



3/14/96

Maggie -

This is the "polished"
Version I received FED-EX
Today!

Thanks
Diane

*Evan —
file for
film —*

*A Child's
Wish*

A Child's Wish

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Polish
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ACT ONE

A PAIR OF LONG SLENDER LEGS in running shoes stretch and flex, stretch and flex. CREDITS BEGIN.

EXT. FRONT STEPS OF CHANDLER HOUSE - EARLY MORNING. (SIX A.M.)

Fourteen year old MISSY CHANDLER, does warm-up exercises against her front steps. Straightening up, she winces. Something's a little stiff. She rubs her knee, then sets off on a slow run.

EXT. STREETS OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON - EARLY MORNING.

Missy runs with ease and grace down the quiet morning streets, her long blond hair flying behind her.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - EARLY MORNING.

Missy does jumping jacks with the rest of the Olympia High School girls soccer team, lead by their coach.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - A LITTLE LATER.

A practice game is in progress. Missy races across the field and kicks the ball to her best friend, KRISTEN, who then makes a goal. The COACH blows her whistle. Score. Missy and Kristen slap a high five.

INT. CHANDLER KITCHEN - MORNING.

Showered and dressed for school, Missy sits at the table eating breakfast with her mother ROSIE, and her father GEORGE, both in their mid forties. CREDITS END.

MISSY

...It's going to be so cool. First, we travel all over the state playing different teams, and then if we're in the top ten, we go to Tacoma for the finals. And there's no way we're not going, because we're really good!

GEORGE

What's the cost of something like this?

MISSY

(casually)
A thousand dollars.

ROSIE

How much?

MISSY

I know it sounds like a lot, but it's for three whole weeks. And that includes room and board and transportation, and it's a really big honor because the coach isn't taking everyone, just the best players.

ROSIE

Honey, you know how proud we are of your playing, but a thousand dollars? I'm sorry, it's out of the question.

MISSY

Oh, Mama, please? Don't say no so fast. Think about it first. I swear I'll never ask for anything else as long as I live.

ROSIE

You can ask all you want. But the fact remains that we still can't afford it.

She gets up and starts to clear the table. Missy gives George a mournful look which he can't resist.

GEORGE

Your Mama's right, you know.

ROSIE

Of course I'm right.

(to Missy)

I have a faculty meeting this afternoon, so I'll be late coming home. I'd like you to start dinner.

MISSY

Okay.

ROSIE

Thanks, sweetheart. You better get going, it's after eight.

Disappointed, Missy gets up and puts on her jacket.

GEORGE

But....what if we started putting money away now? The tour's not until July, that gives us seven months.

MISSY
Oh, Daddy! Yes, yes!

ROSIE
George...

GEORGE
A hundred fifty a month. We can
swing that.

Missy throws her arms around him and kisses him.

MISSY
Daddy, I love you so much! Mama, I
love you, too. Thank you, I'm so
happy!

She kisses Rosie, grabs her books and runs out. Rosie looks at
George in exasperation. He grins sheepishly.

GEORGE
What's the point of making money if
you can't spend it on something
crazy once in a while?

INT. VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY.

A BELL RINGS. The halls are jammed with chattering students
making their way to class. Missy stands at her locker with
Kristen.

KRISTEN
He definitely likes you.

MISSY
No way.

KRISTEN
Missy, he stares at you all the time.

MISSY
Todd Stein? I don't think so.

She slams her locker and they walk down the hall.

KRISTEN
(anxiously)
What's the Second Amendment, again?

MISSY
The right to bear arms.

KRISTEN
And the Seventh?

MISSY
The right to a speedy trial.

KRISTEN
(teasingly)
Maybe Todd needs some help in
history, too.

MISSY
(good-naturedly)
Will you shut up? Why would he like
me? We've hardly ever spoken.

KRISTEN
Have you looked in the mirror
lately?

MISSY
Kristen, you're hallucinating.
Anyway, boys that cute are always
stuck-up and dumb as doornails.
Good luck on your test.

Missy enters the school library.

INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY.

The room is hushed and peaceful. Missy wheels a book cart down the aisle, shelving books. In the background, a librarian works at the front desk and students sit at tables quietly working.

ANGLE ON TODD STEIN - handsome, sixteen, and very cool, sitting at a table, watching Missy read the numbers on the bindings and put away the books. He gets up and approaches her.

TODD
Hello, Missy.

MISSY
(surprised and suddenly shy)
Oh. Hi, Todd.

TODD
I was wondering if you could help
me with something. I'm doing a
report on the French and Indian War
and I need more research. Any
suggestions?

MISSY

Well, you could try American History which is 973. Native American History, which is 970, and you might want to look in French History, which is 944.

TODD

That's very impressive. Do you know where every book is in this whole library?

MISSY

Not yet. But I'm working on it.

He smiles. She goes back to putting the books away.

MISSY

You probably don't like that, right?

TODD

Now why would you say that?

MISSY

Oh, just a feeling I have.

TODD

For your information, I happen to admire smart women. My mother's a lawyer and my sister's in medical school.

MISSY

(challengingly)

And what are you going to be?

TODD

An environmental geologist.

MISSY

Really?

A STUDENT looks up in annoyance.

STUDENT

Shh!

MISSY

(reluctantly)

I better get back to work.

They look at each other for a moment, then she pushes her cart away.

EXT. JAYVEE MOTORS CAR LOT - EVENING.

George is showing a Plymouth Voyager to JOHN, a customer.

GEORGE

It's got a six cylinder, transverse mounted engine with cross diagonal anti-lock brakes; dual airbags, dual power driver seats, and listen to this.

(bangs on the side)

Hear that, John?

JOHN

What?

GEORGE

Those are transverse beams inside the door. God forbid, you're ever in an accident, you're protected from a side impact. You do any hunting?

JOHN

Once in a while.

George opens the trunk.

GEORGE

Well, you've got space in here for a whole buck and then some. You want to know how big this trunk is, John? Let me show you.

George climbs into the trunk and stretches out in a pose.

GEORGE

Vanna White, move over.

INT. JAYVEE MOTORS - MANAGER'S OFFICE - LATER.

ROB, the owner, sits with HANK, another salesman, when George enters and tosses a purchase order onto the desk.

ROB

Another one?

GEORGE

I'm packing 'em, stacking 'em, racking 'em.

HANK

Jeez! How many does that make?

GEORGE

Ten. I'm going for twenty and I'm taking no prisoners.

HANK

You're grabbing every Up that comes through the door, George. Give someone else a break.

GEORGE

Eat your kidneys out, Hankie-boy.

He helps himself to a cup of coffee.

ROB

Looks like my man George is number one again.

GEORGE

Don't you just love the sound of that? "Number One."

HANK

What do you expect? The guy never goes home. He's a workaholic. Get a life, will ya, George?

GEORGE

(grins)

Just keep those bonuses coming, Robbie. See you later, Hank.

INT. CHANDLER HOUSE - NIGHT.

IN THE LIVING ROOM, Missy watches a Tai Chi program on television and copies all the moves, moving her arms and legs in slow motion. IN THE ADJACENT DINING room, Rosie packs tins of Christmas cookies with her older daughter, MELINDA, who's twenty-one.

MELINDA

...I can't believe it's been two years. It seems like we only got married yesterday.

ROSIE

I have to admit I'm pleasantly surprised. I thought you and Ed were much too young, but the two of seem very happy.

MELINDA

(smiles)

We are.

MISSY

(calls out)

Have a kid already! I want to be an aunt.

MELINDA

(looks over at her)

What are you doing?

MISSY

I'm teaching myself T'ai Chi. It's a Chinese martial art. Watch this.

She strikes a pose, then sharply kicks out her leg, then clutches her knee in pain.

MISSY

OUCH! Ow, ow!

ROSIE

What happened? What's the matter?

MISSY

My knee! Ouch! It's been bothering me lately.

She hops over to the couch and sits down as Rosie comes over to her, followed by Melinda.

ROSIE

Where? Let me see.
(presses the kneecap)

MISSY

Ow! Mom, that hurts.

ROSIE

I don't feel anything. It's not even swollen.

MISSY

I probably bumped it in soccer or something. I need a little ice, that's all.

MELINDA

You need to stay off it for a while.

MISSY

I can't do that. I have too much too do.

ROSIE

Well, just put your leg up for now and give it a rest. Melinda, you want to get that ice?

As Melinda walks to the kitchen, Missy calls after her.

MISSY

Hey, Mel. While you're at it, get some ice cream, too.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER FIELD - DAY. (A FEW WEEKS LATER)

Missy and Kristen, in their gym clothes, walk across the field towards a soccer game which is already in progress.

KRISTEN

You want to go to the mall after school?

MISSY

Too much homework.

KRISTEN

You don't have to get an A in every single class, you know.

MISSY

Yes I do, if I want to get into Yale.

KRISTEN

Yale?

MISSY

Yale or Harvard with my junior year abroad. Wellesley's also a possibility. What do you think of going to an all girls school?

KRISTEN

I'd rather shoot myself.

A soccer ball comes hurtling towards them. Missy kicks the ball and runs ahead to join the game. As she kicks the ball again, another girl collides into her, knocking her down. Missy immediately clutches her knee, MOANING IN PAIN.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY.

Rosie gets out of her car, slams the door shut and hurries into the building.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER.

Rosie enters to find Missy sitting on a bench, cradling her knee.

ROSIE
Hi, honey. How does it feel?

MISSY
Better. But now there's a little bump.

ROSIE
Where?

Missy shows her. Rosie probes the knee and feels the bump.

ROSIE
Come on. We're going to a doctor.

MISSY
Can't we wait until after school?

ROSIE
No.

MISSY
Mama, I've got an English test next period.

ROSIE
I'll write you a note. Let's go.

INT. DOCTOR'S EXAMINING ROOM - DAY.

DR. ANNABELLE CROSS examines Missy's leg as she sits on the table. Rosie stands nearby, watching.

DR. ANNABELLE CROSS
How long has this been bothering you, Missy?

MISSY
On and off about six months.

ROSIE
Six months? Why didn't you tell me?

MISSY

Because you're such a worry wart
about every little thing.

DR. CROSS

It's probably just tendinitis or a
bone spur, but why don't we get an
x-ray to be sure?

INT. JAYVEE MOTORS OFFICE - LATER.

George talks on the phone to Rosie.

GEORGE

Honey, when you play sports, you're
bound to get hurt. I had sprains
and broken bones all through high
school.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER.

Missy sits on a chair doing homework on her lap. Rosie stands at
the doctor's desk, talking on the phone.

ROSIE

I just don't like the idea that
it's been bothering her for so
long. I can't believe she didn't
tell me.

INT. JAYVEE MOTORS.

Hank calls out.

HANK

Hey, George! You're "be back" is here.

GEORGE

Rosie, I'm sure it's nothing. Gotta
go. I'll see you tonight.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE.

Dr. Cross enters as Rosie hangs up. Rosie takes a seat next to
Missy as the doctor sits behind her desk. Missy and Rosie look at
her expectantly.

DR. CROSS

Well, the x-ray didn't show any
fracture or dislocation, but that
doesn't rule out a torn ligament,
or some other sports injury.

ROSIE

I'd like to get to the bottom of this. How do we find out?

DR. CROSS

I think Missy should be seen by an orthopedist. There's a Dr. David Silverman at Children's Hospital in Seattle.

MISSY

We have to go all the way to Seattle?

ROSIE

It's not a plane trip. It's two hours in a car.

MISSY

Two hours is long.

ROSIE

Do you have any children, Dr. Cross?

DR. CROSS

Four.

ROSIE

Delightful, aren't they?

EXT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY.

George, Rosie and Missy come up the walk.

GEORGE

If you ask me, this is a big waste of time.

MISSY

That makes two of us.

GEORGE

What's the matter with all the doctors in Olympia?

MISSY

Exactly what I said.

ROSIE

(exasperated)

He's a pediatric specialist. And stop complaining. I've never seen two bigger babies in my life.

George winks at Missy and she laughs. They enter the hospital.

INT. EXAMINING ROOM - LATER.

Missy sits on the table in a hospital gown, reading a book while George and Rosie sit on chairs. DR. DAVID SILVERMAN, in his late thirties, wearing wire rim glasses, enters the room.

SILVERMAN

Good morning, I'm Dr. Silverman.
I'm sorry to have kept you waiting.
Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, I've spoken
to Dr Cross and she filled me in,
and I've reviewed Missy's x-rays,
so why don't we have a look? Missy,
you want to lie back on the table
and show me the damage?

Missy lies flat on the examining table. Silverman chats with her as he examines her knee - flexing it, pressing, rotating it, etc.

SILVERMAN

What book are you reading?

MISSY

It's a biography of Abigail Adams.

SILVERMAN

No kidding. Is it interesting?

MISSY

Yes. I love history. Ouch! That
really hurts.

SILVERMAN

Sorry. How does she compare to
Martha Washington?

MISSY

No contest. Martha was a real bore.

He finishes examining her.

SILVERMAN

Missy, would you mind waiting outside?
I'd like to talk to your parents
for a few minutes.

MISSY

No, really, I'd like to stay. I
want to know what's happening.

MISSY

Daddy, please?

Silverman looks at George and Rosie.

GEORGE

She's right. She's not a baby
anymore. Go ahead, doc.

SILVERMAN

I'm a little concerned about the
swelling and the fact that she's
had discomfort for so long. So just
to be on the safe side, I'd like to
do a biopsy.

GEORGE

(surprised)

A biopsy?

ROSIE

(worried)

What do you think it is?

SILVERMAN

It could be any number of things. A
cyst, a growth in the fatty tissue,
a benign tumor. We won't know until
we take a look.

MISSY

I don't believe this! All I did was
hit my knee and get a little
bruise! What's a biopsy like? Does
it hurt?

SILVERMAN

You won't feel a thing while we're
doing it, because you'll be asleep.
It might be a little sore
afterwards, but not much. It's
nothing to worry about, Missy. We
do them every day.

Missy sighs nervously. George puts his arm around her.

GEORGE

Honey, it's just a precaution.
When do you want to do this?

SILVERMAN

I have an opening in the morning.

SILVERMAN (Continued)
We'll do some preliminary blood
work today, and then I'll need her
here tomorrow at six a.m.

MISSY
Tomorrow? That's two days before
Christmas.

ROSIE
Are you sure this is really
necessary, Dr. Silverman?

SILVERMAN
Yes, I think it is.

None of the Chandlers look happy.

EXT. JAYVEE MOTORS - EVENING.

George drives up and parks and gets out of his car.

INT. ROB'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER.

Rob is doing paperwork behind his desk when George enters.

ROB
George. How's Missy?

GEORGE
I'm going to need another day off.
The doctor wants to do a
biopsy on her knee tomorrow.

ROB
That sounds serious.

GEORGE
I don't think so, but he just wants
to make sure. I'll make up the
time, don't worry.

ROB
Hey, don't even think about that.
You take as much time as you need.

GEORGE
Thanks, Rob. I appreciate it.

ROB
No problem. Let me know how things
work out.

INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NEXT DAY.

Rosie and George stand at a coffee machine, getting coffee.

GEORGE

I know in my gut it's nothing serious.

ROSIE

What makes you so sure?

GEORGE

Come on, Rosie. She's a healthy kid. All you have to do is look at her. She's eats right, she exercises. When was the last time she even had a cold? It's a little cyst, that's all.

He hands her a paper cup full of coffee and they start down the corridor.

ROSIE

You're probably right.

GEORGE

I'm definitely right.

ROSIE

(smiles)

Remember when I got pregnant with her? Melinda was nine and I thought it was impossible after all those years. We were so excited.

GEORGE

Yeah, I remember.

ROSIE

And the day she was born? A little blond angel with old woman's eyes. I used to hold in her my arms and wonder, what are you thinking?

GEORGE

I still do.

Dr. Silverman comes through a set of double doors and walks toward them. Rosie nervously grabs George's arm.

ROSIE

There's the doctor.

SILVERMAN
Mr. and Mrs. Chandler. The
preliminary results indicate that
the lump on her knee is benign.

ROSIE
Oh, thank God!

GEORGE
See? What did I tell you?

SILVERMAN
We're not out of the woods, yet. We
took a tissue sample of her upper
thigh and we won't have the final
pathology until next week.

ROSIE
How is she? When can we see her?

SILVERMAN
She's in the recovery room. I'd
like to see Missy after the
holidays. Until then, I want her
off her leg and using crutches.

GEORGE
Fine, doc. Whatever you say.

SILVERMAN
You understand there still may be
more tests.

ROSIE
We understand. Bless you, Dr.
Silverman. You just gave us a very
merry Christmas.

He smiles but doesn't answer.

INT. CHANDLER HOME - CHRISTMAS DAY.

The Chandler family sits around the tree opening presents.
Melinda, Scott and her husband, ED are there. Missy rests on the
couch with her leg propped up.

GEORGE
Okay. Now, it's time for Missy.

He hands her a big flat package. Missy rips off the wrapping to
discover an electronic keyboard.

MISSY

A keyboard! Oh, my God, this is great! I love it!

ROSIE

We didn't know what to get you, and you love music, so...

MISSY

This is perfect! I'm going to compose my own songs, write my own lyrics...

ED

I didn't know you knew how to play.

MISSY

I don't.

Everyone howls with laughter. Missy protests.

MISSY

I'm going to learn, you'll see. You can laugh now, but you're in for a big surprise.

ED

Oh, yeah? Okay. Surprise me with a lullaby.

MISSY

A lullaby? For what?

ED

For your new niece or nephew.

Everyone is stunned for a moment, then they all exclaim with happiness and surprise. "What! Melinda! Oh, this is great! Congratulations!" Missy hugs Melinda joyfully.

MISSY

I can't believe you didn't tell me. How long have you known?

MELINDA

A couple of weeks.

MISSY

Two whole weeks!

MELINDA

Well, we wanted to make sure everything was okay with your knee.

MISSY

My knee is fine. Can I read to your stomach?

MELINDA

What?

MISSY

They say if you read to a baby in the womb, he turns out really smart. Can I?

MELINDA

Sure, sweetie. You can read, sing and recite poetry. Anything you want.

INT. OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL CORRIDORS - DAY.

Missy is walking though the halls on her crutches. She passes Todd who turns around and comes after her.

TODD

Missy! What happened to you?

MISSY

Oh, I had a little lump taken out of my knee. No big deal.

TODD

You're kidding. I'm sorry to hear that. Does it hurt?

MISSY

Yeah, but it's supposed to feel better one of these days.

TODD

Good, because I wouldn't want it to interfere with something I have to ask you.

MISSY

What? Another book problem?

TODD

(grins)

Not exactly. I'd like to invite you to go to the Winter Dance with me.

She stares at him in shock.

TODD (Continued)

It's not until next month, so
hopefully your leg will be okay by
then. If you want to go.

MISSY
Uh...sure. I'd love to.

TODD
Great. See you later.

He hurries off to class. Missy hobbles over to her locker and to
Kristen who is waiting for her.

MISSY
Todd Stein just asked me to the
Winter Dance.

KRISTEN
No!

MISSY
Yes!

KRISTEN
I told you. Didn't I tell you? What
did you say?

MISSY
What do you think I said?

KRISTEN
Oh, Misseeee!

The two girls clutch each other and squeal with joy.

INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - DAY.

Missy and Rosie follow a nurse down a corridor, arguing.

ROSIE
I don't know anything about this boy.

MISSY
He's wonderful. He's fantastic.

ROSIE
He's also sixteen.

MISSY
So?

ROSIE

So sixteen year old boys only have one thing on their minds.

MISSY

Mama, you don't really believe that!

ROSIE

You're right. Ninety per cent of their minds. The other ten is for food, sports and sleep.

MISSY

Todd Stein is a perfect gentleman. Besides, it's in the school gym and completely chaperoned. Don't you trust me?

ROSIE

I just think it's a little early, Missy. You have plenty of time to go out on dates.

MISSY

It's not a date, mother. It's a dance.

INT. DR. SILVERMAN'S OFFICE - DAY.

Dr. Silverman is waiting for them.

SILVERMAN

Hello, Mrs. Chandler. Hi, Missy. How's the leg?

MISSY

It's still bothering me.

SILVERMAN

Why don't you go into the examining room and change into a gown and I'll be right in.

Missy and Rosie starts for the door.

SILVERMAN (Continued)

Mrs. Chandler, could you wait here a minute?

Missy turns back and looks at him.

SILVERMAN (Continued)

Go get undressed, Missy, we'll be

right in.

Missy nods and walks out. Silverman turns to Rosie.

SILVERMAN (Continued)
Is your husband here, Mrs. Chandler?

ROSIE
No, he's working today. I came
alone. Why?

SILVERMAN
Why don't you sit down?

Apprehensively, she takes a seat. He sits next to her.

SILVERMAN
Mrs. Chandler...I'd rather have to
tell you anything in the world but
what I'm about to tell you. Missy
has cancer.

ROSIE
(gasps)
What? But you said the tumor was
benign.

SILVERMAN
The nodule that was near the knee
was benign. But I didn't like the
look of the area surrounding her
joint. As I mentioned, I biopsied
the tissue above it. Missy has
synovial sarcoma, which is a malignant
tumor of the connective tissue.

ROSIE
But...I mean...are you sure?

SILVERMAN
This cancer is so unusual in
children that I wasn't sure, so I
had several pathologists review the
results. I'm afraid there is no doubt.

ROSIE
(dazed)
I can't comprehend it. I hear what
you're saying but I can't take it
in. My Missy has cancer?

There's a moment of stunned silence, then she starts to cry. He

takes her hand. He is feeling emotional, himself.

SILVERMAN

Mrs. Chandler, this is a serious but treatable problem. We're going to do some more tests, we're going to get the best doctors involved, we'll do whatever it takes to help Missy.

INT. EXAMINING ROOM.

Missy sits on the table, swinging her legs back and forth as Rosie enters.

MISSY

Mama, tell you what. If you let me go to the dance, I promise to set the table and do the supper dishes for a whole year. And clean up my room without being asked.

Rosie takes Missy in her arms and holds her tight.

ROSIE

Sweetheart, there's something I have to tell you.

MISSY

What?

ROSIE

Remember when you had your biopsy, Dr. Silverman told us that even though everything looked fine, they had to send some of your tissue to the lab just to make sure?

Missy nods.

ROSIE (Continued)

Well...it turns out that everything isn't fine, Missy. You have cancer in your leg.

Missy stares at her in horror.

MISSY

I don't believe you. How could I have cancer? Where did I get it from?

ROSIE

We don't know, honey. Sometimes, it just happens.

Tears fill Missy's eyes.

MISSY

Am I going to die?

ROSIE

No, you are not. The doctor says it's very treatable and they're going to do everything to get rid of it as fast as they can. All we have to do is hang in there and do what they tell us.

MISSY

(crying)

Will I ever play soccer again?

ROSIE

Of course, you will.

She takes Missy into her arms and kisses her and holds her close, trying to convince both Missy and herself.

ROSIE (Continued)

You're my wonderful, beautiful girl, and you're going to be all right, you hear me? You're going to get well and play soccer and do everything else you've always dreamed of.

Missy cries harder. Rosie looks shattered but steels herself to be strong. Suddenly, the future is a dark and terrifying unknown.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. HOSPITAL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY.

Dr. Silverman sits at a conference table with Rosie, George and Melinda.

SILVERMAN

Before I begin, I want you to keep in mind that our goal here is to cure Missy. But it's not going to be an easy path. Missy's going to require both surgery and chemotherapy.

GEORGE

What kind of surgery?

SILVERMAN

We'll get to that in a moment, Mr. Chandler. In terms of the chemotherapy, you need to know that during treatment, the platelets in Missy's blood will be destroyed and she'll need transfusions. Many times, a family member with a matching blood type prefers to donate blood rather than use our blood bank. That decision is up to you and you should make arrangement accordingly

They nod in understanding.

SILVERMAN (Continued)

I do have a bit of good news to give you.

ROSIE

What's that?

SILVERMAN

All the tests show that the tumor is localized to the thigh. The cancer hasn't spread.

The Chandlers glance at each other, relieved.

SILVERMAN

(beat, soberly)

Unfortunately, the tumor is very far advanced. We were hoping to remove it and reconstruct her thigh

SILVERMAN (Continued)
but it invades the major blood
vessel which supplies her leg.

GEORGE
So what that does mean? What do you
have to do?

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - LATER.

Looking shell-shocked, George and Rosie make their way down the
hall to Missy's room. Rosie is so shattered and upset, she can
barely walk. Tears well up in her eyes and she begins to weep.

ROSIE
No, no, no....

GEORGE
Rosie, you've got to stop crying.

ROSIE
I can't face her George. I don't
know what to say. How do you tell
your child something like this?

GEORGE
We'll find the words.

ROSIE
There are no words!

GEORGE
(urgently)
Rosie, please get a hold of
yourself. We have to be strong for
Missy, now.

ROSIE
What if I can't?

He stops and faces her.

GEORGE
(firmly)
There is no "can't". Missy's going
to take her cue from us on this. If
we're confident that everything's
going to be all right, then she
will be, too. The best way you can
help Missy right now is to focus on
the positive. She's going to beat
the cancer, and that's what counts!

Rosie nods and pulls herself together.

ROSIE
You're right. Okay. Let's go in.

He takes her hand and they continue down the hall and enter Missy's room.

INT. MISSY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS.

Missy's bed is empty.

ROSIE
Missy?

MISSY (O.S.)
In here, Mama.

Rosie follows Missy's voice into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS.

Missy is soaking in the bathtub.

MISSY
The nurse said I could take a bath,
isn't that nice?

ROSIE
Yeah, that's nice, honey.

MISSY
What did the doctor say?

ROSIE
Let's get you out of there and
dried off, first. Daddy's waiting
in the other room.

Rosie opens a big towel and Missy stands up so her mother can wrap it around her and help her out of the tub.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM.

As George sits alone, waiting for them, a little of his mask slips. A tear slips down his cheek and he quickly wipes it away. Rosie and Missy, now in a nightgown, come out of the bathroom.

MISSY
Hi, Daddy.

GEORGE

Hi, baby.

He gets up and helps Missy onto her bed. Rosie and George both sit back down and look at her.

MISSY

So what did they decide to do?

Rosie looks at George.

GEORGE

Well, Missy, there's good news and not so good news. The good news is that all those tests showed that the cancer is in your leg and nowhere else, and that's real important. The not so good news is the cancer in your leg is too deep just to cut out.

MISSY

So what do they have to do?

GEORGE

(gently)

Honey...the doctors feel that the only thing they can do to make sure that the cancer doesn't spread...is to amputate your leg.

MISSY

(horrificed)

Amputate? You mean cut it off?
No! No way! They're not taking my leg off! I won't let them! And you don't let them either!

Missy starts to cry hysterically. Rosie pulls her into her arms and holds her tight.

ROSIE

Missy, Missy, if there were any other way, baby, but it's going to save your life. We have to get rid of the cancer.

MISSY

(sobbing)

It's not fair! Don't let them do it, Mama. Please...not my leg! My leg!

George comes over and rubs her back.

GEORGE

Baby, the doctor says we have no choice. Otherwise, you'll just get sicker. Mom and I will be there with you every minute. We're going to fight this thing and we're going to beat it...I swear I'd cut my own leg off if I thought it would help.

Missy turns and goes into George's arms, still sobbing. Rosie holds back tears with great effort. George is solid as a rock.

GEORGE

It's going to be okay, baby, you'll see. We're going to fight and we're going to win, don't you worry. Don't you worry.

INT. HOSPITAL CHAPEL - DAY.

George and Rosie kneel in a pew, praying silently. They finish and sit up on the bench.

ROSIE

George?

GEORGE

What?

ROSIE

I don't think I can teach and take care of Missy at the same time.

He turns and looks at her.

ROSIE (Continued)

First of all, there's her recovery from the surgery. Then we're going to be coming up here every week for chemotherapy, and there's physical therapy and check ups, and who knows what kind of pain she's going to be in? How can I leave her?

GEORGE

You can't. You better call the school and give them notice.

ROSIE

How can we afford that?

GEORGE

We'll be fine. I'll work nights and weekends and if worse come to worst, we'll cut back a little on our spending. The important thing is for you to be with Missy.

ROSIE

It's going to be big cut in our income.

GEORGE

What are we talking about? Mortgage, food, utilities. The dealership pays medical insurance, so that's no problem.

ROSIE

(worriedly)

Car payments, telephone, cable, taxes...

GEORGE

(puts his arm around her)

Hey, you're talking to the top salesman three months in a row. Don't worry, I got it covered. You just take care of our girl and let me take care of the rest.

She leans against him.

ROSIE

I can't lose her, George.

GEORGE

You're not going to. I promise.

ROSIE

How could this happen? She's never done anything wrong. She doesn't deserve this.

GEORGE

I know. It makes me so angry. I just don't know at who.

Melinda walk in and comes over to them.

MELINDA

It's over. She's in the recovery room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY.

Missy lies unconscious, hooked up to tube and monitors. George and Rosie enter quietly and approach the bed, their eyes fixed on her lower torso. After a moment, George gently lifts up the blanket and they both stare. Their faces reflect the horror and the heartbreak of what they see.

INT. HOSPITAL PHYSICAL THERAPY ROOM - DAY.

A MONTAGE OF QUICK CUTS:

Looking depressed, Missy gets her prosthesis strapped on by JENNY, a physical therapist as George and Rosie look on.
DISSOLVE TO:

Jenny helps Missy stand between parallel bars.

With Jenny's help, Missy manipulates the prosthesis to take several steps forward between the bars, then loses her balance and almost falls.

Missy tries again and reaches the end of the bars. She gives Jenny a little smile of satisfaction.

Missy is now away from the bars. She takes three steps and loses her balance and falls. She's frustrated and angry. Jenny offers her a hand up. She sighs and takes it.

