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Let me know if
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NYU News



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For Immediate Release:

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TV and Press Coverage Invited
EVENT NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC

**NYU SCHOOL OF LAW'S ANNUAL SURVEY OF AMERICAN LAW DEDICATES
1995 VOLUME TO HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON AT SPECIAL AWARD CEREMONY**

The Annual Survey of American Law, a student-edited honorary journal at New York University School of Law, will dedicate its 1995 Volume to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in a Dedication ceremony to be held at New York University School of Law. Mrs. Clinton will attend the ceremony and offer a Dedication speech.

The Dedication ceremony, which is by invitation only, will be held on Tuesday, April 25 from 6 - 7:30 PM, at NYU School of Law, Vanderbilt Hall, 40 Washington Square South (Press Entrance on MacDougal Street between West 3rd and 4th Streets).

Photo Op will take place directly following Mrs Clinton's remarks, which will occur at the end of the program. Space is limited. Press should check in between 4 PM and 5 PM. No one will be admitted after 5 PM. Validated press credentials required. All equipment will be examined by security. To RSVP, please call Virgil Renzulli, (212) 998-6848 or Joan M. Dim, 998-6849

Opening remarks at the Dedication ceremony will be presented by NYU President Dr. L. Jay Oliva. Other speakers include Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel, Boston Globe columnist Loretta McLaughlin, former NYU President and Chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities Dr. John Brademas, and President of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Dr. Ernest L. Boyer.

Page 2 - Hillary Clinton

According to Annual Survey Managing Editor Lauren Aguiar, the journal chose Mrs. Clinton because of "her many contributions to the legal world, her advocacy for children's issues and in the political and social arenas." Annual Survey Editor-in-Chief Helen Han added that, "it is our way of acknowledging her as a great role model in the legal community."

Mrs. Clinton is the 55th person to be honored by the journal. Past honorees include Supreme Court Justices John Paul Stevens, Harry Blackmun and Thurgood Marshall as well as Arthur Vanderbilt, and Judges Henry Friendly and Judith Kaye.

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Message

Karen—

Please let me know ASAP if you
have any changes.

Thank you,
Joan Dim
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4-5pm
register
than
6pm 5pm

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Y:pr.hc/4/20/95

DRAFT

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

Biographical Data

Birth, Residence and Family

Born October 26, 1947 in Chicago Illinois
Husband: President William Jefferson Clinton
Daughter: Chelsea Clinton.

Education

Wellesley College,
Bachelor of Arts Degree 1969

Yale Law School
J.D. 1973

Law Practice

Admitted to bar, 1973, Arkansas; Counsel,
Impeachment Inquiry Staff, House Committee on the
Judiciary 1974, Attorney, Rose Law Firm, Little
Rock, Arkansas, 1977-1992

Law Teaching

Assistant Professor of Law, University of Arkansas
School of Law at Fayetteville, 1974-1976; Assistant
Professor of Law, University of Arkansas School of Law
at Little Rock, 1979-1980

Publications

Children's Policies: Abandonment and Neglect," Yale
Law Journal, June, 1977; "Children's Rights," Teachers
College Press, New York, 1979.

Memberships

Legal Services Corporation, board of directors and
chair, 1978-1981; Children's Defense Fund, chair,
1986-1992; Commission on Women in the Profession, 1987-
1992; American Law Institute; Arkansas Bar
Association, Pulaski County Bar Association, American
Bar Association.

Honorary Degrees

(Need information about which ones we want to include)

Awards

(Need information about which ones we want to include)

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QU:LMCLAU-USR HJ: MSG:

New York University School of Law
110 West Third street, NYC
Re/ The Annual Survey of American Law
Dedication to Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
Attn: Lauren Aguiar

As we meet to honor our distinguished and endearing first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, do not expect faint praise from me.

I belong to that vast company of Americans, women and men, who are openly admiring of this woman who has such an enormous and difficult job, balancing countless demands on her time and talent along with myriad points of view -- and yet who handles it all with uncommon grace and seeming ease.

People who work on the line in my business -- on newspapers, radio and TV -- are especially drawn to her.

She's our kind of person, our kind of woman.

An activist. Approachable. Quick-witted, quick study. Absorbing. Serious. Informed. Expressive.

We genuinely like her.

We honestly respect her.

And I, from the vantage point of long experience, worry for her. I don't want her hurt needlessly, don't want her feelings trampled by shallow detractors.

She simply thrills American women.

She appeals to all women who work for wages, women on payrolls, salaried women. Women who earn money in the workplace. And she inspires young professional women who are combining jobs and husbands and children and Parent Teacher Association meetings and dentist and doctor visits and car pools and community activities and the whole nine yards of today's lifestyles for families trying to cope with everything at once.

All these women see a small piece of themselves in her.

They see a small part of her life in theirs.

They see her obviously trying hard to do a good job, as they are. They see her performing so well, doing them proud -- doing all women proud who are trying to keep a house, hold a job and contribute meaningfully to society.

They love her because she, like them, went out to compete in the real marketplace and tested her mettle in the way that American business demands. She earned money; her work was valued enough to be compensated; she bolstered the family income.

My daughter-in-law urged me, just before I left to come here, to "please tell her how much we would like to be like her. She's so articulate. So focused. So prepared. So effective."

It is no small accomplishment to have a new generation -- in your own time -- want to become like you. It is the highest of

(MORE)

compliments.

In Mrs. Clinton's case, it is well-deserved.

She is new generation.

She is tomorrow.

More than highly intelligent and finely educated, she is capable and competent and absorbing.

And she keeps getting stronger as she moves fully into this new role. Two years into the presidency, she has set a standard of excellence on a par with Eleanor Roosevelt for health and social services and civil rights, with Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis for arts and the humanities, and with Bess Truman for honesty and personal loyalty.

