Monday night, that SS guards split them into packs of 50, sent them fleeing down the beach and on to the ice-covered water filled, then mowed them down with machine guns. Others were escorted to the mine and shot point-blank.
 Auschwitz had been liberated four days before. "Never forget," the civilized world said.
 But the world forgot about the massacre of Jewish innocents at Palmnicken, now the Russian town of Yantarny, until today. Today, on the beach, a roaring gale whipped the sheet into needles and raised towering whitecaps on a sea the color of wet cement. At the base of the amber mine, a steep concrete-buttressed

cliff resembling a battlement, about 200 mourners dedicated a small pyramid of stones and a plaque to the victims of the Königsberg march and the Palmnicken massacre.
 They were the first tangible recognition that the march and massacre had ever occurred. Until today, there was no memorial to Holocaust victims anywhere in Königsberg — known now as Russian Kaliningrad — even though it was home to several mass concentration camps.

Astonishingly, the whole of the Kaliningrad region — a million people, the eldest of whom fought valiantly to defeat Hitler's army in World War II — was utterly unaware until a year ago that the massacre had ever taken place. "As far as I know, no

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INSIDE

Phone Alliance in Europe

Vodafone AirTouch of Britain announced an alliance with Vivendi of France that would derail a plan by Mannesmann of Germany to link with Vivendi to thwart Vodafone's bid to buy Mannesmann. PAGE C1

Kenyan Jet Down at Sea

A Kenya Airways jet with 169 passengers and 10 crew members aboard crashed at sea off Abidjan, Ivory Coast. PAGE A10

U.S.-North Korea Talks Set

North Korea said high-level officials would hold talks in the United States in March on its missiles and other topics including terrorism. PAGE A5

New Market for Old Masters

Americans are showing new interest in paintings by old masters and sales are shifting beyond London to New York. THE ARTS, PAGE B1

An Austrian's Rise Is Stirring Passions Both Left and Right

By DONALD G. McNEIL JR.

MOUNT GERLITZEN, Austria, Jan. 29 — To many average Austrians, Jörg Haider is that southern governor with the odd blend of liberal spending plans and anti-immigrant sentiments they might quietly agree with but that they know look bad to the European Union.

To his local fans, he is their maverick man shaking up the fat cats in Vienna who for decades handed out jobs based on political connections rather than brains or talent.

To foreigners, he is that xenophobic Austrian who once said several pro-Nazi things.

For the 14 years of Mr. Haider's seemingly irresistible rise in the politics of tranquil, prosperous Austria, those differences were mostly a tempest in a teacup. Now that his party looks set to join Austria's government, Israel has threatened to break diplomatic relations, and France, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Italy — in fact all of Austria's 14 partners in the European Union — are alarmed and pondering diplomatic retaliation.

Mr. Haider and his supporters are openly offended by the idea that fellow Europeans would issue threats over an election result not to their liking. But today, they had other things to do at his 50th birthday

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1,700 around the country, up from several hundred a few years ago.

The oldest of the voucher programs paid for with public money is Milwaukee's, in effect for 10 years, offering families that fall below certain income levels vouchers worth up to \$4,894 a year. Cleveland's five-year-old program uses other income levels to offer vouchers worth up to \$2,250. In Florida, which last year became the first state to approve a statewide measure, each public school is graded annually for overall academic achievement, and any child attending a school that has been judged to be "failing" two years in a row becomes eligible for \$3,500 from the state.

Programs in Minnesota and Arizona take a different approach, offering tax benefits for dollars invested in education. In Minnesota, families making less than \$37,500 with children in public or private schools are eligible for \$1,000 per child, to a maximum of two, as reimbursement from the state for certain educational expenses, including textbooks, tutors and computer equipment. All families are eligible for tax deductions for tuition costs.

In Arizona, residents who donate to "student tuition organizations," which distribute money to needy families, can deduct the full amount of the donation from their taxes.

Despite formidable political opposition, proponents of vouchers in other states are pushing ahead.

Twice in the last three years, Gov. George W. Bush of Texas supported a proposed pilot program for students at low-performing schools. The legislation failed both times, but its sponsor, Senator Teel Bivans, an Amarillo Republican, intends to introduce it again when the Texas legislature returns to session next year. Mr. Bush continues to support vouchers as a Republican presidential candidate.

In Pennsylvania, another Republican governor, Tom Ridge, has failed four times since 1995 in efforts to push through legislation that would provide state money to children for private or parochial schools. A spokesman said the governor would keep trying through the end of his

second term, in 2002.

Seven years after California's first ballot initiative on vouchers failed, supporters are trying again, collecting signatures to get a measure before voters in November. An initiative is also being developed in Michigan.

In Kansas, lawmakers are considering a pilot voucher proposal that would aid 300 at-risk children even though Gov. Bill Graves, a Republican, has clearly indicated he is "less than enthusiastic" about voucher programs of any kind, according to his spokesman.

Here in New Mexico, Governor Johnson has made vouchers a hallmark issue, convinced that the ever-increasing money spent on state public schools — \$1.6 billion proposed this year, almost half the budget —

Using public dollars for private and parochial education.

has not produced significant improvements in student performance.

Last year, he refused to sign a budget that did not include a voucher program and called in legislators for a special session to iron out their differences. Facing Democratic majorities in both chambers, Mr. Johnson finally signed a package that did not include vouchers, but he succeeded in creating new visibility for what he says is inevitable.

This year, Republicans in the House and Senate introduced his proposal again, and in his State of the State address this month, the voucher issue was the first he mentioned.

"Every state screams out about every single problem in education and asks what they should be doing," Mr. Johnson said in an interview. "By all measures, we're doing just a little bit worse year by year by year. But vouchers is the right vehicle, and

ultimately you are going to see school reform based on choice happen."

Mr. Johnson conceded that he did not expect the measure to survive the legislature again this year. But with all 112 state lawmakers facing re-election in November, "I want to make this the campaign issue this year," he said.

That prospect delights parents like Ms. Paiz and Elena Maldonado, who enrolled her daughter, Laura, 12, in the Abundant Life school two years ago because of gang activity and drugs at her public elementary school. Ms. Maldonado said she was a Democrat who planned to vote for Vice President Al Gore, a voucher opponent, in the presidential election. But she vowed to vote against her state legislators, who are Democrats, if they did not support a voucher program.

State Senator Linda M. Lopez, a Democrat from southwest Albuquerque, voted against the program last year but said she would keep an open mind, especially if she heard from more people like Ms. Maldonado.

But whether New Mexico or any other state approves a voucher system might ultimately depend less on local politics than on the United States Supreme Court. Seven months after the Ohio State Supreme Court ruled last year that the Cleveland program was constitutional, a Federal district judge ruled it unconstitutional. The critical issue is whether vouchers financed by taxpayers violate the separation of church and state when they are used for religious schools.

An appeals court is reviewing the case, but experts say any ruling would most likely be taken to the Supreme Court, which may be ready to consider the voucher issue after refusing to hear appeals of rulings that the programs in Milwaukee and Arizona were constitutional.

"If the Supreme Court rules that the Ohio program is constitutional, that could change everything," Mr. Metcalf said. "It would certainly open the door for virtually all of the 20 to 25 states considering legislation to push this through more quickly."

2/2

Unlikely Clash: Bradley Fights With McCain

Both Woo Independent Voters in the Primary

A1

By RICHARD L. BERKE

MANCHESTER, N.H., Jan. 30 — Inside a V.F.W. hall in Franklin, N.H., this afternoon, it seemed like another routine campaign day for Senator John McCain. But as he was speaking inside, something far from ordinary was happening outside: A cluster of Bill Bradley workers, brandishing big blue signs for the Democrat, tried to drum up support for their candidate from voters who had gathered to hear Mr. McCain, an Arizona Republican.