INT. HOSPITAL PHYSICAL THERAPY ROOM - DAY.

Once again, Missy is trying to walk across the room on her prosthesis. Jenny walks next to her, giving encouragement. In the background, other patients are exercising and working out, too.

JENNY

Shift your weight...That's it,
good...now tilt your pelvis and
thrust...thrust...Good...good...
Don't look now, Missy, but you're
walking.

MISSY

Shh! You'll jinx it. Am I going
to be able to ski with this thing?

JENNY

I don't see why not.

MISSY

That's funny. I couldn't ski before.

Jenny laughs. Missy shrugs and smiles wryly. She looks up to see Rosie and Kristen coming towards her and stops.

MISSY
Oh, my God, it's Kristen!
Kris-ten! Hi!

Kristen approaches apprehensively, trying not to stare.

KRISTEN
Hi.

MISSY
Hi, Mama.

ROSIE
Hi, sweetie. How's it going today?

MISSY
Better. At least I'm not falling
flat on my face anymore.
(to Kristen)
This is Jenny, my physical
therapist. This is Kristen, my best
friend.

JENNY
Hi, Kristen, nice to meet you.
Missy, why don't we take a break so
you two can visit for a while?

ROSIE
Great idea. You girls want
your privacy and I'm dying for cup
of coffee. We'll see you later.

Jenny and Rosie walk off. Missy turns to Kristen.

KRISTEN
So? How are you doing?

MISSY
(shrugs)
I don't know. Not so great, I
guess. Thanks for all your cards.

KRISTEN
You're welcome.

MISSY
Let's get out of here. Come on.

She leads Kristen across the gym towards an exit door.

MISSY

So? What do you think? How does it look?

KRISTEN

It looks okay, really.

MISSY

No it doesn't. It looks weird.
I can't believe I have to go back
to school like this. They're all
going to think I'm so pathetic.

KRISTEN

No, they won't.

MISSY

(with dread)

The thought of seeing everybody on
the soccer team....Are people
talking me about me?

KRISTEN

A little.

MISSY

What are they saying?

KRISTEN

I don't know. Nothing much.

Missy stops and looks at her.

MISSY

Don't do that, Kris. We've known
each other since kindergarten and
we've always been totally honest.
Maybe I lost my leg, but I'm still
me and if you're going to treat me
like some kind of leper...

KRISTEN

You're not a leper!

MISSY

Then don't be such a jerk and talk
to me like you always do!

She walks to the exit door and pushes it open. Kristen follows
her and they walk out.

EXT. HOSPITAL MEDITATION GARDEN - CONTINUOUS.

A beautifully landscaped garden with benches and chairs for patients and their visitors. Missy and Kristen walk past several patients towards a reflection pond.

KRISTEN

Okay, okay. Everybody at school is freaked. Nobody can believe you had your leg cut off. They wonder how you're dealing with it, and if you're going to be different now.

MISSY

That's funny. I wonder the same thing about them.

KRISTEN

Does it hurt?

MISSY

It did at first. It was so bad in the beginning, they had to put me on morphine. Then it got better, but sometimes it feels like my leg is still there.

KRISTEN

Ooh.

MISSY

The doctor said it's because my brain's not used to my leg being gone. But that's not even the worst part. Now I have to have chemotherapy.

KRISTEN

What is that, exactly?

MISSY

They give you drugs to make sure the cancer doesn't come back and they're so strong, they make you sick and you throw up and feel weak and...

Missy's so upset, she can't even finish.

KRISTEN

What?

MISSY

Your hair falls out and you're completely bald. I'm going to lose all my hair, Kris.

KRISTEN

(sympathetically)

Yeah, I've heard about that part before...but it'll grow back, right?

MISSY

When they stop giving me the drugs, but I could be on them for months!

They reach an empty bench facing the pond. They sit down.

MISSY

(miserably)

I just can't believe on top of everything else, I'm going to be bald.

KRISTEN

I know, but there are lots of cool wigs you can wear. And lots of different hats. We could go shopping and I'll help you pick them out. Maybe I'll get a wig, too.

MISSY

(cheering up a little)

Really? How about some big Dolly Parton hair and we could dress in matching country western outfits?

KRISTEN

Yeah, and sing.

MISSY

Definitely. Disgusting, mushy love songs. I can play 'em on my keyboard. I love it. When do we start?

They laugh. Missy picks up a stone and throws it into the pond.

MISSY

Kris?

KRISTEN

Yeah?

MISSY

Does Todd know what happened to me?

KRISTEN
He must. Everybody does.

MISSY
Did he ever say anything to you?

KRISTEN
(apologetically)
No.

MISSY
Oh, well. I always knew he wasn't
my type.

EXT. JAYVEE MOTORS - DAY.

George shakes a woman customer's hand.

GEORGE
Well, thanks for coming by. Let me
know if you make a decision.

The woman nods and walks off. George rubs his neck. He's
exhausted. He walks into Rob's office.

INT. ROB'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS.

GEORGE
I'm taking off now, Rob.

ROB
What do you mean? Where you going?

GEORGE
Remember I told you? I have to pick
up Missy from the hospital. She's
coming home today.

ROB
Right. What time will you be back?

GEORGE
I don't know. Soon as I can. Seven,
seven-thirty.

ROB
Okay, George. You make that sale?

GEORGE
No, she's still shopping around.

Rob nods and George walks out. Rob watches him get into his car

and drive off. He doesn't look happy.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY.

Most students have entered the building when Rosie's car pulls up. Kristen gets out first, then helps Missy out. Missy wears a tee shirt and a calf-length flowered skirt which hides two thirds of her prosthesis. As the two girls start up the walk, the few remaining kids stare at Missy's leg. She ignores them.

INT. SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER.

MISSY

They think I'm a freak.

KRISTEN

No, they don't.

MISSY

Did you see the way those kids looked at me?

KRISTEN

You have to give them time. They're just not used to it.

MISSY

The hell with them. I don't care what they think.

She bangs open her locker and takes out some books.

TODD (O.S.)

Missy. Welcome back.

She barely looks up.

MISSY

Hello, Todd.

TODD

You look great. How're you feeling?

MISSY

I'm fine, thank you.

TODD

Do you have a minute?

MISSY

For what?

TODD

I'd like to talk to you.

Missy closes her locker, turns and leans against it, crossing her arms as she faces him. Kristen decides it's time to leave.

KRISTEN

See you guys later.

TODD

Missy, I owe you an apology. I was really sorry to hear about your leg. I wanted to send you a card or call you. I even thought about writing a letter, but I had no idea what to say. Everything I thought of sounded so shallow compared to what you were going through.

MISSY

That's okay, Todd. I understand.

TODD

I can't even imagine what it was like. Are you all right now?

MISSY

Yes, they got all the cancer.

TODD

That's great. I'm really glad to hear that. Missy, I thought about you every day. I just didn't know what to do.

MISSY

No problem, Todd. Don't worry about it.

She closes her locker and gets ready to go.

TODD

I don't know if you remember, but the Winter Dance is this weekend.

MISSY

I remember.

TODD

I'm not sure how to say this exactly, but are you able to dance?

MISSY

This thing can do anything a leg
can do. But don't worry, Todd.
You're off the hook. We don't have
to go.

TODD

That's not what I was thinking,
Missy.

MISSY

Oh, no? What was it?

TODD

I was going to ask you the color of
your dress, so I could buy you some
flowers.

She breaks into a big smile. He smiles back.

EXT. CHANDLER HOUSE - NIGHT.

Todd walks up the front steps carrying a corsage box, and rings
the doorbell.

INT. MISSY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT.

CLOSE UP ON MISSY'S FACE in the mirror as she nervously checks
her hair one last time. She can hear the voices in the foyer.

GEORGE (O.S.)

This is Mrs. Chandler.

TODD (VO)

Hello.

She takes a deep breath and moves away from the mirror.

ROSIE (VO)

It's nice to meet you, Todd.
Missy's told us a lot about you.

INT. FRONT HALL - NIGHT.

TODD

I hope it was good.

MISSY (O.S.)

Don't answer him, Mama. He'll get
too conceited.

They turn to see Missy standing there, glowing and beautiful in

an elegant long dress which covers her leg.

TODD
Wow. You look great.

MISSY
(shyly)
Thank you.

George is amazed. Rosie beams with pride. Todd hands Missy the box. She opens it and pulls out a corsage of roses.

MISSY
Ohh, this is beautiful. Mama, will
you help me pin it on?

Rosie pins the corsage on Missy's dress.

GEORGE
Todd, you seem like a nice kid, but
there's a few things we got to get
straight before you take out my daughter.

TODD
Yes, sir.

GEORGE
This is my baby, and she's been
through a lot. I expect you to
treat her with kid gloves.

MISSY
(embarrassed)
Daddy.

GEORGE
That means no drinking, no
speeding, no messing around,
and I want her home by midnight.

TODD
You forgot drugs.

GEORGE
So I did. You do any drugs and
you're dead meat.

MISSY
Daddy! I don't believe you!

George and Todd laugh. George claps Todd on the shoulder.

GEORGE

Have a good time.

MISSY

Can we go now?

ROSIE

Just let me take a picture.

MISSY

Moth-er.

Rosie pulls out a camera and focuses it on Missy and Todd. Todd moves closer to Missy.

ROSIE

Smile.

She snaps the camera. Missy grabs Todd's hand.

MISSY

Bye, guys, see you later.

Missy and Todd make their escape. Rosie sighs. George puts his arm around her.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT.

The Winter Dance is in full swing. A DJ plays music and the dance floor is jammed with girls in pretty dresses and boys in suits dancing up a storm.

ANOTHER ANGLE - Missy and Todd enter the gym and stand at the entrance for a moment, looking around at the elaborate decorations.

TODD

Wow. The place looks pretty good.

MISSY

Yeah.

As Todd taps his foot to the music and sways a little to the beat, Missy is suddenly apprehensive. Everyone moves with such ease and grace. She's more aware of her prosthesis than ever as she spots Kristen and her date gyrating wildly on the dance floor. She sees Missy and waves. Missy waves back.

TODD

So. You want to jump right in or get something to drink first?

MISSY

I think drink first.

Todd takes her arm and guides her across the room to the soft drink table. Missy is agonizingly aware of her awkward gait and that some kids are watching her. She starts to wonder if maybe this wasn't a big mistake. They reach the drinks table and Todd hands her a glass. She drinks thirstily.

TODD

Are you okay?

MISSY

Yeah. Why?

TODD

You're so quiet all of a sudden.

The song ends. Kristen comes rushing over to them.

KRISTEN

Hey you guys, what took you so long? Missy, I love your dress! It's absolutely gorgeous!

MISSY

Thanks. So's yours.

KRISTEN

Look at me, I'm sweating like a pig. Isn't this DJ fantastic?

Another song starts.

KRISTEN

Oh, my God! That's my favorite song! See you guys later.

She runs back to her boyfriend and they start to dance.

TODD

(watching Kristen)
She's pretty good.

MISSY

Yeah.

TODD

I'll bet you're good too.

MISSY

I used to be.

Todd suddenly understands what's going on.

TODD

(gently)

Look, Missy. If you just want to sit and watch, that's fine with me.

MISSY

(resolutely)

No. I didn't come here to watch. I came here to dance. Let's go.

She takes his hand and they walk onto the dance floor. Missy starts to dance, swaying to the music, gently at first, then gaining more confidence as the beat takes over. She smiles at Todd and they both start to really move. She laughs with happiness as she realizes she can dance after all.

INT. LADIES ROOM - LATER.

Missy and Kristen stand in front of the room-length mirror in a long line with other girls, all fixing their hair and touching up their make-up.

KRISTEN

Is this great or what? I'm having the best time!

MISSY

(happily)

Yeah, me too.

KRISTEN

I'm so glad we're both here together, Miss. It's our first dance.

MISSY

I know.

(matter-of-factly)

I just hope it's not my last.

Their eyes meet in the mirror. It's a bittersweet moment. Kristen sets down her comb and puts her arm around Missy and hugs her comfortingly.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - MORNING.

A LEGEND READS: TWO MONTHS LATER.

The Chandler car drives up to the entrance. The doors open and George, Rosie and Missy get out. Missy walks on crutches, not wearing her prosthesis, a baseball cap perched backwards over long blond hair. George opens the trunk, hands Rosie an overnight bag and kisses her goodbye.

GEORGE

See you tonight.

George gets into the car as Missy and Rosie enter the hospital.

INT. CAR.

As George starts the ignition, something happens to his eyes.

GEORGE'S POV - EVERYTHING LOOKS BLURRY. George rubs his eyes and his vision returns to normal. He shifts gears and drives off.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - A LITTLE LATER.

Rosie and Missy, wearing her own nightshirt, are setting up for their stay in the hospital. They talk as Rosie puts clothes in a drawer and Missy unpacks her things and places them on a table.

MISSY

I've got so much homework, I can't believe it.

ROSIE

Honey, no one expects you keep up with your schoolwork right now.

MISSY

I do. It's bad enough I lost my leg to cancer, I'm not going to lose anything else. And that includes an Achievement Award.

ROSIE

What's that?

MISSY

At the end of the year, there's a award for the best student in each subject, and I'm going to win one. It's really cool, Mama. You

MISSY (Continued)
get a certificate and your name on
a permanent plaque on the wall and
it looks great on your college
applications.

Rosie looks at her daughter, filled with love and admiration.

ROSIE
Did I ever tell you how proud I am
of you?

MISSY
Now, Mom. Don't get all mushy on me.

ROSIE
You know what I think we should to
do when you're done with chemo?
Let's take a trip across the United
States and see all the important
historical places.

MISSY
Oh my God, yes! You really mean it?

ROSIE
Absolutely. We'll make Daddy take a
vacation and start traveling. We
can visit Monticello, and Mount
Vernon and Gettysburg...

MISSY
(excitedly)
And Washington, D.C.? That's where
I really want to go. There's so
much history there, and I've read
so much about it...

ROSIE
Washington will be our first stop.

MISSY
You really mean it?

ROSIE
Honey, if there's one thing this
experience has taught me, it's that
life's too short. If you want to do
something, do it now.

At that moment, LUCILLE, a nurse, enters, carrying a plastic bag
filled with liquid and hooks it onto the IV stand.

LUCILLE
Good morning, ladies. How's my
favorite patient?

MISSY
Don't tell me it's that time
already?

LUCILLE
I'm afraid so, honey lamb. You want
to hop onto the bed and get comfortable?

Missy nods. She takes off her shoes, removes her cap and then a
blond wig. SHE IS MORE THAN HALFWAY BALD. She gets up on the bed,
leans back and pulls open the collar of her nightshirt, revealing
a catheter embedded in her chest.

LUCILLE
So. How's that handsome boyfriend
of yours?

Missy smiles as she inserts the IV into Missy's catheter.

INT. JAYVEE MOTORS - LATER.

George enters the showroom where Hank is talking to a customer
and signs in. Rob comes out of his office.

ROB
George, you had three phone calls
this morning and a woman named Gail
Lehrer came by. She said you were
supposed to go for a test drive?