The nation remains intrigued by Mrs. Clinton.

The Washington Post calls her "the first lady of paradox....both old-fashioned and post-modern....a contradiction of perceptions." That is her gift; she is sensible and sensitive at the same time.

However, we should be mindful that she occupies the White House at a time of extreme transition.

The paradox of being both old-fashioned and post-modern applies to our society as well. Despite the rock-em, sock-em, depictions of American life that glut our TV screens, as a people we remain quite traditional.

With the dawning of a new age, a new century, a new millenium, we are even more demanding of our leaders on both fronts. We want them to respect and retain the formalities and rituals of office and we want them to master and reflect each new technology, technique and trend that comes along.

We have empathy for every First Lady -- each woman, wife, mother who has to live in full public view in the nation's most scrutinized residence.

But history must concede it has fallen to Mrs. Clinton to break new ground. She is a pioneer first lady, the first to be a credentialed and active lawyer, qualified as a member of the American bar, a professional person fully in her own right.

She and the President serve at a time when the nation has profound problems that cry out for expert attention.

Instead of allowing the presidency with its vast network of advisors to provide a setting for quiet, thoughtful and comprehensive analysis, the office is constantly being distracted by those who flood the halls of government with foolish partisan themes and empty political ploys.

Such tactics make it difficult for all of us to concentrate on what we need to do as citizens. And they threaten to blunt the enthusiasm and energy, the resiliency that Hillary and Bill Clinton have brought to the White House.

It is shameful that Mrs. Clinton who has sincerely tried to be helpful is made the butt of cheap jokes by rightwing

(MORE)

extremists preaching provincialism and zealotry.

What the Clintons would have us do is to seek greatness again.

Others will speak of Mrs. Clinton's work in behalf of children and education and in pursuit of better opportunities to lead productive and useful lives for all Americans.

It is for me to speak of Mrs. Clinton in connection with health care reform — my favorite issue and one near and dear to her.

That is the ground upon which she and I first met in Boston and continue to meet. It is the legislative turf that she made most her own during the first half of the Clinton presidency.

Since the Congressional election last November, it is considered journalistically chic in many quarters to criticize Mrs. Clinton for what some in the press like to label her failure to enact health care reform.

But Mrs. Clinton didn't fail at this. She did her job. She researched the problem, pinned down the facts, and outlined a solution. Her recommendations were consistent with the president's oft-expressed view that health care coverage should be universal, comprehensive, job-linked, and cost-controlled. He proposed a national health care plan based on a managed competition model. But he and she made it clear from the beginning that the plan was open for negotiation.

The failure to come to grips with any part of health care reform — not even to grasp the urgent need for it — lies with a very confused and lethargic 103rd U.S. Congress.

The immobility of its members was abetted by the multi-million dollar lobbying effort staged by health insurers and others on the business end of the health care industry.

To maintain the status quo on health care, a trillion-~~(eq-~~
~~trillion)~~ dollar a year industry in the US, the lobbyists generously fed campaign kitties around the country for Congressional candidates standing for re-election.

Mrs. Clinton was clear about what was needed. She made stellar appearances on the hill, testifying before House and Senate committees more extensively than any previous first lady.

We can all agree there is room for differences of opinion on the Clinton-proposed solution as to how best to achieve an equitable and affordable system of universal health care.

But we should bear in mind that the facts speak for themselves when we examine the existing patchwork of health care delivery in this country and the vagaries of its funding.

Mrs. Clinton learned all there is to know about our unevenly delivered and inadequately funded health care non-system. And

(MORE)

she now knows, as do experts in the field, that it cannot be fixed piecemeal — despite the partisan rhetoric to the contrary.

What a happy surprise it was to see the front-page headline in the New York Times on a recent Sunday saying that "now it's Republicans who see a health care crisis looming" and they now want to persuade the public that the crisis is real. Too bad they couldn't see it last year when Mrs. Clinton needed them.

It comes as no surprise however that when Mrs. Clinton looked at the situation she saw as the most serious problem within the health care dilemma the number (now 41 million) of Americans with no coverage.

But even at this late date, the Republican majority is obsessed with proposals to trim the Medicare budget. Medicare is the program that pays for medical care for 37 million Americans over 65 years of age or disabled.

It figures, doesn't it, that the new Newt-onian-style Republican reformers would want to meddle with a group of Americans who already have the most solid coverage.

But, as Willy Sutton well knew, that's where the money is. Medicare currently spends about \$170 billion a year.

While we could agree on the need to conserve Medicare dollars and discuss the pluses and minuses of moving the elderly into managed care plans, the real point is that doing so would also pour billions of Medicare dollars — that now directly buy health care — into the coffers of private health insurance companies.

This is not what Mrs. Clinton and the president had in mind when they set out to make all Americans medically secure. And I am convinced he and she will yet see that goal achieved. Health care reform remains a top tier concern of the American public.

Congress's failure to enact health care reform does not mean that the problem has gone away. To the contrary. The most recent analyses indicate that since 1993, every facet of health care coverage continues to worsen. More Americans than ever before are uncovered; and those with coverage are getting less for their money and must spend more out-of-pocket for medical care.

Meanwhile, let us see the first lady in her own light.

Let us put away the old view of first ladies. You know, the ones where she figuratively and actually stands slightly behind and slightly below the president.

In the wonderful new world of this accomplished couple, let us have the first lady and the president stand on level ground as all enlightened men and women should.

Not in confrontation, but side by side, looking out together from the same perspective but with individual insight.

In the long run, defining anew the role of first lady, carefully and distinctively, may prove to be her most arduous but most outstanding accomplishment.

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I salute you, Mrs. Clinton.

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