It was no accident. Katherine Soffer, a Bradley worker, said the campaign's internal polling found that there were "quite a significant number of independents on the fence between McCain and Bradley."

Only two days before the primary in New Hampshire on Tuesday, Mr. Bradley, a former senator from New Jersey, and Mr. McCain are locked in an improbable struggle over a tiny pool of truly independent voters who are allowed to cast ballots in the Democratic or Republican contest and, it so happens, are torn between the two men.

It seems particularly unlikely because they are hardly political look-alikes: Mr. Bradley does not wince when he is called a liberal. Mr. McCain happily calls himself a conservative. But in the closing stretch of the campaign, both candidates have intensified their pitches to independent-minded voters by emphasizing their proposals to reform the campaign finance system — and by portraying themselves as Washington iconoclasts.

Such competition between candidates in different parties is highly unusual and reflects, in part, an influx of new voters into this state who are less rooted with one party or another.

It makes for an unlikely scene on the campaign trail. An old pick-up truck parked near a Bradley event in Concord today had two bumper stickers, one for Mr. Bradley and one for Mr. McCain. It was only fitting that in between the stickers was a "Live Free or Die" license plate, reflecting the state slogan that celebrates New Hampshire's maverick image.

Roughly 37 percent of registered voters in New Hampshire are not

affiliated with one party or another. But the majority of voters lean toward one party or another.

So, says Andrew E. Smith, director of surveys for the University of New Hampshire, Mr. McCain and Mr. Bradley are battling over 3 percent to 5 percent of the voters who truly are open to jumping from one party to another. That would amount to between 10,000 and 18,000 voters, depending on the turnout.

"It's a small group of people," Mr. Smith said. "But in a close race that can make a difference."

That helps explain why, at the V.F.W. hall in Franklin today, Mr. Bradley's workers were encouraging people gathered to hear Mr. McCain to also make their way to an event for Mr. Bradley's wife, Ernestine.

Todd Harris, a spokesman for Mr. McCain, was dismissive of the Brad-

ley interlopers. The only thing that worried him, he said, was that "they were taking up valuable real estate where I wanted to put TV cameras." Even so, the episode underscored what appears to be a determined drive by Mr. Bradley to pick off Mr. McCain's supporters. It may stem from the fact that there are signs that Mr. McCain may be winning over independents who had been leaning toward Mr. Bradley.

"If there is a toss-up between the two," Mr. Smith said, "they seem to be going from Bradley to McCain — not McCain to Bradley." As evidence, he cited a poll he conducted showing that more than 40 percent of undeclared voters who are leaning toward Mr. Bradley said their second choice would be Mr. McCain. But among undeclared McCain supporters, only 10 percent cited Mr. Bradley as their second choice. The most popular second choice of those unde-

clared McCain supporters was Gov. George W. Bush of Texas, who draws about 50 percent.

The candidates are clearly competing for the loyalties of this small segment of voters. Mr. Bradley, for one, has broadcast a new commercial declaring himself the only one of the seven candidates (including five Republicans) who is a whole-hearted backer of abortion rights. Had he intended the advertisement solely to draw support from Vice President Al Gore, Mr. Bradley might have specif-

ically described himself as the Democrat who is reliable on abortion.

In another direct appeal for independents earlier this week, Mr. Bradley appeared here with former Gov. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of Connecticut, a Republican turned independent. He delivered an unabashed plea for independent voters.

Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, who was stumping here today for Mr. Bradley, said, "They're not as important as Democrats. But, obviously, independents are enormously important."

Surveys show that as Mr. Gore has pounded away at him, Mr. Bradley has lost what has been a significant advantage over the vice president for the support of independent voters. Mr. McCain, by contrast, still maintains an edge over Mr. Bush for independents.

Still, Mr. Bush made a direct appeal for independents at a rally this

afternoon at a high school in Hudson. "It may shock some of the independents here today," he said, "to hear a Republican talking about people living on the outskirts of poverty."

Karl Rove, Mr. Bush's chief strategist, said that while his campaign would not neglect independents altogether, he was most concerned about those who lean toward the Republican Party — not ones who might vote for Mr. Bradley. "There is a group of independents who, by and large, tend to vote in Republican primaries and another group of independents who tend to vote in the Democratic primary," he said. "And there's not this swapping back and forth."

Some strategists argue that the skirmish between Mr. McCain and Mr. Bradley is overstated. "It's more like a beauty pageant than a fight," said David Carney, a veteran Republican strategist here. He said voters who were torn between the

two contenders may go with Mr. McCain because, polls show, he is in a tighter race than Mr. Bradley, who has been sliding behind Mr. Gore.

"Independents always go where the most exciting contest, the closest race, is," Mr. Carney said.

But in random interviews today, several voters said they still could not decide between Mr. Bradley and Mr. McCain.

"I'm one of the independents McCain and Bradley are fighting over," said Tris Newbury, of Concord. "They are both very good about letting people know about where they are and what they are doing — and Gore and Bush really are not."

Deb Leahy, also from Concord, said she was also mulling over Mr. McCain and Mr. Bradley. "A lot of it has to do with more than policy," she said. "It has to do with what kind of people they are. And both Bradley and McCain are good people."

privatization
of schools

To Ann
O'Leary

pects to lose at least \$30 million because of charters this year, or 5% of her budget. "The law didn't look at the rippling effects" on the district schools, she says. "Seventy thousand students are sort of sacrificed" for 7,000 charter students, she contends.

In fact, charter proponents are looking at the ripples—the very point, they say, is for charters to give district schools such a run for their money that they will be forced to improve. But Jeffrey Henig, director of the Center for Washington Area Studies at George Washington University here, says that D.C. schools may be too troubled to survive a stiff challenge. Charters may become so popular, and the flow of money out of the district budget may become so torrential, that the city could lose its ability to improve, he suggests.

"We can bear the costs of competition when we're talking about a corner drugstore," says Prof. Henig, who counts himself a charter proponent. "But schools have social consequences."

A District Fights Back

The D.C. school district first sent word to Paul that it couldn't lease the Paul building because the district needed it for special-education students. Then, in a November letter to parents, Mrs. Ackerman proposed a new program at Paul with "a cutting-edge curriculum." She promised details later, and included a survey asking parents to choose between the new program and the charter.

Though opposition to charters is often fierce in the suburbs, where superintendents are proud of their well-performing schools, many cities—Boston, Chicago and Cincinnati, among them—often embrace charters because of their potential to help. Not so in Washington.

Joseph Gauld runs two boarding schools in Connecticut, and decided to start a charter in Washington that emphasized character education. But after his Hyde Leadership Public Charter School opened this fall on the bottom two floors of a disused Washington school, Mrs. Ackerman announced plans to start a program for expelled teenagers on the third floor. "If you've got kids upstairs who are resistant or hostile to schools, they're going to infect your student body," says Mr. Gauld. (Mrs. Ackerman, who withdrew the plan, bristles at Mr. Gauld's characterization. "These all are our children," she says.)

George Carruthers, who was chairman of Young Technocrats Math and Science Charter School, says his charter leased another disused district building, only to find that it had been stripped of plumbing lines,

kitchen freezers and other equipment so heavy that only professional movers could have removed them. The charter failed because of weak management, he says, but the huge repair bill "was part of the downfall." (Mrs. Ackerman blames the looting on vandals, and not on the district.)

"People in this town are desperate for better schools," says Robert Cain, who heads a local group called Friends of Charters in Urban Schools, "but the grand strategy of the system is to fight off the charter schools."

Mrs. Ackerman, who had been a teacher and administrator in St. Louis and Seattle for 30 years, took over the D.C. schools after the last superintendent quit. She is credited with stabilizing them after

years of chaos, and beginning the cumbersome turnaround. She says she proposed the technology program at Paul after some parents and others "asked me, 'What are you doing, giving away a school?'"