GEORGE
That's right! I forgot about her.
Thanks, Rob. I'll give her a call
right now.

He walks away. Rob shakes his head and goes back into his office.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER.

Missy is vomiting into a bowl, sick as a dog. Rosie wipes her
face with a damp cloth and offers her a cup of water.

ROSIE
Here. Rinse your mouth.

Missy swirls a little water in her mouth, then spits it into the
bowl. Missy lies back on the pillows. Rosie strokes her cheek.

MISSY
Mama?

ROSIE
Hmm?

MISSY
Why do you think I got cancer?

ROSIE
I don't know, Missy. God must have
a good reason, but I can't figure
it out.

MISSY
I think I know why.

ROSIE
You do? Why?

MISSY
Because you see, I've decided to be
a pediatric oncologist, and this
way, when I take care of my
patients, I can say, "hey cancer's
not so bad. I had it and I beat it,
and so can you."

ROSIE
So you would be an example to other
children someday.

MISSY
Right.

ROSIE
You know, Missy, you're an example
to a lot of people right now,
including me.

MISSY
I am?

ROSIE
You've been through so much and
you've handled it with more courage
and grace than any grown-up I've
ever met. You're a miracle, Missy,
I've always known that. It's
a privilege to be your mother.

Deeply touched, Missy takes Rosie's hand.

MISSY
Thanks, Mom. I like being your
daughter, too.

INT. JAYVEE MOTORS - DAY.

George talks on the phone to Rosie from his desk in the showroom.

GEORGE
Damn it, Rosie! Why didn't you
remind me? I said I'd give blood.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY.

Rosie talks on a pay phone.

ROSIE
That was your responsibility,
George. I have enough on my mind.
We'll just have to use the
hospital's blood supply this time.

INT. JAYVEE MOTORS - DAY.

GEORGE
Are you crazy? You want to put a
stranger's blood into Missy's body?
It could be infected.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY.

ROSIE
That doesn't happen anymore. All
the blood is fully tested. The
nurse says Missy's not in any danger.

INT. JAYVEE MOTORS - DAY.

GEORGE
I don't care what she says. It's
not her daughter. And don't tell me
it doesn't happen, because anyone
can make a mistake, and they're not
going to make it on Missy!

Rob comes up to him.

ROB
George, Mrs. Lehrer is back.

GEORGE
Be right there, Rob.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY.

ROSIE

Well, what do you suggest I do? She needs the platelets today.

INT. JAYVEE MOTORS - DAY.

GEORGE

I'm leaving for the hospital right now. You tell that nurse to keep her hands off Missy until I get there.

He hangs up. He spots Mrs. Lehrer waiting for him and walks over to Hank, who doing some paperwork.

GEORGE

Hank, do me a favor? That lady over there for wants to test drive a Bronco, and I've got to get to the hospital.

HANK

Sure, George. I'll take care of it.

Hanks gets up and walks over to the woman. George pokes his head into Rob's office.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS.

GEORGE

Rob, something's come up with Missy and I've got to drive up to Houston. Hank's gonna cover for me.

ROB

Okay.

GEORGE

I'll be back tonight.

He walks out. Rob looks grim. Hanks walks in.

HANK

I'm taking the keys to the Bronco.

ROB

This isn't working out.

HANK

What?

ROB

George. He's in and out of here all day long.

HANK

Hey, come on. His kid's got cancer. He's still putting in thirty to forty hours a week.

ROB

You know what his medical costs are? Twenty thousand a month.

HANK

Yeah, but that's not his fault.

ROB

I know. But it's not mine, either. Take the keys. You better get going.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY.

George walks briskly up the walk towards the entrance. He feels a pain in his left arm. He massages it as he enters the hospital.

INT. MISSY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER.

George and Rosie watch Lucille attach the IV bag of George's platelets to a stand which is hooked up to Missy.

LUCILLE

There we are. Chandler blood to Chandler blood.

George grins at Missy, looking proud of himself.

GEORGE

You watch now. You're going to start feeling strong and full of energy.

MISSY

As long as I don't start selling cars.

They all laugh. Lucille smiles and walks out.

MISSY

Thanks, Daddy.

GEORGE
Any time, sweetheart.
(sighs)
Well, I gotta get back to work.

ROSIE
Already? You just got here. Why
don't you stay and have dinner with
us?

GEORGE
I can't. I've got some paperwork to
finish and a couple of customers
might be stopping by. I'll see you
girls tomorrow.
(kisses Missy)
Bye, honey.

MISSY
Bye, Daddy.

He turns to Rosie and suddenly feels dizzy.

ROSIE
Are you okay?

GEORGE
Just a little woozy. Maybe I'll sit
down for a minute.

Suddenly, he clutches his chest and starts hyperventilating.

ROSIE
George? What's the matter?

He gasps in obvious distress. Rosie races to the door and starts
screaming.

MISSY
Daddy! Daddy!

ROSIE
Help! Help! My husband's collapsed!
Help me! Someone!

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM WAITING AREA - LATER.

Shaken and scared, Rosie sits waiting for news of George. Melinda
enters and goes over and sits next to her.

MELINDA
Mama, how is he?

ROSIE

They don't know. They're still
running tests. Oh, God, Melinda.
What am I going to do?

She breaks down. Melinda puts her arm around her.

ROSIE

First Missy, then your father...I'm
falling apart.

MELINDA

Mama, it may not be what you think.
Let's wait and see what they say.

ROSIE

(weeping)
I don't even know where I'm
supposed to be. Down here with
Daddy or upstairs with Missy...

MELINDA

I'll go up to Missy. You stay here
and wait for the results, okay? And
as soon as you know anything, you
give us a call. Okay?

Rosie sniffs and nods. Melinda kisses her, stands up and walks
off. Rosie takes out a tissue and wipes her eyes. Lucille comes
out from the back.

LUCILLE

Rosie? You can see him now.

INT. CUBICLE.

George is lying on a gurney, strapped to an EKG monitor. Rosie
enters, followed by Lucille.

ROSIE

George?

GEORGE

(weakly)
Hey, Sweetheart.

She takes his hand and kisses it.

ROSIE

What happened? Are you all right?

GEORGE

I don't know. I think so.

LUCILLE

All his tests came back normal.
The doctor thinks this episode
was caused by stress, but
we'd like to keep him in the hospital
for a few days just to be sure.

ROSIE

All right.

Lucille discreetly takes her leave.

GEORGE

I'm sorry, Rosie.

ROSIE

For what?

GEORGE

This is the last thing we need.

ROSIE

All I need is for you to rest and
take it easy, you understand? This
is a warning, George. You can't
work so hard. You've got to stop
pressuring yourself or you really
will get sick.

GEORGE

I'm afraid I don't have much choice.

ROSIE

You listen to me, George Chandler.
I'd rather live on beans for the
rest of my life than lose you. Do
you understand that? You do have a
choice and you have got to slow down!

(tearfully)

Because if anything ever happened
to you....I'd lose my mind.

GEORGE

Aw, Rosie, honey. Don't get upset.
I'm going to be okay.

ROSIE

I need you, George. So does Missy.
You've got to take care of yourself.

GEORGE

Honey, I will. I promise. I love you.

ROSIE

I love you, too.

She leans down and kisses him. He holds her tight.

INT. JAYVEE MOTORS - MORNING - SEVERAL DAYS LATER.

George enters the showroom and greets Hank.

GEORGE

Hey, guy.

HANK

George, welcome back! How you feeling, buddy?

GEORGE

I'm fine. It was no big deal. Those doctors like to make a fuss over nothing.

Rob appears in his doorway.

ROB

George, can I see you in my office?

GEORGE

Sure, Rob. See you boys later.

He follows Rob into his office.

INT. ROB'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS.

GEORGE

What's up?

ROB

Have a seat, George.

Rob sits behind his desk. George sits opposite him.

ROB

George, I'm afraid we're going to have to let you go.

GEORGE

Very funny.

Rob doesn't smile.

GEORGE (Continued)
Come off it, Rob. You're kidding,
right?

ROB
George, this is a difficult
conversation for both of us. I like
you and I always will. But this is
business and I have to do what's
best for the dealership.

GEORGE
What are you talking about? I can
sell more cars in one month than
Hank and any two other guys put
together.

ROB
You used to sell more cars, George.
You don't anymore. You're
distracted, you're late, you don't
concentrate like you used to and
it's affecting your performance.

GEORGE
Rob, this isn't exactly a normal
time. My daughter has cancer. I've
been busting my butt running back
and forth between here and the
hospital. Under the circumstances,
I think you have nothing to
complain about. I've been staying
late every night, coming in weekends...

ROB
Until you got sick.

GEORGE
Because I was working so damn hard!

ROB
George, the bottom line is you're
just not doing the job anymore.

GEORGE
This isn't right. We're not talking
about drugs or alcohol, here. I've
made you hundreds of thousands of
dollars. How can you fire me now,
when my daughter is fighting for
her life?

ROB
I'm sorry, George. I really am.

GEORGE
(stunned)
What about my insurance? Without insurance, there's no way I can take care of Missy's hospital bills.

ROB
You can keep your insurance for eighteen months as long as you pay your premium. Of course, it will be higher.

GEORGE
How much higher?

ROB
(uncomfortably)
About double.

GEORGE
Double! How am I supposed to pay for that without a job? How am I supposed to pay for anything?

Rob doesn't answer. George suddenly realizes something.

GEORGE (Continued)
That's what this is about, isn't it? The insurance. Missy's cancer costs too much. What happened, Rob? Did the rates go up?

ROB
This has nothing to do with insurance.

GEORGE
Oh, no? Then you don't mind if I give them a call and ask them, do you?

ROB
You do whatever you want, George.

Bitter and angry, George pushes back his chair and stands up.

GEORGE
It's funny. You think you know people, but you really don't. The

GEORGE (Continued)
truth is everybody's out for
himself. May God forgive you, Rob.

He strides out angrily, past Hank and out the door.

INT. HOSPITAL CHAPEL - NIGHT.

Wearing a robe and nightgown, Missy sits in a pew, her hands folded in prayer.

MISSY
Lord, we need to have a talk
because there are a few things I
don't understand. First you gave me
cancer and took away my leg and I
dealt with that. Then I lost my
hair and I dealt with that. Then
Daddy collapsed and had to spend a
week in the hospital. And now he
lost his job. What's next, Lord?
Homeless in the street?

(tearfully)

Because if that's your plan, you
can take me right now and just stop
it. I'll give up all my dreams and
wishes if you'll spare my family
any more suffering. I love them so
much, their pain hurts me more than
all the cancer in the world.

By now she is openly crying.

MISSY (Continued)
I know you must have your reasons,
Lord, but can't you ease up a
little? Because to tell you the
truth, I don't know how much more I
can take.

She puts her head down and sobs.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. KITCHEN - DAY.

Rosie washes dishes, staring out the window, thinking how everything that was good in her life seems to have disappeared.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY.

George sits on the bed, wearing a jacket and tie, his shoulders slumped, thinking the same thing. After a moment, he pulls himself together and stands up.

INT. KITCHEN.

GEORGE
(enters)

I'm going.

Rosie doesn't respond.

GEORGE
Rosie?

ROSIE
(turns around)
Huh?

GEORGE
I'm going on my interview.

ROSIE
Oh. Good luck.

GEORGE
You okay?

She shakes her head, too upset to speak.

GEORGE
What is it? Something with Missy?

ROSIE
No, it's me.
(beat)
I'm having a hard time, George. For the first time in my life, I can't see the light at the end of the tunnel.

GEORGE
(wearily)
Rosie, I did the best I could.

ROSIE

I'm not blaming you. I'm just so upset with that Rob! He shouldn't be able to get away with this.

GEORGE

Yeah, well, he's the boss.

ROSIE

I don't care! You don't kick people when they're down. Especially loyal, hardworking employees who thought you were their friend!

GEORGE

I can't do this, okay? I can't talk about this because it makes me so mad I want to punch my fist through a wall! Life's not fair, Rosie. I think we've learned that in spades. All we can do is deal with it. And try to survive.

ROSIE

I know, I know. And we will. Deep down I do believe that. I just feel so overwhelmed.

GEORGE

Come here.

He takes her into his arms and kisses her and holds her.

GEORGE (Continued)

It's okay to be overwhelmed. As long as we don't give up....I better get going.

She nods. They kiss again and he walks out.

EXT. ANOTHER CAR DEALERSHIP - DAY.

George talks enthusiastically to the DEALER about a job.

GEORGE

I've sold cars all my life and to every kind of person you can think of. Newlyweds, teenagers, little old ladies...once I sold a red mustang to a woman who couldn't even drive! Of course, she learned afterwards. At least I hope she did.

The dealer laughs. George grins.

DEALER

You better hope so.

GEORGE

Nah, she was a nice lady. They're all nice. That's why I enjoy it so much. You get to talk to people all day long and make a living at the same time. I know this business, Mr. Bailey. If you hire me, you won't regret it.

DEALER

Sounds like you might be right, George. Let me make a couple of calls and check your references, and I'll get back to you.

GEORGE

Sounds good. Thanks, Mr. Bailey. I hope to hear from you real soon.

He walks away, feeling optimistic.

INT. JAYVEE MOTORS - ROB'S OFFICE - DAY.

ROB

(on the telephone)

He's a great salesman, there's no doubt about it.

INT. OTHER DEALERSHIP - BAILEY'S OFFICE - DAY.

BAILEY (DEALER)

(talking on the phone)

Then why'd you let him go?

INT. ROB'S OFFICE - DAY.

ROB

Well...George's work started to slack off. He was distracted a lot, some days he didn't even come in. His daughter has cancer and he just can't concentrate like he used to.

INT. CHANDLER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT.

George, Rosie and Missy are playing scrabble and eating popcorn. Missy spells out a word.

MISSY
Winning. W-i-n-n-i-n-g. Seven
letters. That's fifty extra points
and exactly what I'm doing.

GEORGE
You think you're pretty smart,
don't you?

Rosie tabulates the score.

MISSY
Now, Dad, just because I'm beating
you by a hundred points...

ROSIE
A hundred and four.

GEORGE
I'll be right back. I've got to
make a call.

He gets up and walks towards the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS.

George checks a piece of paper and dials a number on the phone.

GEORGE
Hello? Mr. Bailey, this is George
Chandler. I didn't hear from you,
so I thought I'd give you a call...
(beat)
I see. That's too bad, I got the
impression this afternoon you
really needed someone...Look, Mr.
Bailey, I don't know what they told
you at JayVee Motors, but I'm
really good. If you'd just give me
a chance...Yeah, okay. Thanks, Mr. Bailey.

He hangs up, depressed. Rosie enters with the empty popcorn bowl.

ROSIE
Who was that?

GEORGE
I didn't get the job.

ROSIE
I'm sorry.

GEORGE

(bitterly)

I don't know what kind of crap Rob is telling them, but I can't even get arrested!

ROSIE

Maybe I should go back to work.

GEORGE

No. We discussed that. You need to be here for Missy.

ROSIE

We also need to pay our bills.