Robert Childs, president of the Washington school board and pastor of a church near Paul, says he got the same questions, and began rallying opposition to the charter. Mrs. Middleton's charter-discussion group met in the Rev. Childs' church basement, and he sat on the committee that drafted Paul's academic plan. But now he asks: "Should you take a school away from the community?"

Not all of Paul's teachers are fully comfortable with the charter either. Kathleen Gail, who teaches special education, glows when she talks about the charter. "It's nice to have an idea that lights your fire after 30 years in this business," she says. "To have someone say, 'It's your school, show us your stuff'—that would be so neat." But she frets about undermining the very school system that she and her children attended. And Bryan Crumpton, a Paul health and gym teacher, insists the school district isn't as woeful as it seems. He points to the windows and gym floor, all new in the past decade. "It takes a little while, but things get done," he says.

Mrs. Middleton is unruffled. Her charter will give preference to children from the neighborhood, she adds: "We wouldn't have done this if we didn't intend to stay a community school." And there are three

other, underused junior high schools nearby for parents who don't like the charter plan.

Robert Copeland, co-chairman of Paul's PTA and parent of a Paul seventh-grader, insists there are few of those. "We're dead last," he says of the school district that he attended 30 years ago. "When you look at those numbers, you can only hang your head and say something's got to change." Adds Janice Cofer, whose son, Jacques, is a Paul ninth-grader: "Everybody's at the point where they want something better for their kids. The charter is somewhere to start."

Unless they're allowed to rent the Paul building, though, Mrs. Middleton and her teachers say they will drop the charter idea. "I don't think the parents signed the petition expecting to move," says Kurt Becker, a Paul English teacher. Washington's city authorities could award them the lease. But because of Congress's funding authority over the city, and Republican support in Congress for trying something, anything, to jump-start Washington's schools, the decision might instead be made on Capitol Hill.

Mrs. Ackerman now offers to divide Paul between her program and the charter, doubling the population of the school. The superintendent calls her offer "Solomon's approach. I thought, 'Let's share the building.'" Mrs. Middleton "arms of disarray, though, if two principals try to run the same building. She points out that the district's own survey shows Paul at 97% of capacity already. And she offers to take on Mrs. Ackerman's program "as a sister school" if it locates somewhere nearby.

But share Paul? Mrs. Middleton folds her hands in her lap, and answers very softly. "No," she says. "We won't."

2/2

Capital Pains

A Principal's Fight For a Charter School Riles a Superintendent

A Washington Tug of War Over Aging Junior High Embodies a Wider Debate

Big Chill Over Refrigerators

A1

By JUNE KRONHOLZ

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON—Last spring, two-thirds of the parents and teachers at Paul Junior High voted to take their school out of the city's public-school system. In a certified ballot, they opted to convert the whole thing—709 students, the 1930s building, the books and equipment, the 7.5 acres of public land—into a charter school.

The ossified District of Columbia Public School system "wore us out," says Cecile Middleton, the very tiny, very formidable principal, "and we have all these plans."

The school district quickly fought back, refusing to rent Mrs. Middleton the Paul building and then announcing plans to open a new science, technology and arts program at Paul for anyone who rebuffs the charter. "That's what charter schools are supposed to do, stimulate a lot of creativity. Aren't they?" says Arlene Ackerman, the elegant and, yes, very formidable superintendent.

No one ever said the road to better schools was going to be smooth and easy, and even the U.S. Congress might get involved before Paul's future is settled. But the tussle over an old junior high school in inner-city Washington helps explain why charters are growing fast, why many districts are trying so hard to stop them, and why nothing is likely to get fixed very quickly in the meantime.

A Poster Child for a Crisis

Washington's schools are what policy makers mean when they talk about an education crisis. Three-quarters of the fourth-graders here can barely read, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the national test of academic skills. Just 5% of eighth-graders do eighth-grade work in math and science. Almost 40% of the youngsters who start high school drop out before they graduate. Black teenagers who do make it to 12th grade score an average 831 on the 1,600-point SAT exam, 185 points below the national average. And when Ms. Ackerman reported recently that 70,762 children were enrolled, it was the first time in years that the system had roused itself enough to even count its students.

Paul Junior High, on Washington's northern tip, is a glimmer in that bleak picture. Half the eighth-graders in a school whose enrollment is largely African-American score below basic competency levels on citywide math tests. But 80% read at grade level or better, and on both reading and math tests. Paul scores near the top of

"I wanted young teachers," she says. So, by encouraging transfers and retirements, she replaced the entire staff, and then set about shaking up the curriculum. Shop has given way to arts, drama and orchestra, with the Kennedy Center sending over artists-in-residence. Spanish is compulsory, and the school's big immigrant population is mainstreamed to learn English more quickly. Incoming seventh-graders take a summer-school math course to get them ready for algebra, and then a concentrated writing project. A free after-school program features academics—math, science and chess clubs. A "social-adjustment" room gets unruly kids out of the classroom, without relegating them to the streets. "Nobody's ashamed to be smart here," says Constance Chubb, Paul's technology coordinator.

Impatient for Results

Paul's teachers say they voted to become a charter school because that regimen puts them far ahead of the rest of the district. "We can't stand still and wait for the district to catch up with us," says Bryan Lumpkins, Paul's business manager. But they also talk of their frustration with a district that controls spending, schedules repairs and hires and fires through a lethargic central office.

Mrs. Middleton tells how she had planned to use some of Paul's discretionary funds to hire math tutors to help her eighth-graders get ready for the citywide tests last year. The district took six months to agree—too late to make much difference in the tests. Lewis Gray, the janitor, frets that no one in the central maintenance office answered requests to have Paul's gutters cleaned until rainwater backed up, and seeped through the roof and two floors of classrooms to the office recently.

Mary Reed, the mentor teacher, tells of the new biology textbooks that arrived unannounced this fall—welcomed, but too advanced for Paul's ninth-graders. "It would be better," she says, if schools could choose books "that accommodate our individual differences." And Ms. Chubb talks about the \$91,000 federal grant that Paul's teachers won last year to buy computers and software for a ninth-grade course on career possibilities. So far, only some of the equipment, which had to be ordered through the district office, has arrived; what has come doesn't work without the rest—the Internet can't be connected, for example; and it isn't what the teachers

Please Turn to Page 410, Column 1

requisitioned anyway. Worse, "that batch of kids is gone," Ms. Chubb says, and the current batch is halfway through the year. (Mrs. Ackerman says the district's purchasing is handled by the city government, whose procurement rules "don't align with how schools work. The process causes frustration.")

Three years ago, Mrs. Middleton began attending a study group about charter schools, which receive public funds and face public scrutiny, but operate outside a school district's bureaucracy. Washington's schools had opened late that fall, for the second year running, because of hundreds of fire-code violations. Congress had taken over the operation of the schools, and the new superintendent was a retired Army general, who threw up his hands in dismay and stalked out 18 months later.

Mrs. Middleton has been with the D.C. public schools for 40 years as an English teacher and as principal at one high school and two junior highs. She worried, she says, that the dysfunction in the school system was robbing Paul of valuable teaching time. "We only have the children for three years; we can't wait," she says.

Filing a Plan

So in 1996, she and her teachers drafted a charter-school plan—detailed down to how much they would spend on library books—and set about collecting parent signatures in support. Under Washington's charter-school law, drafted by Congress but passed by the city council, a district school can become a charter after receiving approval of two-thirds of parents and teachers. Charter supporters interpret the law as allowing a new charter school the right to lease back its building.

Washington schools didn't open on time in 1997 either, though, and when they did open three weeks late, Paul was closed for another three weeks because fire-code violations still hadn't been fixed. By the time Paul finally opened, the deadline for filing the charter-school petitions had passed. Mrs. Middleton tried again in 1998 and won preliminary approval from the city's charter-school board. But then an accounting firm, hired to certify the petition, found it short by 41 signatures—the result of confusion over whether two-thirds of the parents, or parents from two-thirds of the families, should sign. Mrs. Middleton withdrew the application.

Last spring, Mrs. Middleton and her teachers started early, collected 511 signatures and won charter-board approval to open in fall 2000, provided they have a building. Mr. Lumpkins, the business manager, offered the school district \$179,000 a year to rent Paul, with equipment rental to be decided. In a city that has lost half its enrollment in the past 30 years, that has dozens of empty school buildings and that is projected to lose another 15,000 students by 2009, "it shouldn't be a problem," he says.

The Center for Education Reform, a Washington group that tracks the charter movement, says there are 1,700 charter schools in 31 states, and that most of those states allow public schools to convert to charters. Conversions account for 40% the charters in California, for example, and even entire districts there have converted to charter status.

Washington has lost a bigger percentage of its students to charters than anywhere else—one in 11 kids is in one of the city's 31 charter schools—and so perhaps is warier of them. Because funding depends partly on enrollment, Mrs. Ackerman ex-

1/2

NEWTON N. MINOW
ONE FIRST NATIONAL PLAZA • SUITE 4800
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603

May 3, 1999

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
Office of The First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500
Attention: Melanne S. Verveer

Dear Hillary:

Exactly three years ago, John Bryan invited me to speak to the Business Council at its Annual Meeting in Williamsburg. As you know, the Council includes the CEO's of America's 100 largest companies-- General Motors, DuPont, GE, AT&T, Proctor & Gamble, etc. These companies are also the largest television advertisers. My topic was children and television.

Oprah's partner wisely advised me to show the Council members a short video composite of clips taken from each hour of one day of television. We titled it *A Day In the Life of Your Child*; a copy is enclosed here for you. It is six minutes in length. Even I was shocked when I absorbed its contents.

Most CEO's had brought their spouses with them. After we saw the video, I asked why these great companies were spending their money and good names to teach children what we had just seen. I saw every spouse turning to their husbands to say stop it! A few did.

You are wise to organize the conference May 10. I suggest you also show the group what our kids are seeing and hearing and who is advertising these programs. And please remind the country that the First Amendment restricts only the government, not sponsors, not producers, not editors, not directors.

Having the right to do something does not make it the right thing to do.

All best,

Newton N. Minow
(KS)

Newton N. Minow

NNM:ks
Enclosure

P.S. By chance, I'll be in Washington at the White House Wednesday, May 5, at 2:00 p.m. to meet Bob Nash. If I can answer any questions or be of help, please let me know. My assistant in Chicago (Kathy Schultz--312/853-7554) can find me in my travels this week.



May 10, 1999

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

As Littleton and other recent tragedies reveal, our children are in crisis. The natural habitat of our children is being destroyed. You can strengthen your legacy by rebuilding our children's natural habitat just as our nation has so successfully rebuilt our physical habitat (e.g., rivers, lakes, and air) during the last 25 years.

Our job is to rebuild our children's natural habitat.

Children's natural habitat includes families, schools, friends, religious communities, neighborhoods, laws, businesses and mass-media, among others. It includes every aspect of our society. We must not assign blame. Rather, we must find solutions to rebuild our children's social environment.

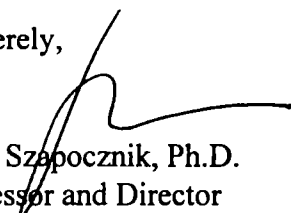
The solution is to restore our children's natural habitat by strengthening families, and by strengthening the collaboration between families and all other aspects of our children's habitats: schools, friends, religious communities, neighborhoods, laws, businesses, and media.

The Littleton crisis has shaken our nation. We must respond by taking advantage of the vast scientific knowledge that exists about what helps children maximize their potential. We know how to help families nurture their children's healthy development. We know how to help schools collaborate effectively with parents and their neighborhoods. We know how to improve neighborhoods to better support families. We know how places of employment can support families. We know how children respond to messages from their society. We know the crucial role that religious communities play in protecting our children. In short, we know how to rebuild our children's habitat so that they can develop and flourish.

The time is now to make use of our scientific knowledge, our political will, and our national affluence to do the right thing. The solutions are complex and multifaceted, but they are achievable.

Our job is to rebuild our children's natural habitat.

Sincerely,



José Szapocznik, Ph.D.
Professor and Director

cc. Maria Echaveste, Deputy Chief of Staff
~~Neera Tanden, Associate Director for Domestic Policy~~

Center for Family Studies

1425 N.W. 10th Avenue, 3rd Floor
Miami, Florida 33136
Phone: 305-243-4592
Fax: 305-243-5577

E-Mail: VMALDONA@MEDNET.MED.MIAMI.EDU

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4/30

Hillary,

1

2

3

(b)(6)

[001]

4. Jill Iscol called to say she wants to be a part of the President's strategy meeting on youth violence. Neera tells me it isn't more than 25 people. Advice?

Letters

*I'd like to invite her as
part of my team to observe*

1. TY from Gary Mecklenburg, Pres. & CEO, Northwestern Memorial Hospital: "Our hospital is proud that you were able to help us celebrate this momentous even in the hospital's history....gratifying to hear first hand the depth of your knowledge and understanding as to the difficult issues facing academic medical centers....In response to your question, the unique musical group, which performed at the dedication is MASS Ensemble....We are also exploring the availability of the mattress you admired on the Hill-Rom bed." Ends with praise for advance and USSS. Cc: Whitney
2. thanks from Bob Randolph, USAID Bureau for Asia and the Near East: "No one tells our story better than you do." Fun to travel with you. "There were many magical moments on the trip, but I think we will always remember the radiant faces among those young women at Telal Zeinhom's "New Horizons" program who saw in you a bright future where Egyptian girls would be accorded the same rights and opportunities as boys."
3. thanks from Erna Fields of the J. Q. Wilson Elementary School in Washington "for your many acts of kindness throughout the existence of the J. O. Wilson After School Program." Cc: Melanne
4. thanks from 1) Vance Coffman, Chair and CEO, Lockheed Martin and 2) Lydia Marshall, Chair of Board, CARE, for addressing the Campaign to Preserve U. S. Global Leadership at the US Chamber.

Pam



U.S. SENATOR JOE LIEBERMAN CONNECTICUT

Dan Gerstein; Press Secretary 202.224.0414, 202.966.0131 (H)

Kathie Scamah; Director of Broadcast Comm. 202.224.9965, 703.845.2874 (H), 702.224.6095 (Activities)

Leslie Phillips; Communications Governmental Affairs Comm. 202.224.0384, 202.338.3372 (H)

Home Page: <http://www.senate.gov/~lieberman/>

May 4, 1999

Testimony of Senator Joe Lieberman before the Senate Commerce Committee Hearing on the Marketing of Violence to Children

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for calling this hearing and working to foster a serious dialogue about the impact the popular culture is having on our children and our country.

This conversation has been percolating beneath the civic surface for some time, as concerns have grown about the influence of the media on our children, and it has now bubbled over in the wake of the horrific shooting in Littleton two weeks ago today and the other massacres that preceded it. Even some of the most reluctant of skeptics are beginning to focus on the culture of carnage surrounding our children, particularly the hyperviolent movies, music, and video games that have apparently mesmerized these child killers, and to consider whether the accumulated weight of this entertainment media violence is contributing to the recurring nightmare of youth violence we are caught up in now.