GEORGE

I'll take care of it, Rosie! Didn't I say I'd take care of it? I'm going out for a while.

He yanks open the back door and walks out. Missy enters.

MISSY

What happened?

ROSIE

Nothing, honey. Everything's fine.

MISSY

Where's Daddy?

ROSIE

He went out for a little walk.
He'll be back later.

Missy looks away, a worried expression on her face.

EXT. SMALL USED CAR LOT - DAY.

George watches his friend, ALVIN inspect his car.

ALVIN

I'll give you seven thousand in cash and the '83 Corolla.

GEORGE

Deal.

ALVIN

C'mon inside, I'll write you a check.

George follows him to the office.

ALVIN
It's a shame, George. I know you
loved that car.

GEORGE
It doesn't matter. It's just a hunk
of metal.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS.

Alvin sits down at his desk and opens his checkbook.

GEORGE
Listen, Alvin. I know you can't
hire me, but how about if I scout
around town and find some cars for
you to buy, at say a hundred bucks
a car?

ALVIN
Sure, George. I could do that. I'd
be glad to.
(hands George the check)

GEORGE
Thanks. I'll be in touch.

EXT. CAR LOT - CONTINUOUS.

George walks by his gleaming new car and gets into an old 1983
Toyota Corolla and drives off.

INT. MISSY'S BEDROOM - DAY.

Missy sits up in bed, wearing a scarf on her head, doing her
homework on a lap board. Kristen and Todd appear in the doorway.
Todd knocks on the door frame.

TODD
Anybody home?

Missy looks up and breaks into a smile.

MISSY
Hey, guys. Come on in.

Todd sits in her rocking chair while Kristen flops onto her bed.

TODD
How are you feeling today?

MISSY

On a scale of one to ten, I'd say
six point five.

KRISTEN

That's better than a couple of days
ago. What're you doing? Homework?

MISSY

U.S. History. Okay. Who was the
twentieth President of the United
States?

KRISTEN

I have no idea.

MISSY

James Garfield. Who was the twenty-sixth?

They look at her blankly.

MISSY

Theodore Roosevelt. I memorized
them all.

KRISTEN

Why?

MISSY

It's interesting. I've also
memorized the names of every bone
in the body.

Kristen and Todd look at each other, as if to say she's crazy.

MISSY

(laughs)

If I'm going to be a doctor, I have
to know these things.

TODD

That's fine, Dr. Missy. As a matter
of fact, we have a little something
for your cranium.

KRISTEN

We do?

Todd taps the top of his head.

KRISTEN

Oh, yeah. We do.

She opens her knapsack and pulls out a gift-wrapped package and hands it to Missy.

KRISTEN
Happy Tuesday.

MISSY
What is it?

TODD
Open it and find out.

Missy rips off the wrapping and pulls out a black satin baseball cap with silver stars and sequins all over it.

MISSY
Ohh, I love it! Look at all these stars! What a great hat.

TODD
Really?

MISSY
It's gorgeous! It's fantastic.

TODD
Why don't you try it on?

Missy hesitates for a moment, then makes a decision.

MISSY
Okay. Sure.

She takes off her scarf. SHE IS COMPLETELY BALD. Todd and Kristen try not to react, but it's hard. She puts the hat on over her bare skull and looks at them with an expression of uncertainty and defiance.

MISSY
How do I look?

KRISTEN
Wait a minute. You need these.

She takes off her long, dangling earrings and puts them on Missy.

TODD
And these.

He takes out his Rayban sunglasses and fits them on her. He and Kristen stand back and study the effect.

TODD

Cool. Very cool.

KRISTEN

Definitely.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY.

Wearing her new hat and earrings, Missy sits at a table with Melinda, George, Rosie and Dr. Silverman.

DR. SILVERMAN

Missy, I'm delighted to tell you that all the tests show no signs of cancer.

MISSY

Yes!

ROSIE

Oh! That's wonderful.

GEORGE

That's great news.

MISSY

Does that mean I'm gonna get my hair back?

DR. SILVERMAN

No, not quite yet. We're still going to continue the chemotherapy.

MELINDA

Why? If there's no sign of cancer.

DR. SILVERMAN

This is a very virulent form of cancer. Cells often lie dormant for a while and then reappear in the lungs, which is the last thing we want. It's much too soon to stop treatment.

GEORGE

Well how much longer is it going to last?

DR. SILVERMAN

That depends. We'll have another reevaluation in about six months.

MISSY

Six months! I can't take this for
six more months!

ROSIE

Honey, it'll go by fast, you'll
see.

Missy sighs and shakes her head sadly. No, it won't.

INT. CHANDLER DINING ROOM - NIGHT.

George, Rosie and Missy sit at the dinner table. George and Rosie
are eating, but Missy just pushes her food around the plate.
Finally she pushes the plate away.

MISSY

The smell makes me sick.

ROSIE

How about some scrambled eggs?

MISSY

Uh uh.

ROSIE

Toast and cheese?

MISSY

Nothing.

ROSIE

Missy, you have to eat to keep up
your strength.

GEORGE

How about a little ice cream? I'll
run out and get some.

MISSY

I'm not hungry! Leave me alone!

The doorbell rings. George gets up and answers the door. A REPAIR
MAN is standing there.

GEORGE

Oh, hi. Come on in. There's a T.V.
in the living room and one in the
bedroom.

The repair man goes into the living room.

MISSY
What's he doing?

ROSIE
Disconnecting the cable.

MISSY
Why?

ROSIE
We don't need it.

Very upset, Missy gets up and goes to her into her room.

ROSIE
George!

INT. MISSY'S ROOM - NIGHT.

George and Rosie enter to find Missy lying face down on her bed in the dark.

ROSIE
Missy?

MISSY
Go away.

ROSIE
What's going on? What just happened?
(no answer)
Missy, talk to us.

MISSY
It's all my fault.

ROSIE
What is?

MISSY
Everything. Daddy losing his job.
Having no money.

GEORGE
That's not true!

He walks swiftly over to her bed and sits next to her.

GEORGE
If anyone's at fault, it's my boss
and don't you dare blame yourself,
you hear me?

MISSY
What are you going to do if you
don't find a job?

GEORGE
Hey, have you ever starved, have
you ever been homeless? Don't worry.

MISSY
But Daddy....

GEORGE
You just concentrate on getting
well. I'll take care of the
finances. Okay?

The phone at Missy's bedside rings. Rosie answers it.

ROSIE
Hello?...Who's calling, please?
Just one moment.
(to George)
It's for you.

GEORGE
I'll call them back.

ROSIE
It's someone from the Women's
Legal Defense Fund.

GEORGE
The who?

ROSIE
Some group from Washington, D.C.

MISSY
Washington? Daddy, talk to them!

GEORGE
What are they calling me for?

ROSIE
I have no idea, George, but it's
long distance, so why don't you ask
them and find out?

She hands him the phone.

GEORGE
Hello?...Yes, ma'am...That's right.

GEORGE (Continued)

(beat)

Seattle? Yes, I go up there all the time....Why, sure. If you really want me to. I'd be glad to testify.

INT. MEETING HALL IN SEATTLE - DAY.

A SENATOR sits at a table facing a crowd of men and women who sit on folding chairs. Among them are George, Rosie and Missy.

SENATOR

The purpose of your testimony is to convey to the President and the Congress the impact of losing your job during a time of medical or family crisis, and the devastating effect it's had upon your entire family. The name of our bill is the Family and Medical Leave Act, and with your help, we hope to make it illegal for this to ever happen in the future. I want to thank you all for coming and without much further ado, let's get started.

(consults a list)

Mr. George Chandler?

George and Missy come up from the audience. George helps Missy sit on a chair next to a podium up front, then takes his place behind it. A video camera has been positioned to face the podium.

GEORGE

Senator, this is my daughter, Missy. I hope you don't mind, but since this whole thing is really about her, I wanted her to join me up here.

SENATOR

That's fine, Mr. Chandler. Missy, you're more than welcome.

Missy smiles shyly, then looks at George. He faces the camera, takes a deep breath and speaks into the microphone.

GEORGE

My name is George Chandler, I'm forty-eight years old and I live in Olympia, Washington. For five years I had a great job selling cars with the JayVee Motor Company. Then

GEORGE (Continued)
tragedy struck my family and I was out on the street. There was no warning, no severance, not even an explanation. And for the first time in my life, I was unemployed. Oh sure, you hear about these horror stories about other people, but you never think it's going to happen to you. There I was, cruising along in life, making a good living, with a nice house and a beautiful car and everything is great, and then my daughter, Missy is diagnosed with cancer.

ANGLE ON ROSIE - in the audience, listening.

GEORGE (Continued)
And the next thing I know, I lose my job, my benefits, my security, and why? Because I loved my little girl.

He and Missy look at each other and smile.

GEORGE (Continued)
Because I wanted to be with her at the hospital when they amputated her leg. I wanted to meet with her doctors when they evaluated her progress, and told me if she was going to live or die. I wanted to give my wife a break once in a while from taking care of Missy when she was so sick from chemotherapy she couldn't even hold her head up. Is that a reason to be fired?

The audience is riveted to George, nodding in agreement with him.

GEORGE
If you ask me, it's immoral to ask a decent, hard working person to choose between his job and his loved ones. It's inhuman to expect a man to care more about selling a car than his child's life. You tell that to your colleagues in Congress, sir. You tell them if they really believe in family values, to put their money their mouth is, and make it against the law to treat people like they're

GEORGE (Continued)
nothing but replaceable spare parts!

Everyone breaks into loud applause.

SENATOR
Thank you, Mr. Chandler. I think
you're speaking for a lot of people
here today. Missy, is there
anything you'd like to add?

MISSY
Me? Well, maybe there is one thing.

She gets up and joins George at the podium.

MISSY
When you have cancer, the doctors
tell you that a positive attitude
is very important. Fighting cancer
is not just a physical thing, it's
mental and emotional, too.

ANGLE ON ROSIE - listening and nodding.

MISSY
But it's real hard to concentrate
on getting better when your Dad
loses his job. Because you keep
thinking it's your fault. Your
cancer is the reason the boss fired
your Dad.

ANGLE ON GEORGE - surprised and saddened.

MISSY
And I don't think that's fair. I
don't think a person should be
punished for being a good father or
someone should be made to feel
guilty for getting sick. I didn't
get cancer on purpose and my Dad
was doing the best he could.
(looks at George and smiles)
And I'm really proud of him.

George takes Missy in his arms. Everyone is moved.

GEORGE
And I'm proud of you, sweetheart.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING.

George talks on the phone while Rosie scrambles some eggs.

GEORGE

Yeah, okay...well, thanks, Mr.
Hicks, I hope you'll keep me in
mind if something opens up.

Looking grim, he hangs up the phone and strides out. Rosie takes the pan off the stove, sets it down and follows him.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING.

Rosie enters to find George lying the bed, with his arm flung across his eyes.

ROSIE

We need to talk.

GEORGE

Don't start with me, Rosie. I'm not
in the mood.

ROSIE

I never thought I'd say this, but
you're a very selfish man.

He sits up, furious.

GEORGE

What! How dare you say that? I am
killing myself to find a way to
support this family!

ROSIE

Exactly! You so tense and stressed
out all the time, you probably will
kill yourself and then where we be?
And I have news for you, George.
There is more than one way to
support a family. You think if
you're not working, you're useless!

GEORGE

I am useless! I can't even get
hired at MacDonald's! It's always
the same thing. Come back next
week, next month, next year. I
don't know what you want from me!

ROSIE

You don't even know what I'm talking about, do you? This is a golden opportunity to spend some real time with Missy. Instead of feeling sorry for yourself, why don't you do something a lot more important like being with your daughter?

The door opens and Missy walks in.

MISSY

Are you guys fighting?

ROSIE

No, sweetie, everything's fine. Daddy was just telling me he wants to take you into Seattle today for your chemo.

Missy's face lights up. George looks at Rosie in surprise.

MISSY

Really?

GEORGE

Why, sure, honey. I'd love to.

MISSY

Can we stop at the lake on the way? Mama and I always do that.

GEORGE

Absolutely.

ROSIE

Why don't you take a picnic and eat lunch there?

MISSY

(excitedly)

Hey, yeah! Could we, Dad?

EXT. LAKE - DAY.

Missy and George sit on a grassy bank overlooking a small, sparkling blue lake, eating sandwiches.

MISSY

I like to come here and look at nature before I go to the hospital,

MISSY (Continued)
you know? Then when they're
sticking me full of needles and I
feel so sick, I close my eyes and
think of this place and how
beautiful the world can be.

GEORGE
I haven't been to this place in
years. I used to come here with
your Mama when we were dating.

MISSY
You did?

GEORGE
In fact, this is where I asked her
to marry me.

MISSY
You did? I never knew that.

GEORGE
We were sitting here looking at the
stars one night. There were so
many, you could barely see the sky,
and there was a full moon shining
right over the lake. It was very
romantic.

Missy grins, enjoying this.

GEORGE
And your Mama was looking really
pretty, and I wasn't looking too
bad myself, and she said, "You're
so quiet, George, what are you
thinking?" And I said, "To tell you
the truth, I was thinking I just
might ask you to marry me." And she
said, "Well, what are you waiting
for?" So I said, "Rosie, honey,
would you do me the honor of
becoming my wife?"

MISSY
And she said yes. And you lived
happily ever after.

GEORGE
(smiles)
We sure did.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - DAY.

George pushes Missy across the room in a wheelchair.

GEORGE

You're right. This place is ugly.

Missy giggles.

EXT. USED CAR LOT - DAY.

Alvin is counting out hundred dollar bills to George.

ALVIN

...four, five, six hundred dollars.

GEORGE

(embarrassed)

Can you loan me four hundred? I wouldn't ask you, but I need to pay my insurance premium.

ALVIN

Sure.

He counts out the money and hands it to George.

GEORGE

Thanks, Alvin. You're a good friend.

George pockets the money and stands there, depressed.

ALVIN

George, you're having a streak of bad luck. It'll turn around. It's only a matter of time.

GEORGE

I think my time's run out, Alvin. I'll be seeing you. Thanks again.

He walks off.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT.

Missy lies on the sofa next to Rosie, watching the Evening News on television. George enters the house, very subdued.

MISSY

Daddy, You won't believe what happened!

GEORGE
(alarmed)
What happened?

MISSY
The Family and Medical Leave Act
was vetoed.

GEORGE
Oh. Well, that's par for the
course. Since when do we count for
anything in Washington?

ROSIE
That's a cynical attitude.

GEORGE
Nope. Just realistic.

MISSY
I think it's so unfair. We ought to
write a letter to President Bush!

GEORGE
Rosie, you want take a walk with me
into the kitchen?

ROSIE
Sure. You want anything, Missy?

MISSY
No, I'm fine.

Rosie and George go into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

ROSIE
Do I need to sit down?

GEORGE
For what?

ROSIE
Whatever you're about to tell me.

GEORGE
You might want to.

She takes a seat and looks at him expectantly.

GEORGE

We got a letter from the bank today. If we don't start paying our mortgage, they're going to foreclose.

ROSIE

(beat)

Well, that just can't happen.

GEORGE

Well it's going to unless there's a miracle and we seem to be a little short of those right now.

ROSIE

We've lived in this house for twenty years. We've raised our children and our grandson in this house. We are not about to lose it now.

GEORGE

Yeah, well unless I win the lottery or you come up with something brilliant, we just might.

INT. CHANDLER DINING ROOM - NIGHT.

George, Rosie, Melinda, who is now seven months pregnant are seated at the table.

GEORGE

....Our savings are gone, we've cut our expenses to the bone, but the bottom line is that your mother and I can't afford to keep up the mortgage payments as long as I'm not working. And the way things are going, we don't know when that'll change. There's only one way to keep this house and that's where you come in.

George looks at Rosie.

GEORGE (Continued)

Mom came up with the idea that if you moved back home with us, and paid us the rent that you're paying now, we could save the house.

ROSIE

It's certainly big enough, and

ROSIE (Continued)
we could share the cooking and the
utilities and the telephone.

Ed and Melinda look at each other, not thrilled with the idea.

MELINDA
I don't know, Mom. With the baby
coming and everything...Where would
we sleep? In my old room?

ROSIE
Or the den, if you like. We could
turn your room into a nursery.

ED
What we would do with all our
furniture?

GEORGE
You could move it in here or we
could put it in storage. This is
only until I get back on my feet.

MELINDA
(reluctantly)
Dad, we want to help, but...

GEORGE
Look, I know it's a big imposition
on you kids and if you can't do it,
we understand.

Ed and Melinda look at each other again, feeling torn. Only this
time, Melinda sees Missy standing in the doorway.

MELINDA
Missy.

Now everyone sees her. Looking stricken, Missy quickly turns and
walks away.

MELINDA
Missy, wait a minute!

ROSIE
Oh, my God. Was she standing there
the whole time?

GEORGE
I'll go talk to her.

MELINDA
No, let me. Please.

She gets up and goes after Missy.

INT. MISSY'S ROOM - MOMENT LATER.

Melinda walks in to find Missy sitting on the bed, reading a book.

MISSY
(without looking up)
Get out of here.

MELINDA
Missy honey, come on. We have to talk.

MISSY
There's nothing to talk about. Do you mind? I have to study.

Melinda sits on her bed.

MELINDA
Look. I know you're upset about what you heard.

MISSY
(angrily)
Get out of my room, will you please? There's nothing you can say that will change anything! I'd be better off dead with all the trouble I'm causing.

She bursts into tears. Melinda gets upset, too.

MELINDA
Stop that. Don't you dare say that!

Missy just shakes her head and cries. Melinda puts her arm around her.

MELINDA
Okay, things are tough right now.

MISSY
Tough! We're going to lose the house.

MELINDA

No, you're not! Ed and I are going to move in and help with expenses, and everything's going to be fine.

MISSY

But you don't want to.

MELINDA

Well, I'm not exactly thrilled with sleeping in the den, that's just being honest. On the other hand, since you're going to babysit the baby all day, I'll be able to sit back and take it easy.

MISSY

(sniffs back her tears)

I'll take care of the baby, I don't mind.

MELINDA

And we don't mind helping Mom and Dad out with the house. That's what family means. You take care of each other.

She takes Missy's hand and places it on her belly.

MELINDA

Feel that? The baby agrees with me. In fact, I think he's looking forward to it.

Missy smiles.

EXT. CHANDLER DRIVEWAY - DAY.

Using mitts, Missy plays catch with George as Melinda and Ed drive up in a station wagon pulling a U-Haul. Missy throws down her mitt and hurry over to welcome them.

INT. CHANDLER HOUSE - NIGHT.

Dinner time. George, Ed, and Scott eat from trays in the living as they watch a basketball game on TV. Missy, Rosie and Melinda eat at the dining room table.

MELINDA

If it's a boy, we're going to name him Danny after Ed's father. And if it's a girl, we're going to name her Missy.

MISSY

You're going to name her after me?

MELINDA

You're my favorite sister, aren't you?

MISSY

I'm your only sister. But I still think it's great. Big Missy and Little Missy. I hope she won't mind having a bald aunt.

MELINDA

Why should she? She'll be bald, too.

MISSY

That's right! We'll be twins.

The three of them laugh at the image it conjures up.

MISSY

(sighs)

I'd love to be a mother someday.

ROSIE

Don't worry, honey. You will.

MISSY

(wistfully)

I hope so.

INT. CHANDLER HOUSE - DAY.

Chaos. Rosie is vacuuming. George is talking on the phone. Melinda is folding laundry and watching television. Ed is hammering a crib together. At that moment, Todd comes to the door and walks in.

ROSIE

Hi, Todd. Excuse the mess. Missy! Todd's here!

George looks up in annoyance from the telephone.

GEORGE

Can you keep it down? I'm trying to talk business here.

Missy comes out, in her wig and black baseball cap.

MISSY
Let's get out of here.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS.

They walk down the driveway to his car.

TODD
Where do you want to go?

MISSY
Somewhere where there's peace and quiet.

EXT. WATERFRONT - LATER.

Missy and Todd sit on a bench on the wharf facing the ocean, her head on his shoulder.

MISSY
Did you know that the airport in Rome is named after Leonardo Da Vinci? Because he dreamed of flying five hundred years ago.

TODD
Really?

MISSY
He was a visionary. Way ahead of his time. Did you know he invented the bicycle?

TODD
And here all I thought he ever did was paint that ugly old Mona Lisa.

They laugh.

TODD
Come on. Let's walk.

He pulls her up and they walk through along the wharf.

MISSY
Going to Italy is on my list.

TODD
What list?

MISSY
Of all my plans for the future.

MISSY (Continued)
It's not written down anywhere, I
just keep it in my head.

TODD
Such as?

MISSY
Oh,...going to College. And winning
an achievement award. Getting
married and having a baby some day.
Traveling. Learning French.
Becoming a doctor, of course.
And writing a really good
historical novel.

TODD
Are you sure that's all?

MISSY
Give me time. I'll think of a few
more.

He grins. They lean against a railing and look out at the water.
Missy points to the sky.

MISSY
Is that an eagle?

TODD
Wow. Yeah.

MISSY
Look at the way he floats up there,
wouldn't that be nice? To fly free
and high above the world.....That's
what they say happens when you die.
Your soul flies out of your body up
to the ceiling and you see yourself
down below. And then suddenly you
see a tunnel with a beautiful white
light at the end and you fly through
the tunnel straight up to God.

He doesn't say anything.

MISSY
Do you believe in God?

TODD
Most of the time. Do you?

MISSY

I have to. I talk to Him all the time.

TODD

What do you say to Him?

MISSY

All kinds of things. To find Daddy
a job. To keep everybody safe. To
keep my cancer from coming back,
but I say if He can't, he must have
his reasons. I mean we can't
understand everything about God,
right?

TODD

Are you scared, Missy?

MISSY

Of what?

TODD

You know. Of what could happen.

MISSY

You mean dying?

(beat)

Yeah, I'm scared. I'm not ready,
Todd. There's so many things I want
to do with my life, it doesn't seem
fair.... But if I do die, I know it
will be a journey to a beautiful
place....and I will be whole and
healthy, with two legs and all my
hair...

(tears fill her eyes)

and whatever I missed out on down
here...there will be something
better waiting for me.

She cries just thinking about it. He hugs her close, his own eyes
filling with tears, not knowing what to say.

MISSY

Would you kiss me, Todd? Please.

He leans down and looks into her eyes and kisses her tenderly.
She clings to him, the future forgotten for a moment in the
sweetness of his kiss.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT - CHANDLER HOUSE - NIGHT.

WE HEAR someone coughing.

INT. MISSY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT.

Rosie enters with a glass of water. She turns on the light and hands it to Missy, who is coughing into a tissue.

ROSIE

Here. Drink this.

As Missy drinks, Rosie notices red flecks on the front of Missy's nightgown.

ROSIE

What's that?

She examines the fleck and then notices Missy's tissue. It's bright red. Missy and Rosie look at each other.

MISSY

It's blood.

INT. MISSY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY.

Rosie and George sit in silence, afraid to voice their fears. Lucille wheels a subdued Missy into the room and helps her onto the bed.

LUCILLE

Up you go, honey.

ROSIE

Thanks, Lucille.

Lucille gives them a warm smile and walks out.

GEORGE

You want a coke or something? I can go down to the machine.

MISSY

No thanks.

GEORGE

You want to watch a little TV?

MISSY

I think we all know what this means.

There is a tense silence.

MISSY (Continued)
I don't want to die, but if I have
to, I don't want to cry and I don't
want to grieve. I just want to have
fun and enjoy how ever much time I
have left.

They both get up and sit on the bed and put their arms around
her.

GEORGE
Baby, there's no reason to even
talk like this.

MISSY
I think there is, Daddy. I've been
thinking about this for a long
time.

ROSIE
Missy, honey, we'll do whatever you
want.

Dr. Silverman enters, looking sober. He pulls up a chair and sits
with them.

SILVERMAN
The CAT scan picked up five nodules
in Missy's lungs. Two in the right,
three in the left.

Rosie blinks back tears. Missy shakes her head in resignation.

GEORGE
Can you take them out?

SILVERMAN
Yes. And we will. But I want to
wait six weeks to make sure no more
nodules appear. If there are just
the five, I'm optimistic that we
can remove them and go on from
there.

GEORGE
You're optimistic.

SILVERMAN
Yes, I am.

George takes Missy's hand and looks at her.

GEORGE

So am I.

EXT. CHANDLER HOUSE - DAY.

George, Rosie and Missy come out of the house. Missy is exhausted and coughing and needs help as they walk to the car.

ROSIE

Honey, are you sure you feel up to this?

MISSY

Mama, I'm fine.

She coughs some more. George opens the car door.

GEORGE

Now, honey, don't be disappointed if you don't win anything. You missed a lot of school this year.

MISSY

I know. But I still want to be there. Just in case.

She gets into the car and George closes the door.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - LATER.

The back doors open and Missy, George and Rosie enter. The Achievement Awards assembly is in progress. The School PRINCIPAL is on the stage, talking from a podium.

PRINCIPAL

...at the end of the school year to single out those among us who have achieved academic excellence.

Kristen spots Missy and hurries over to her.

KRISTEN

You made it. Hi, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler.

MISSY

I told you I would.

PRINCIPAL (V.O. in the background)

Those students will be awarded a special

PRINCIPAL (Continued)
certificate of merit and their names
will be inscribed on the permanent
honor roll which hangs on the wall of
our school.

KRISTEN
Todd and I saved you a seat.

Missy walks up the aisle with Kristen and takes a seat next to
Todd who takes her hand.

PRINCIPAL
In the ninth grade, outstanding
achievement in math goes to Aaron
Trimble.

Everyone claps as the winner goes up to the podium. Missy
suppresses a cough as she claps.

PRINCIPAL
Outstanding achievement in science,
Karen Ludwig.

Trying not to look disappointed, Missy applauds.

PRINCIPAL
This next award is very special to
me because the winner had a lot to
overcome.

ANGLE ON MISSY - listening intently.

PRINCIPAL (Continued)
Despite the fact that she has a
serious illness and was absent more
than half the year, this student
had the will and dedication not
just to keep up with her studies,
but to be the best.

George and Rosie look at each other in proud astonishment.

PRINCIPAL (Continued)
It gives me great pleasure to
present the outstanding achievement
award in English to Missy Chandler.

Everyone applauds loudly. Missy grins as she walks up to the
podium to receive her prize.

PRINCIPAL

Just a minute, Missy, don't go anywhere. For the first time in the history of Victoria High, we've got a two-time winner. Outstanding award in History also goes to Missy Chandler!

This time everyone cheers.

ROSIE

(stunned)

For God's sake. George.

GEORGE

That's my girl.

Tears fill Rosie's eyes as she watches Missy laugh with happiness and raise her two certificates in triumph.

EXT. VOLKSWAGEN DEALERSHIP - DAY.

George sits in his car, trying to muster up the energy he needs to apply for yet another job. He gets out of the car and walks onto the lot.

EXT. SMALL CAR LOT - LATER.

George talks to LESTER, the owner of the dealership.

LESTER

I can't pay you near what you were gettin' before. Maybe a third at best. But if you want the job...

GEORGE

I want it real bad, Lester. But I think there's something you should know. My daughter's got cancer and there will be times when I'll need to take off from work. If this is a problem, don't hire me, because I'm done with tearing myself in two. My daughter comes first.

LESTER

I've got a little girl with epilepsy. You take off whenever you need.

George nods and they shake hands.

INT. CHANDLER HOUSE - DAY.

George enters the house to find everyone in the living room, watching a newscast on television.

GEORGE

What's going on?

ROSIE

George, look at this. The new Congress took another vote and passed the Family and Medical Leave Act! The President is signing the bill right now.

GEORGE

No kidding.

He sits down next to Ed and watches.

NEWSCASTER ON TV

...guarantees employees of large companies the right to take twelve weeks of unpaid leave for birth or adoption of a child, or to care for family members or themselves during a serious illness.

MISSY

Look. There's the senator from the hearing.

GEORGE

He must be feeling pretty good.

NEWSCASTER ON TV

President Clinton announced that he wanted to make this law the first one that he signed in office...

MISSY

That's the Rose Garden, isn't it pretty? It's in the back of the White House.

ED

How'd the interview go?

GEORGE

I got the job.

MELINDA

You did? Way to go, Dad! He got the job!

ROSIE

What! George, that's great!

Delighted and surprised, everybody turns to George and congratulates him. Missy and Rosie hug and kiss him. George quiets them down.

GEORGE

I want to say something. You know how crazy I've been not having a job all this time, and I'm really glad to get back to work. But it might have been the best thing that ever happened to me. You don't realize when you're working all the time, how much you miss out on being with the people you love.

MELINDA

Ohh!

ROSIE

What's the matter?

Melinda looks at her enormously pregnant belly.

MELINDA

I hate to interrupt Dad's beautiful speech, but...Ow! I think I need an obstetrician.

Everyone talks at once as Ed helps Melinda out of her chair and guides her towards the door. Rosie takes her other arm.

MISSY

Oh, my God, Melinda! This is it!

Melinda starts to moan.

ED

Easy honey, take it slow.

ROSIE

Where's her bag? George, go get Melinda's overnight bag.

George rushes up the stairs.

MELINDA

(moans)

Missy! Where's Missy?

MISSY

(joins her)

I'm right here, Melinda.

MELINDA

You want to come along and watch?

MISSY

(thrilled)

Oh, I'd love to.

INT. BIRTHING ROOM - LATER.

Missy watches Ed coach Melinda as she gives birth.

ED

One more time, honey. Push.

Melinda moans and pushes with all her might.

MISSY

Here it comes! I see the head!
I see the shoulders...

Missy watches in awe as the baby slides into the obstetrician's hands. She is moved to tears.

MISSY

Oh, look at her, look at her. She's perfect.