We must not be simplistic in pursuing this conversation. We must acknowledge and accept the complexities of this problem and the many factors involved in the larger epidemic of urban and suburban youth violence, such as the easy connection kids have to guns and the disconnection many kids feel from their parents, their peers and their community. It is for this very reason that a group of us in the Senate have proposed creating a national commission to step back and thoroughly examine all the possible root causes of this problem to help us understand why too many of our children are senselessly slaughtering each other in classrooms, schoolyards, and on street corners.

We cannot, though, ignore the years of social science research, the pattern emerging from the school shootings, and our reasoned judgment -- all of which tells us that we would be foolish not to ask, as ethicist Sissela Bok wrote in her thought-provoking book *Mayhem*, "what happens to the souls of children nurtured, as in no past society, on images of rape, torture, bombings, and massacre that are channeled into their homes from infancy."

- More -

This morning, Mr. Chairman, you have asked us to consider a more specific question, and that is whether the entertainment industry is directly marketing violence to children. The answer, I am afraid, is not reassuring. While the facts have not to our knowledge been gathered into a conclusive set of findings, the evidence we have strongly suggests that Joe Camel has sadly not gone away, but has been adopted by the entertainment industry instead.

Let me first consider the anecdotal evidence from the movie industry, which indicates that violent films rated for adults only are being marketed to children. Over the last few years we have seen the rise of a new class of teen-targeted films -- referred to by some as "teensploitation" movies -- which has engaged producers and directors in a conspicuous contest to see who can be more violent, more sexually provocative, and generally more perverse to attract youth audiences. A perfect example of this trend is *Very Bad Things*, a supposed comedy about a bachelor party gone wrong, which finds fun in the dismembering of a stripper and the successive mutilation of the partygoers.

The latest entry is *Idle Hands*, which was released just last week. It is promoted as "sick and twisted laugh riot," and it's not hard to see where this description comes from -- according to reviews, the film features a severed hand that fondles a girl before strangling her, a knitting needle that is driven through a policeman's ear, and a decapitation by circular saw blade, all apparently played for laughs.

What these movies have in common, beyond their violent and offensive content, is that they are rated "R," meaning that they are not meant for children under 17. Yet according to several recent news media reports, most producers and studio executives assume that underage kids can and will get in. "Well, let's hope so," says Roger Kumble, the director of *Cruel Intentions*, the teen remake of *Dangerous Liaisons* which is by all accounts far more salacious than the original. This sentiment was affirmed by Don Mancini, the writer of all four R-rated *Child's Play* horror films, who acknowledged that young teens were the target for his most recent release, *Bride of Chucky*, and other similarly bloody slasher films. "They have grown up watching these movies on home video," he said. "Now that there are new ones coming out, these kids are tantalized."

To apparently help lure in young audiences, these teensploitation movies are heavily advertised on MTV and network series that teens watch regularly, such as *Dawson's Creek* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and are stocked with actors from these teen-favored TV shows. This pattern succeeded with the teen slasher movies *Scream* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, and it continues with the current *Cruel Intentions* -- the director said casting Sarah Michelle Gellar of *Buffy* fame was like "dangling the carrot" in front of young teens. This dangling is apparently working -- according to a recent Gallup poll, half of American teens say they have seen an "R"-rated movie in the last month, including 42 percent of those aged 13-15.

The video and PC and arcade gamemakers are less candid about targeting their marketing to teens than the moviemakers, but the evidence is there just the same. Action figures based on bloodthirsty characters from *Resident Evil 2*, *Duke Nukem*, and *Mortal Kombat* -- three heavily-violent titles that are rated "M" for 17-and-up -- are being sold at Toys-R-Us and similar toy stores. Those same toy stores, which cater largely to children, typically carry those games and many other "M"-rated titles filled with guns and gore.

Equally disturbing is the advertising that publishers place in the various glossy game-player magazines. These magazines are widely read by young gamers, and they are filled with

- More -

perverse and antisocial messages. Here are a just a few: *Carmageddon* boasts it is "as easy as killing babies with axes"; *Point Blank* claims it is "more fun than shooting your neighbor's cat"; *Die by the Sword* instructs, "Escape. Dismember. Massacre."; and *Cardinal Syn* features a severed, bloodied head on top of a spear, with the tag line, "Happiness is a Warm Cranium." A good indication these messages are reaching their target audience came from a survey done by the National Institute on Media and the Family last winter, which found that while only five percent of parents were familiar with the game *Duke Nukem*, 80 percent of junior high students knew of it.

Taken together, the evidence here is enough to demonstrate that there is a troubling trend in the entertainment industry, one that it needs to stop now. The marketing of these ever-more vicious and violent products is making a mockery of the various rating systems, telling parents that these products are inappropriate for children but we're going to sell them to them anyway, and reminding us of similar behavior by the tobacco industry. And it is expanding and exacerbating the culture of carnage surrounding our children.

I hope that when confronted with this evidence, the movie studios and the gamemakers and the record companies will stop this trend before it goes any further. None of us want to resort to regulation, but if the entertainment industry continues to move in this direction, and continues to market death and degradation to our children, and continues to pay no heed to the real bloodshed staining our communities, then the government will act. Senator Hatch and I have discussed the possibility of demanding an FTC investigation of these marketing practices, to see if they are engaging in false advertising or unfair trade practices, and we will pursue it if there is no sign of change from the entertainment industry. The FTC and Congress can subpoena marketing plans and internal memos to find out exactly which distributors are pushing violence to our kids.

But the far more preferable option would be for each media industry to strengthen their existing codes of conduct to help us better protect our children. That of course remains the first responsibility of parents, but we are all members of this national community and as such have an obligation to keep kids safe from harm, and that obligation embraces our cultural producers. A good place to start would be for each entertainment industry to ban the targeting of adult-rated products to children, and restore the integrity to the ratings they themselves have adopted and implemented. We should also ask theater owners to uniformly enforce the R-rating prohibition for underage children, and ask video game retail and rental outlets to adopt a similar policy barring the sale or rental of adult-rated games to kids.

In the end, as we have often said, we are not seeking censorship but better citizenship. We are appealing to the industry's conscience, to recognize that you are part of the national community that is endangered by the virus of youth violence, and to work with us to do whatever we can to prevent another local community from feeling the searing pain and grief which visited Littleton and the rest of America over the last two weeks.

To: B. Reed

From: T. Freeman

Start from
Lieberman's off.
you wanted.

4 pages

RUBY GRAYSON
2360 VILLANOVA CIRCLE
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32218
(904) 757-2093

May 28, 1999

Ms. Missy Darwin Kincaid
Special Assistant to the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Kincaid:

If you'll remember, I visited with Ms. Clinton on April 5, 1999. My two sons and I had several photographs taken with her. We have not received any as yet and hope that we will soon.

I have a special request. The Clintons are visiting just outside of my home town, Jacksonville, and I would like to send Ms. Clinton a fax or have her call me. I need to get that information from you or have you contact her for me.

Would you please call me at (904) 757-2093 and if I am not home, please leave a message of how to contact Ms. Clinton. I just have a quick request for her that will take two minutes. I am getting ready leave work. I will be home by noon.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

TELECOPY INSTRUCTIONS

DATE: May 28, 1999

TO: ATTENTION: MISSY KINCAID
Office of the First Lady
(202) 456-9412 (Fax Number)
(202) 456-5315 (Telephone Number)

FROM: Ruby Grayson

RE: Attached

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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CX1. NO. 101

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1999

INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://wsj.com>

Game Makers, 'aking Hits, Try 'o Shield Kids

By DRAN TAKAHASHI

Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
hoping to avert a regulatory crack-
n, the video-game industry says it is
ng to strengthen voluntary measures to
ld children from inappropriate games.
The recent spate of teen violence has
mpted legislators to target video-game
ers nationwide. The U.S. Senate has
orized a study on the effects of violent
es and music on young people, and leg-
tors in four states have already pro-
ed making it illegal to sell games rated
ture" to minors.
Responding, the game publishers' lob-
g group, the Interactive Digital Soft-
e Association, has begun working with
to develop a voluntary system
would essentially "card" potential
e buyers. When any adult-rated title is
ned into a cash register, the system
ld alert the retailer to ask for identifi-
on. If the buyer is a minor without
ntal permission, the clerk could deny
sale. Retailers hope to begin using the
em first in Washington state, and
tually plan to deploy it nationally.
ow effective that would be is question-
s, since critics say retailers are lax
n it comes to enforcement. In a study,
year, a Minneapolis advocacy group
ed the National Institute on Media and
Family found that 41% of retail clerks
t'l understand the ratings, and only
of parents reported routinely checking
ngs. When the institute surveyed
th through eighth graders, half named
ent games as their favorites. It also
d that while video stores accounted for
million in game revenue last year,
9% of them refused to rent mature ti-

Meanwhile, there are virtually no curbs
to prevent minors from anonymously
downloading violent titles from Internet
game sites.