She glances at Melinda who smiles tiredly, then goes back to the baby. She studies the infant up close, amazed at her tiny hands and feet.

MISSY

Hello, little angel. I'm your Aunt
Missy. Welcome to the world.

INT. DR. SILVERMAN'S OFFICE - DAY.

Rosie, George and Missy watch Silverman study Missy's CAT scan.

SILVERMAN

According to this CAT scan, nothing
has changed.

Rosie, George and Rosie join hands and hold tight.

SILVERMAN (Continued)
I've scheduled surgery for the
day after tomorrow.

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY.

George and Rosie sit in silence, waiting. They are exhausted, emotionally and physically. Dr. Silverman slowly approaches them. They don't see him until he sits beside them. Rosie is terror-stricken.

ROSIE
What's the matter! What happened?

SILVERMAN
(gently)
When we opened up Missy's chest, we
saw multiple nodules that didn't
show up on the scan. Far too many
to remove.

GEORGE
How many did you see?

SILVERMAN
(beat)
Hundreds.

Rosie closes her eyes as if struck by a blow.

GEORGE
(desperately)
There must be something else you
can do. Some new wonder drug.
Something experimental.

SILVERMAN
There is a new chemotherapy that
sometimes works, and we can try it,
but the side effects are very strong.

Rosie is devastated. George wills himself not to fall apart.

GEORGE
How can I help Missy, Doctor? What
can I do for her?

SILVERMAN
There's really not much any of us
can do.

GEORGE

Don't tell me that! I'm her father.
There's got to be something I can
do for my Missy to make this easier.

EXT. CHANDLER DRIVEWAY - ANOTHER DAY.

George's car drives up. He and DONNA, a girl in her late teens,
get out.

INT. MISSY'S BEDROOM - DAY.

Missy, sick and exhausted, lies in bed watching television.
George comes to the door with Donna.

GEORGE

Honey, you've got a visitor. This
is Donna. She's from a group called
Make-A-Wish Foundation, and she
wanted to talk to you about
something.

Missy turns off the television and sits up.

MISSY

What?

DONNA

Can I come in and sit down?

MISSY

Sure.

Donna sits down. George stands in the doorway, watching them.

DONNA

Like your Dad said, I belong to the
Make-A-Wish Foundation. Do you know
what that is?

MISSY

No.

DONNA

It's an organization that deals
exclusively with kids who are sick
like you. And what we do is, we try
to make any wish you want come true.

MISSY

Any wish?

DONNA

Any place you'd like to go,
anyone you'd like to meet. We'll
try to arrange it for you.
Some kids have gone to Disney
World, or to Hollywood to meet a
movie star. One boy wanted to fly
on the Concorde, and we got that
for him.

MISSY

(quietly)

Is this, like, supposed to be my
last wish?

She looks at George. This is the hardest thing he's ever done.

GEORGE

I don't know, Missy. Maybe.

To Missy, this moment has always been inevitable, but suddenly
it's real. A wave of sadness engulfs her.

MISSY

It's funny. I used to have so many
wishes. Now there's only one.

(to Donna)

Can I think about it?

DONNA

Sure. Why don't I come back in a
couple of days and we'll talk again?

MISSY

Okay.

DONNA

(stands up)

You take care now, Missy. I'll see
you soon.

She walks out. Missy looks at George.

MISSY

Would you mind, Dad? I'd like to be
alone.

Too emotional to even speak, George nods and walks away.
Missy lies there, overwhelmed by a myriad of feelings as she
contemplates a reality she must face. She's really going to die.

END OF ACT SIX

ACT SEVEN

EXT PORCH DAY. DAY.

Missy talks to Donna as George and Rosie listen.

MISSY

I want to go to Washington, D.C.
and visit the White House and meet
the President of the United States.
Can you do that?

DONNA

Going to Washington is no problem,
but meeting the President is really
impossible, Missy. So many people
want to meet him, it's not
something he can do.

MISSY

What about a tour of the White House?
But not just the regular tour, the
places that nobody else gets to see.
Could I see the Oval Office?

DONNA

(doubtfully)

That's not going to be easy,
either. But we'll try, okay?

ROSIE

How soon will she be going?

DONNA

It usually takes a week or two to
get everything set.

GEORGE

We're ready whenever you are. Just
let us know.

EXT. CHANDLER BACKYARD - LATER.

A long table has been set up and the entire family, including Melinda and the baby, plus Todd and Kristen are laughing, talking and eating barbecue, which George is cooking on the grill. Missy is thin, coughing intermittently, bald and wearing her black baseball cap, but holding her own as she rests in an outdoor recliner. She holds her keyboard across her lap.

MISSY

I wanted to meet the President but
they said there was no way.

TODD

You should've asked to meet Hilary.

KRISTEN

Yeah, that would've been cool.

MELINDA

How about Chelsea?

ED

No, no. Sox the Cat. He's probably
available.

Everyone laughs.

MISSY

(shyly)

I...finished the lullabye for the
baby, if you want to hear it.

MELINDA

You did? Of course we do!

ROSIE

George, come over here! Missy's
going to play a song.

George sets down his fork and joins them.

ED

You really wrote something?

MISSY

I told you I would, didn't I?

GEORGE

Well, come on. Let's hear it.

Missy begins to play a lovely, haunting melody and sings.

MISSY

"The sun is setting in the sky.
The moon is on the rise.
It's time for my dear baby girl
To close her sweet blue eyes.
The stars are watching over you,
The wind gives you a kiss.
The Lord enfolds you in his arms

MISSY (Continued)
And sends you dreams of bliss.
Of all the angels up above,
One special angel sends her love,
Filled with light and flying free,
That special angel will be me.
Good night, baby. Sleep tight, baby.
I will love you through eternity."

Everyone is openly moved and crying.

MELINDA
(tears streaming down her cheeks)
It's so beautiful. I'll sing it to
her every night.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING.

Missy is still asleep when Rosie enters and nudges her.

ROSIE
Missy? You've got a phone call.

Missy groggily takes the portable phone and talks.

MISSY
Hello?

She sits up suddenly wide awake.

MISSY (Continued)
When? Okay, great!

She hangs up excitedly.

MISSY
Mama! We're going to Washington.

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY - DAY.

A plane lands in Washington, D.C.

EXT. TERMINAL - DAY.

Rosie and George come out of the terminal, carrying their bags and pushing Missy in a wheelchair. Missy is weak and very thin, but excited. A warm, friendly woman named SASHA is waiting for them.

SASHA
Are you the Chandlers, by any
chance?

GEORGE

Yes we are.

SASHA

Hi, I'm Sasha Rich from Make-A-Wish Foundation. Welcome to Washington, Missy.

MISSY

Did you find out about the Oval Office?

SASHA

Not yet, but we're putting the pressure on. Meanwhile, we've got an itinerary worked out that I think you're going to like. But why don't we get settled at the hotel, first?

Sasha nods to a chauffeur standing in front of a limousine. He comes forward and takes their bags.

MISSY

Wow! A limo! Is that for us?

CHAUFFEUR

Welcome to Washington, Miss Chandler.

MISSY

This is so cool.

INT. HOTEL PENTHOUSE SUITE - LATER.

A bellman opens the door and Sasha and the Chandlers enter. It is incredibly luxurious with a huge bouquet of flowers and a fruit basket on the table.

MISSY

(gasps)

This is where we're staying?

SASHA

Do you like it?

Missy looks at George and Rosie in delight.

MISSY

It's the most beautiful, luxurious place I've ever seen.

(points to the fruit)

Is that for us?

SASHA
Absolutely. And you can order all
the room service you want. Come and
see the view.

They go out onto the balcony. A panorama of Washington lies
before them. Missy gazes happily.

MISSY
It's everything I thought it would
be.

MONTAGE:

INT. TOUR BUS - DAY.

The Chandlers take a tour of the City. Missy peers out the window
at the Washington Mall and Monument with excitement.

MISSY (VO)
"Dear Todd, I'm walking in the
steps of History. Everywhere I look
there are gleaming white buildings,
colonial architecture, even
cobblestone streets! It's easy to
imagine our forefathers living here.

INT. INT. SENATE OFFICE BUILDING - DAY.

The Chandlers shake hands with the Senator from the hearings.

MISSY (VO Continued)
Yesterday, we sat in on Congress
and the Senate. Some of those guys
looked like they were falling
asleep. I couldn't help thinking
that the decisions they make affect
all of our lives. Remember that
bill my father testified for? We
met with our senator and he thanked
Daddy for helping to get it passed.

EXT. VIET NAM MEMORIAL - DAY.

Missy traces some of the names on the wall and leaves a flower.

MISSY (VO Continued)
He said that everyone who spoke
really made a difference. The Viet
Nam memorial was really sad. All
those thousands of young boys'
names. It really touched me.

EXT. JEFFERSON MEMORIAL - DAY.

Missy, George and Rosie stand in the rotunda. Missy studies the Declaration of Independence.

MISSY (VO Continued)
But what meant the most to me was
the Jefferson Memorial. When I saw
those words carved in stone.

CLOSE UP - on the enormous marble THOMAS JEFFERSON.

MISSY (VO Continued)
"All men are created equal and
entitled to life, liberty, and the
pursuit of happiness." I felt
really proud to live in this
country, and to be part of a
heritage that cares not just about
laws, but the human spirit."

INT. PENTHOUSE SUITE - NIGHT.

George wheels Missy into the suite with Rosie at his side. Missy is very weak. George picks up Missy and carries her to bed.

MISSY
Still no word on the Oval Office
but I'm keeping my fingers crossed.
Love, Missy."

EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT.

George is looking at the view. Rosie comes out and joins him.

GEORGE
How's she doing?

ROSIE
Not too well.

GEORGE
(brokenly)
I feel like I failed, Rosie....I'm
the father, I'm supposed to protect
her. I'm supposed to fix things and
make it all better. And I can't.

Rosie puts his arm around him.

GEORGE (Continued)
Missy's not just my daughter, she's

GEORGE (Continued)
so much more. She's taught me so much. These last few months, I've felt like I could tell her anything. Like I've known her all my life.

(chokes up)
I'm going to miss her so much.

ROSIE
So am I.

George goes into her arms and they cling to each other. George finally breaks down into deep, desperate weeping. Everything he's been holding in falls apart.

GEORGE
Hold me, Rosie. Hold me tight and don't let go. Missy, Missy. No..no...

INT. PENTHOUSE - MORNING.

Rosie talks to Sasha alone.

ROSIE
Missy's really sick today so we're going to skip any more touring. Is there any news about the White House?

SASHA
Not yet.

ROSIE
Sasha, she's really going downhill. We might be able to wait a day or two, but then we're going to have to go home.

SASHA
On Sunday morning, there's going to be a tour of the White House. Why don't we get you all down there real early so you'll be at the front of the line? You can take that tour, and then we'll try for some of the other rooms.

ROSIE
Okay. But if that doesn't work, we'll have to give up.

EXT. HOTEL - SUNDAY MORNING.

It is foggy and misty as George carries Misty into the limo. She is very weak and in pain.

GEORGE
(whispers)
We're going to the White House,
baby. Just like you wanted.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER.

The limo pulls up and Sasha is waiting for them as they get out.

SASHA
Good news. I got permission for you
wait inside.
(to Missy)
In the East Wing.

Missy smiles weakly.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY.

Sasha escorts Rosie and George, who wheels Missy, into the East Wing. Missy looks around in awe.

MISSY
We're in the White House, Mama. We
made it.

ROSIE
We sure did, honey.

SASHA
Come on over here and sign the log
book. This is a permanent record of
every visitor who's ever been here.

George wheels Missy over to the table. She tries to pick up the pen, but she's too weak. Rosie puts her hand over Missy's and together they sign her name. Suddenly, Missy starts to cough violently. She looks at Rosie in distress.

ROSIE
Sasha, I think maybe we should go
back to the hotel.

SASHA
Why don't you come with me, first?

They follow her to a set of double doors where an AIDE TO THE

PRESIDENT is waiting.

SASHA
Tony, this is Missy Chandler.

AIDE
Hi, Missy. Come on in.

He opens the doors and they enter.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Missy looks around in wonder and rallies her strength.

MISSY
It's really oval, isn't it? Can I
touch the desk?

TONY
I think that'd be all right.

George wheels Missy over to the desk and she runs her hand along the wood. She looks at her parents and smiles.

Suddenly a side door opens and PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON enters. The Chandlers gasps and Missy stares in shock as he smiles warmly.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Hello, Missy.

Missy recovers herself and whispers with difficulty.

MISSY
Hello, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
They told me upstairs that a very
special young lady wanted to meet me.

MISSY
Yes, sir.

George and Rosie watch this conversation, moved and amazed.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
I understand you're not feeling too
well.

MISSY
I've been better. Mr. President,
these are my parents, George and
Rosie Chandler.

President Clinton warmly shakes hands with them.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Hi. It's a real pleasure to meet
you both.

GEORGE
Thank you for this, sir. We'll
never forget it.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
You're more than welcome. I'm only
sorry I can't do more.

He leans down and takes Missy's hand.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
Missy, I wish you all the best.
Thank you for coming to see me. And
God bless you.

MISSY
(with difficulty)
It's an....honor....and privilege
to meet...you, sir.

Moved, he puts his arm around her.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
No, Missy. The honor is all mine.

Missy looks up and smiles at him. He beams down at her.

FREEZE FRAME. FADE.

A CRAWL READS: Missy Chandler died one week later. Todd and
Kristen were two of her pall bearers. Her father visits her grave
every night.

This story is dedicated to the memories of Melissa Weaver and
Dixie Yandle. Their courage is an inspiration to us all.

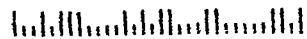
THE END

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

Don Nickle

20:17 03/09/96 155#Z WGMF,DC ZOO

The Honorable Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500



File Business



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

DON NICKLES
OKLAHOMA

March 8, 1996

The Honorable Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Margaret:

It was a pleasure to join you at the winter meeting of The Business Council. As I mentioned in my comments, we have many important issues before Congress that will have significant impact on business and our ability to grow and compete.

Issues such as balancing the budget, tax reductions including AMT and capital gains, regulatory relief, product liability reform, OSHA reform, striker replacement, and minimum wage are all before Congress, and frankly we need your input and assistance. Also, I mentioned organized labor is planning to put millions of dollars into both House and Senate races this year, which is all the more reason for us to become more aggressive in supporting solid free enterprise candidates.

Please contact me if I can be of assistance to you. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

DON NICKLES
United States Senator

DN:sb

*NO files -
West Wing
or*

create new ones?

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 29, 1996

*Reggie file
this
Are you keeping?
HABO*

MEMORANDUM FOR MAGGIE WILLIAMS

FROM: JODIE TORKELSON *JT*
RE: Pennsylvania Avenue Alternatives

Attached is a National Park Service booklet that illustrates five alternatives being considered for the long term renovation of Pennsylvania Avenue and Lafayette Park. These options have been developed from recommendations made by members of the public, the National Park Service designers and eminent landscape architects and planners.