Rapid growth of video games has in-
creased the industry's visibility. Last year,
electronic game sales in North America
grew 25% to \$6.8 billion—not far behind
the \$6.9 billion in movie box-office receipts.
In its first six weeks last Christmas, one
game, Nintendo Co.'s "Legend of Zelda,"

generated \$150 million in sales, outpacing
the film "A Bug's Life," which pulled in
\$114 million during the same time at the
box office.

"As our industry has become so large,
we are a fair target for criticism," says Pe-
ter Main, executive vice president at Nin-
tendo of America. "The level of concern is
greater than ever before, especially on
Capitol Hill," says Doug Lowenstein, IDSA
president. "More needs to be done with the
rating system and ad codes."

As with the movie and music industries,

Continued From Page B1

video-game makers have a voluntary rat-
ings system, but it is relatively new and
largely ignored. A postage-stamp-size logo
appears on game covers categorizing titles
as Adults Only, Mature, Teen, Everyone or
Early Childhood. Industry experts say so-
called "violent shooter" titles—like
"Doom," "Quake," "Sin," and "Half-Life"
—make up only 6% of the sales of the entire
gaming market. All are rated Mature.

Store operators say they aren't the
problem. "Retailers should pay attention
to the ratings," says Pamela Rucker, a
spokeswoman for the National Retail Fed-
eration in Washington, but "parents need
to know what their children are playing."

The industry's Mr. Lowenstein says re-
search connecting violence and game-
playing is thin. Roughly 57% of video
games are played by adults, and the indus-
try's fastest-growing sector is children's
puzzle and board games, like Monopoly. Of
5,000 games rated by the industry's Ent-
ertainment Software Ratings Board in the
past five years, 70% were considered ap-
propriate for all ages to play.

Still, it's the violent titles that have
gaming companies under attack. After the
December 1997 school shooting in Padu-
cah, Ky., families of three victims sued
makers of violent games, as well as movie
studios, for allegedly influencing the killer.

Washington state is a hotbed of activ-
ity. In Olympia, the Washington Retailers
Association has agreed to encourage elec-
tronic game retailers to voluntarily pro-

throughout the state.

That plan follows a campaign by a Seat-
tle group called Mothers Against Violence,
which started its advocacy work last year
when one member's eight-year-old son saw
an ad in Electronic Gaming Monthly. The
ad, for Activision Inc.'s "Vigilante 8," pic-
tured a school bus armed with missiles and
featured "Moto," an expelled student aim-
ing to get an "A" in violent acts. Activision
declined to comment.

The video-game trade group says it also
plans to tone down such violence refer-
ences in ads. Last year, Interplay Ent-
ertainment Inc. advertised a car-combat
game, "Carmageddon," with the caption
"Easier than killing babies with axes." The
ad outraged children's advocacy groups. In
the aftermath, Interplay says it will be
"more careful" about its ads and enlarge
the warning labels on its adult-oriented
games.

While denying any connection between
violence and game-playing, some publish-
ers and retailers themselves are taking
steps to limit access to violent titles. Some
retailers, for instance, recently balked at
carrying Interactive Magic Inc.'s
"Mortyr," a game whose cover depicted a
black Nazi helmet in a pool of blood.

And recently, Electronic Arts Inc. nixed
"Thrill Kill," a violent game it inherited
when it acquired another company. Glenn
Fong, head of the company's Canada stu-
dios, said, "We even killed the project al-
together so someone else couldn't publish it."

But some people worry that overreact-

industry's artistic freedom. "It's scary that
the violence issue has become political,"
says Mike Wilson, chief executive officer of
Gathering of Developers LLC, a Dallas
company that has a number of violent
games in the works. "A big retailer could
very well get a lot of PR out of saying they
won't sell violent games."

Fans of violent shooting games say they
appeal is more about using one's wits than
about gore. "We make the games that we
like to play," says John Carmack, co-
founder of Id Software Inc. and developer of
the upcoming Quake III. "It's not for kids."

An online survey, just released by mar-
ket researcher PC Data Inc. in Reston, Va.,
found that nearly 19% of respondents said
the government should impose minimum
age restrictions to buy violent games.

Parents struggle with that same issue.
Istok Stajner, a 37-year-old Web site master
in San Jose, Calif., says it's hard to steer his
13-year-old stepson away from violent
games when his friends play them and see
them widely advertised in TV cartoons and
in magazines. Enforcing game ratings or
sales to minors would help, Mr. Stajner
says, but he adds, "Somehow, the kids would
still get their hands on the games."

He adds, "I can't make the games into
forbidden fruit. All I can do is talk now and
then, and stress how violence in real life is
not a fun thing."

WSJ Journal Link: Join an online dis-
cussion about the issue of violence in
video games in The Wall Street Journal Interac-

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From tragedy sprouts a new dedication to anti-violence

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

By SUSAN PAYNTER
SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER COLUMNIST

Supply and demand. For three weeks it has strummed the phone lines at Mothers Against Violence in America headquarters in Seattle's Central Area.

Over 300 callers a day from all over the country suddenly want what MAVIA has -- a program to help forge peace.

Surges of calls about starting MAVIA and SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) chapters often spike after shootings. But the shopping for solutions quickly subsides.

Not this time. "It hasn't let up since Littleton," says Jenny Wieland, who has worked with MAVIA since it started five years ago this month. Wieland joined MAVIA two years after her own 17-year-old daughter, Amy Ragan, was shot to death by a teenage friend who showed off his gun by aiming at Amy's head.

On May 20 -- one month after the massacre at Colorado's Columbine High School -- MAVIA will celebrate five years of being a natural resource to the nation with a luncheon at Seattle's Westin Hotel.

Meanwhile, volunteers, board members and students are fielding calls, mailing packets and keeping the lights on. Founder Pamela Eakes is in Washington, D.C., one of 30 national leaders attending President Clinton's White House Strategy Session on Children, Violence and Responsibility.

RECENT COLUMNS

From tragedy sprouts a new dedication to anti-violence

Bill Gates Sr. having great fun spending son's money

Getting its number can drive one MADD

Council member felt she owed her kids more time

Kids' angst in full play at local youth centers

Assumptions about crime shot down in Colorado

The Seattle Times: Not another kiddie toy

http://www.seattletimes.com/news/editorial/html98/video_19990520.html


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Editorial & Opinion

Posted at 06:02 a.m. PDT; Friday, May 28, 1999

Editorial

Not another kiddie toy

THE White House yesterday invited Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson, D-Seattle, to the Rose Garden for next Tuesday's summit on youth violence. It's a way to commend Washington for its baby steps toward greater awareness of violent video games.

The key question is whether the state's businesses and consumers will follow.

Dickerson's recent efforts to fund a study on violent video games failed, but her legislation inspired the Washington Retail Association to start a campaign of its own. The association plans to distribute posters and brochures that explain games' ratings. It will also ask members that sell or rent video games to voluntarily restrict the sale or rental of Mature-rated games to minors.

The more this educational campaign seeks out adults, the better. Adults buy more than 90 percent of all video games. Many best-selling games are rated "M" for mature audiences over 17. Though M-rated games are the video equivalent of an NC-17 movie, stores typically display them with games for preschoolers. Clever marketing in stores and magazines imply these kill-for-fun murder simulations are toys.

Video games aren't inherently evil; guns and alcohol aren't either. But video games are realistic enough for the U.S. military to use them for combat training, and mesmerizing enough to become a teenager's alternate universe.

Littleton aside, responsible businesses have the profound opportunity, through product placement, consumer information and employee education, to demonstrate that an ultraviolent game is not just another toy.

Neira:
We got this put
in Seattle Times
for today.
Gale Ficker

Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA)
Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)
105 14th Avenue, Suite 2A
Seattle, WA 98122

(206) 323-2303

Fax (206) 323-2132

FROM: Pamela Eakes, President

FAX

Number of pages including this cover page: 2

Date: _____

To: Neera

Attention: _____

Fax Phone: _____

Phone: _____

cc: _____

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American Academy of Pediatrics



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 American Academy of Pediatrics
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 601 Thirteenth Street, NW
 Suite 400 North
 Washington, DC 20005
 202/347-8600
 800/336-5475
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May 6, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
 Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics and its 55,000 member pediatricians, I offer our support for your proposed legislation to keep guns out of the hands of children and adolescents. In the wake of the recent tragedy in Littleton, we have all been painfully reminded of the grave consequences of inappropriate access of minors to guns.

Unfortunately, firearm deaths and injuries have become a public health epidemic. As you know, 14 children are killed each day by guns, and another 56 are wounded. More than 1.2 million elementary school children have access to guns in their homes. The American Academy of Pediatrics maintains its support for legislation that reduces gun violence, injury and death by removing handguns from the environments in which children live and play, as well as support for legislation that restricts access to certain assault weapons.

Your legislation includes several key elements that would be a step toward this goal. We are particularly pleased with the provisions of the legislation that directly work to keep handguns out of the hands of youth by increasing the legal age of handgun purchase from 18 to 21 years, banning juvenile possession of semiautomatic rifles, requiring safety locks for guns, holding adults responsible for child access to guns, and restricting sales at gun shows by requiring background checks for all gun purchases.

The Academy believes that reducing access to firearms will protect our nation's communities, families and the most vulnerable population, our children. For these reasons, we wholeheartedly applaud your legislation, and look forward to working towards its passage.

Sincerely,

Joel J. Alpert, MD, FAAP
 President

JJA/kbf



MTV HATE POLL FACTS

Key Findings

Young Americans believe hate crime is a serious, national problem:

91% see hate crimes as a very or somewhat serious problem in this country.

89% think the problem effects all areas of the country.

When asked about a series of issues, 35% of respondents said that hate crime is the most important or second most important issue to them.

59% say recent hate crimes point to a more serious problem.

A majority of respondents (51%) say that hate crime is a very important issue (4 or 5 on a 5 point importance scale).

Young Americans are aware of the hate crime issue:

4 out of 5 respondents had heard the term "hate crime".

59% feel that recent hate crimes are not rare events but rather point to a more serious problem.

33% believe that the problem of hate crime has gotten worse in the past few months.

More than 4 in 5 respondents are aware that hate crimes are illegal.

Young Americans do not think enough is being done to prevent hate crimes:

95% support expanding the law to cover gender, sexual orientation, and disabilities.

7 out of 10 feel that expanding the law will most certainly help stop hate crimes.

There is little awareness of any community-based campaigns or programs which exist – only 8% say that there are neighborhood campaigns or education programs on hate crimes.

Of all student respondents, 62% believe parents, and 38% believe teachers are not discussing the issue of hate crime with kids.

90% felt that it is important for the media to play a significant role.

89% felt that entertainment figures are important to the awareness/education effort.

In terms of impact on the issue, 15% say entertainment figures will have the greatest impact on hate crime prevention (third highest after parents and teachers).

Young Americans admit to their own involvement in discrimination:

Nearly 1/3 of respondents admit to having said something negative about another person for being gay.

Nearly 1/3 admitted to making negative comments themselves about people because of their race.

When any ridiculing or threats against gays and lesbians occurs, 31% of all those surveyed said they didn't care or that what they saw or heard against gays/lesbians was "okay because I wasn't the one who had said or done anything".

16% of students and 33% of non-students admitted to having made negative gender-based comments.

Young Americans disclose the level of discrimination around them:

One out of five say they know people capable of committing a hate crime against someone of a different race.

Between 52% and 60% said they know someone who would turn their backs and walk away if they saw a hate crime occur.

61% have seen or heard someone ridiculing someone else for being gay or for being multiracial/different race behind their back.

45% say someone they know has said something bad/negative about gays/lesbians

11% say they know a gay or lesbian who has been a victim of physical violence against gays/lesbians.

53% say they know people who would turn their back if they saw/heard a hate crime against a gay/lesbian.

Close to half of all surveyed indicate that people they know have made negative comments about people because of their race.

While 23% of students say people they know have made negative gender-based comments, 42% of non-students say the same things.

Overall, 17% say they know a victim of a gender-based hate crime.

Among students, 20% say their school is not tolerant.

Overall, 18% say people they know are not tolerant.

The extent to which young Americans are afraid of hate crimes

The degree to which respondents feel they are not safe from hate crimes varies by race and gender.

Overall, 10% of respondents say they do not feel safe from hate crime violence.

5% of whites say they don't feel safe.

17% of blacks say they don't feel safe.

14% of Hispanics say they don't feel safe.

4% of males say they don't feel safe, and 10% of females say they don't feel safe.

Hate crimes against gays and lesbians

61% have seen or heard someone ridiculing someone else for being gay behind their back.

45% say someone they know has said something bad/negative about gays/lesbians.

29% admit saying something bad/negative about gays/lesbians.

11% say they know a gay or lesbian who has been a victim of a hate crime involving physical violence.

When gauging reaction to any ridiculing or threats against gays and lesbians

11% said "it was okay with me, I didn't do or say it"

31% said "I was offended and wanted to walk away"

2% felt like the person deserved it

20% didn't care

23% said "I wanted to say something but got too nervous"

53% say they know people who would turn their back if they saw/heard a hate crime against gays/lesbians take place.

Hate crimes against multiracial/different race people

45% indicated that people they know have made negative comments about people because of their race.

27% admitted to making negative comments about multiracial/people of a different race.

61% said they have seen or heard someone ridiculing multiracial/different race people behind their back.

When gauging reaction to any ridiculing or threats against multiracial/different race people:

11% said "it was okay with me, I didn't do or say it"

37% said "I was offended and wanted to walk away"

1% felt like the person deserved it

10% didn't care

27% said "I wanted to say something but got too nervous"

21% know victims of hate crimes because of their race.

20% say they know someone capable of committing a hate crime against someone of a different race.

Hate crimes against people with disabilities

32% say that people they know have made negative comments about people with disabilities.

23% admit to having made negative comments about people with disabilities themselves.

64% said they have seen or heard someone making a negative comment about someone with a disability behind their back.

When gauging reaction to any ridiculing or threats against people with disabilities:

5% said "it was okay with me, I didn't do or say it"

42% said "I was offended and wanted to walk away"

3% felt like the person deserved it

8% didn't care

29% said "I wanted to say something but got too nervous"

47% say that they know people who would turn their backs on a hate crime against someone with a disability.

17% say they know of a hate crime because of a disability

Gender based hate crimes

The data suggests that awareness and behavior related to gender-based hate crimes is different for non-students compared with students.

23% of students say people they know have made negative gender-based comments, 42% of non-students say the same thing.

16% of students say they personally have made negative gender-based comments whereas 33% of non-students say they have.

22% of students say they have been worried that ridiculing could turn into something worse, 61% of students say the same thing.

When gauging reaction to any ridiculing or threats against people because of their gender:

7% said "it was okay with me, I didn't do or say it"

37% said "I was offended and wanted to walk away"

2% felt like the person deserved it

17% didn't care

22% said "I wanted to say something but got too nervous"

17% say they know a victim of a gender-based hate crime.

This poll is conducted by Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates, Inc. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.6 % for all groups.

April 16, 1999

Neera Tanden
Associate Director for Domestic Policy
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Tanden:

MTV recently received an important wake up call from our audience that I want to share with you.

According to a survey we completed last month, an overwhelming majority (91%) of young people feel that hate crimes are a national crisis and that not enough is being done to prevent them in the United States.*

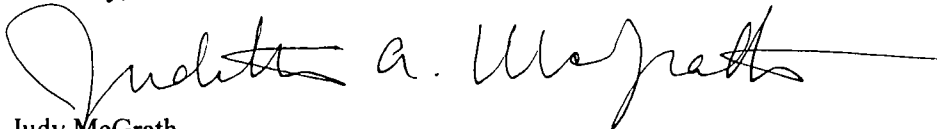
Our poll's key findings also included the following:

- 95% of young people support expanding federal hate crimes legislation to include sexual orientation, gender and disabilities.
- 7 out of 10 feel that expanding the law will help stop hate crimes.

The survey was conducted as part of MTV's 1999 pro-social campaign entitled "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence." We think it is particularly important since the US Congress is now considering expanded hate crimes legislation to cover gender, sexual orientation and disabilities.

Enclosed is more information on the poll. I hope you find the information useful and relevant to the work of your organization. If you would like further information on MTV's *Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence* campaign, please contact Stephen Friedman, MTV's Vice President for Public Affairs, at (212) 258-8539 or check out our website: FightForYourRights.mtv.com

Sincerely,


Judy McGrath
President

* 750 young people ages 12-24 were surveyed. Margin of error: +/- 3.5%.


fight for your rights:
take a stand against violence





**MTV'S POLL SUPPORTS PRESIDENT CLINTON'S CALL FOR CONGRESS TO PASS HATE
CRIME LEGISLATION AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY ON
PREVENTING HATE CRIMES**

**MTV's Poll Finds Young People See Hate Crimes As National Crisis;
Want Government, Educators, Media To Take Action**

95% Support Expanded Federal Legislation

New York, NY, April 6, 1999 – A poll released today by MTV: Music Television, as part of its "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence" campaign, shows that the overwhelming majority (91%) of young people feel that hate crimes are a national crisis and that not enough is being done to prevent them in the United States. In addition, 95% of young people support expanding federal hate crime legislation to include sexual orientation, gender and disabilities. Moreover, the poll found that the majority of young people would either be afraid or unwilling to react if confronted with a hate crime and that 17% of 12 to 24 year-olds polled know someone who has been a victim of a hate crime. The poll results support President Clinton's call for Congress to pass expanded hate crime legislation.

Said Judy McGrath, President of MTV, "Young people are both the primary victims and the main perpetrators of hate crimes. This poll is a wake up call; they're saying, 'this is a serious issue and we want the government, the media, and educators to do something about it.'"

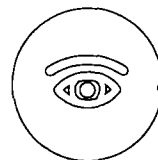
The poll found that 91% see hate crimes as a serious problem in this country, and 89% see them as a national problem – not limited to just cities. The poll also found that young Americans do not think enough is being done to prevent hate crimes; 95% support expanding the law to cover gender, sexual orientation, and disabilities, and 7 out of 10 feel that expanding the law will help prevent hate crimes.

An overwhelming number of young people did not know about the existence of any community-based campaigns or programs, and 62% don't believe parents and 38% don't believe teachers are discussing the issue of hate crimes with them. Nine out of ten think it is important for the media to play a significant role, and 90% feel that entertainment figures can and should be an important part of an awareness/education effort.

The poll also found that nearly a third of respondents admitted to saying something negative or making a joke about another person for being gay, of a different race, for their gender or for being disabled, and between a half and two-thirds admitted to having seen or heard someone else ridicule them.

Said McGrath, "This problem is rooted in the fact that there is a lack of education and access to information on this topic. This poll tells us that far more needs to be done to teach tolerance, understanding and respect for others and a primary focus for any anti-hate crime campaign should be the young people of this country."

--more--



MTV commissioned the poll in order to clearly understand the extent to which young people know about hate crimes and what they think should be done about them. The survey was fielded by Penn, Schoen & Berland in March 1999. It included 750 respondents, between the ages of 12 and 24, evenly divided between females and males. Sixty percent of those surveyed were students, 40% non-students. The sample was geographically-representative.

Key research findings by Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates, Inc. are as follows:

Young Americans believe hate crime is a serious, national problem

91% see hate crimes as a very or somewhat serious problem in this country.

89% think the problem effects all areas of the country.

When asked about a series of issues, 35% of respondents said that hate crime is the most important or second most important issue to them.

59% say recent hate crimes point to a more serious problem.

Young Americans are aware of the hate crime issue:

4 out of 5 respondents had heard the term "hate crime".

59% feel that recent hate crimes are not rare events but rather point to a more serious problem.

33% believe that the problem of hate crime has gotten worse in the past few months.

Young Americans do not think enough is being done to prevent hate crimes.

95% support expanding the law to cover gender, sexual orientation, and disabilities.

7 out of 10 feel that expanding the law will most certainly help stop hate crimes.

There is little awareness of any community-based campaigns or programs which exist.

62% of parents and 38% of teachers are not discussing the issue of hate crimes.

9 out of 10 felt that it is important for the media to play a significant role.

9 out of 10 felt that entertainment figures are important to the awareness/education effort.

Young Americans admit to their own involvement in discrimination:

Nearly 1/3 of respondents admit to having said something negative about another person for being gay.

Nearly 1/3 admitted to making negative comments themselves about people because of their race.

When any ridiculing or threats against gays and lesbians occurs, 31% of all those surveyed said they didn't care or that what they saw or heard against gays/lesbians was "okay because I wasn't the one who had said or done anything".

16% of students admitted to having made negative gender-based comments whereas 33% of non-students say they have

Young Americans disclose the level of discrimination around them:

One out of five say they know people capable of committing a hate crime against someone of a different race.

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45% say someone they know has said something bad/negative about gays/lesbians

11% say they know a gay or lesbian who has been a victim of physical violence against gays/lesbians.

53% say they know people who would turn their back if they saw/heard a hate crime against a gay/lesbian.

Close to half of all surveyed indicate that people they know have made negative comments about people because of their race.

While 23% of students say people they know have made negative gender-based comments, 42% of non-students say the same things.

Overall, 17% say they know a victim of a gender-based hate crime.

--more--

MTV's "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence" is a year-long campaign aimed at raising awareness and providing actionable solutions to youth violence. "Fight For Your Rights: Take A-Stand Against Violence" involves special programming, Public Service Announcements, grass roots events, and MTV News special reports all designed to give MTV's audience a voice in the national debate on violence and to provide them with tangible tactics to take a stand against violence.

* This poll is conducted by Penn, Schoen & Berland. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.6 % for all groups.

MTV Networks, a unit of Viacom Inc., owns and operates five cable television programming services -- MTV: Music Television, M2: Music Television, VH1, Nickelodeon/Nick at Nite, and TV Land -- all of which are trademarks of MTV Networks. Information about MTV and M2 is available on MTV Online, on America Online (Keyword: MTV) and the World Wide Web (<http://mtv.com>). s/press/hatefinal1

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