A final "preferred alternative," incorporating the preferred elements from each of these plans, will be chosen at a meeting to be held on March 11. If you or the First Lady have feedback that you would like incorporated, please let me know by that date.

The First Lady was briefed by Roger Kennedy on the interim plan several months ago and expressed an interest in being kept informed of further developments on Pennsylvania Avenue. Roger Kennedy and J. Carter Brown have both mentioned that they would welcome an increased role for the First Lady in the Pennsylvania Avenue renovation process.

On a related matter, the National Park Service is planning to begin utility work on Pennsylvania Avenue this weekend if they can secure the necessary permits from the DC government. They will bring in some heavy equipment on March 1 (Friday) and begin excavating some portions of the Avenue on March 2 (Saturday). After the utility work is completed in mid-March, guard booths and planters are to be placed at each end of the Avenue. These actions are related to the short term improvements that were originally planned for late 1995.

Please let me know if you have questions/comments.

Thank you.

RANGE OF

Alternatives

DISCUSSION DRAFT

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
at the **WHITE HOUSE**

Copy for the First Lady's Office

February 28, 1996

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PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

at
the WHITE HOUSE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Security: At this time we have the opportunity to provide a safer, more secure environment while providing welcoming entry zones with less prominent security barriers for both vehicles and pedestrians.

Presidency: We have the opportunity to create a focal point that returns Jefferson's forecourt for the citizens. Better vehicular entryways to the White House can be designed while removing traffic that separates citizens from the People's House. In so doing, we can also enhance H Street's potential to welcome people to President's Park.

We also have the opportunity to develop a plan that meets the public's desire for a traditional, stately yet simple, formal yet informal design.

Public Use: An opportunity now exists to create the desired experience, as identified in the public input process — a site that is peaceful / contemplative, educational, expansive / open; a public area that encourages leisurely use. At the same time the negative impacts of noise, fumes, and sidewalk crowding in front of the White House can be reduced while providing better opportunities to see the White House.

Historic Preservation: There is an opportunity to celebrate the past and its continuity while we meet the needs of today and the future.

Connections to the City: We have the opportunity to incorporate into the design the functional requirements of neighbors as well as the executive branch. We can improve physical access to the site while opening up views into and away from the site. We can improve the appearance of the area, thereby supporting local business and encouraging pride in the neighbors of President's Park.

ALTERNATIVE A — LEAST CHANGE

Pennsylvania Avenue would retain the appearance of a street. Paving accents would be used to improve the appearance of Pennsylvania, Jackson and Madison Places, and H Street. Curbs would identify Lafayette Park as a distinct area within President's Park. Facilities in Lafayette Park would be rehabilitated, but the park would retain its existing design.

Security: Security would be provided by a perimeter of bollards, combined with gatehouses and vehicle barriers. The bollards would be the same as the E Street bollards. Gatehouses, bollards, and vehicle barriers on Pennsylvania Avenue would be removable to a 60' width for inaugural parades. Temporary security needs would be handled by means of a series of removable posts (placed into permanent sleeves) with chains. Other functional needs would be met.

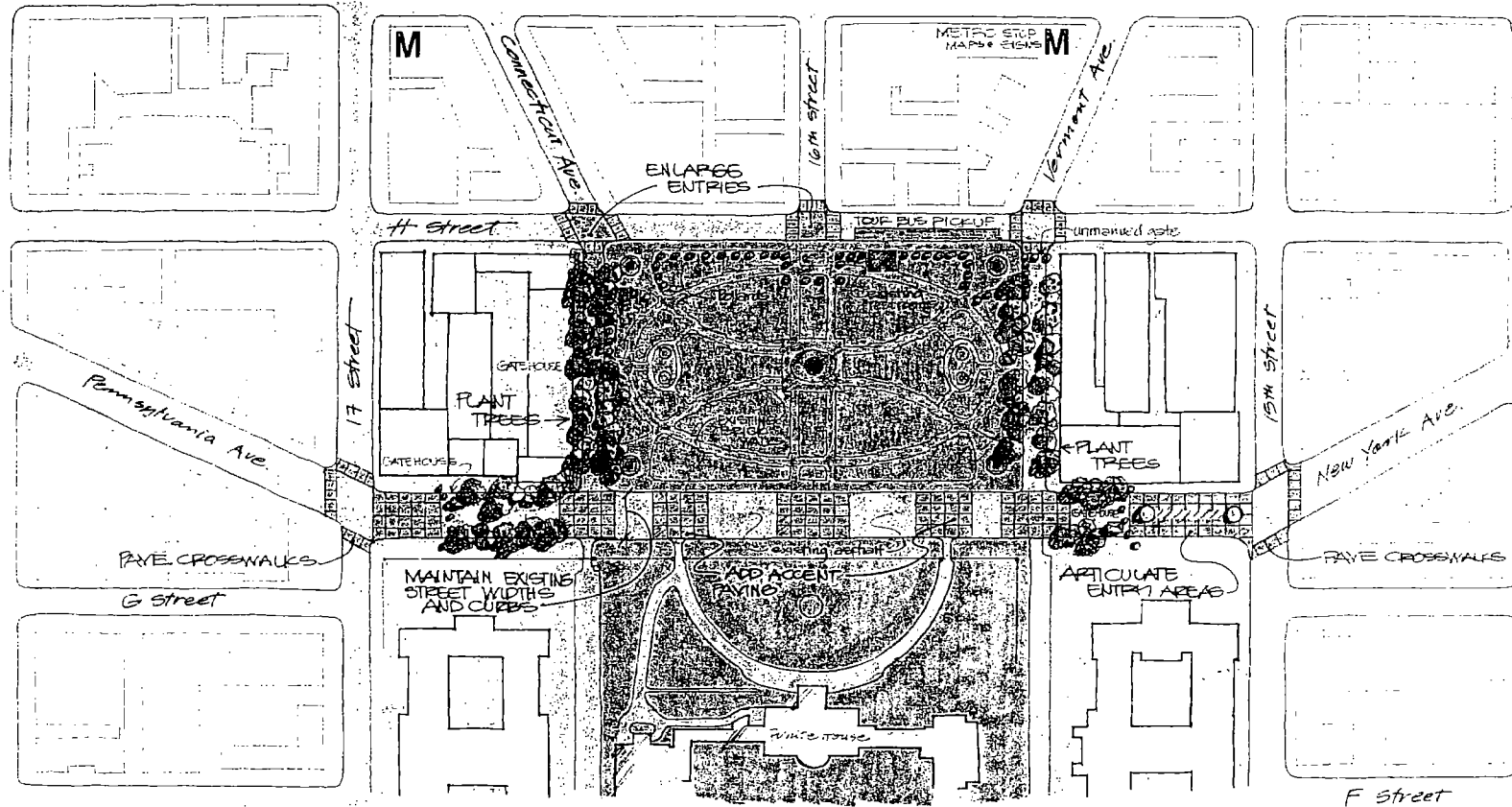
Presidency: All access and functional needs of the White House, the Blair-Lee house, and the inaugural parade would be met. The bollards would provide a secure but welcoming appearance, as would the gatehouses. A variety of materials and quality of workmanship, which would not meet design guidelines, would continue to be used.

Public Use: Enlarged entry areas would be defined by bollards; site elements would provide identification and information. Visual access would be improved for pedestrians and vehicles. Improved access, combined with a lighting plan, would increase the feeling of safety. Public needs, accommodations for First Amendment activities, and site awareness / educational opportunities would continue at existing levels. The existing tour bus pickup would be maintained. All permit parking and buses would be removed from the site.

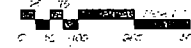
Historic Preservation: National historic landmark status would not change.

Connections to the City: Visual access and site identification would be improved. The design palette for the precinct would be for President's Park only. Additional information for Metro riders would be provided. Local bus routes would be removed from Madison Place. Deliveries, service, and maintenance access would be improved. Parking would be provided for Riggs Bank customers. Offsite staff parking would be encouraged. Existing levels of accommodation for business and access would be maintained.

ALTERNATIVE A - LEAST CHANGE



* PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE WOULD RETAIN THE APPEARANCE OF A STREET. PAVING ACCENTS WOULD BE USED TO IMPROVE THE APPEARANCE OF PENNSYLVANIA, JACKSON AND MADISON PLACES, AND H STREET. CURBS WOULD IDENTIFY LAFAYETTE AS A DISTINCT AREA. WITHIN PRESIDENT'S PARK, FACILITIES IN LAFAYETTE PARK WOULD BE REHABILITATED, BUT THE PARK WOULD RETAIN ITS EXISTING DESIGN. *



PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
at the WHITE HOUSE

Alternative A — Least Change

Overall Design

- Use consistent site furnishings vocabulary / palette.
- Develop a consistent sign plan and lighting plan.

Pennsylvania Avenue

- Accommodate the inaugural parade route; use removable gatehouses and security bollards.
- Maintain existing street widths and curbs.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with security bollards.
- Remove existing concrete bollards.
- Repair the White House sidewalk, using consistent materials.
- Incorporate accent paving within existing asphalt pavement.
- Provide access to the Blair-Lee house, Renwick Gallery, Riggs Bank.
- Articulate entry areas.

Madison Place

- Remove DC buses.
- Maintain existing street widths and curbs.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with security bollards.
- Provide an unstaffed security gate.
- Plant boulevard trees.

Jackson Place

- Remove all permit parking.
- Reconfigure the H St. intersection to facilitate deliveries.
- Maintain existing street widths and curbs.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with security bollards.
- Locate a staffed gatehouse near the White House Historical Association.
- Plant boulevard trees.

H Street

- Open up view corridors to the White House.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with security bollards.
- Enlarge pedestrian entry areas.
- Retain a tour bus pickup area.
- Incorporate accent paving of crosswalks

Lafayette Park (minor rehabilitation)

- Retain NHL status.
- Maintain all statues and urns in place.
- Enhance view corridors by pruning trees.
- Enlarge entry areas.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with security bollards.
- Repair and rehabilitate existing restrooms.
- Repair existing fountains.

Connections to the White House

- No change.

Connections to the City

- Provide directional information and maps at Metro stops.
- Provide directional signs on street posts.

Education

- Maintain existing site history plaques.

ALTERNATIVE B — LIMITED CHANGE

Pennsylvania Avenue would be used to connect the separate and distinct areas of Lafayette Park and the White House. Curbs would be removed, and paving patterns in brick and stone would define areas for pedestrians and official motorcades. Lafayette Park would be moderately rehabilitated; its basic design would be retained, but the 1960s fountains would be removed and the restrooms relocated.

Security: Security would be provided by a low metal fence plus gatehouses and vehicle barriers. The fence design would be based on the White House fence. Gatehouses, bollards and vehicle barriers on Pennsylvania Avenue would be removable to a 60' width for inaugural parades. Temporary security needs would be handled by a series of removable fence panels, placed on posts that fit into permanent sleeves. Other functional needs would be met.

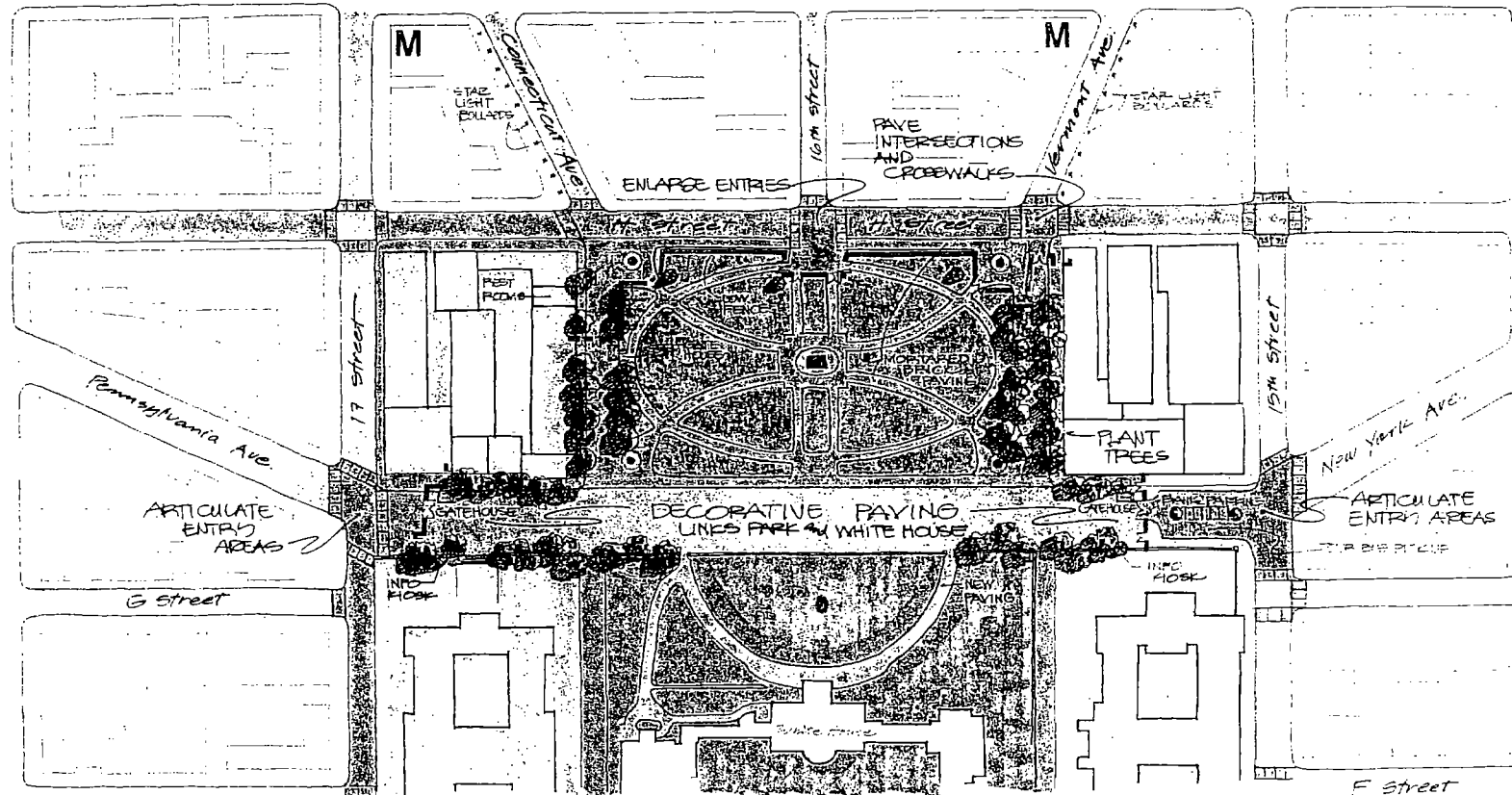
Presidency: All access and functional needs of the White House, the Blair-Lee house, and the inaugural parade would be met. The fence would provide a secure but welcoming appearance, as would the gatehouses. The street space would be used to bring together two different palettes of materials, but the use of materials would meet the intent of the design guidelines.

Public Use: The appearance of the area would be improved by using enlarged entry areas defined by fencing; site elements would provide identification and information. Visual access would be improved for pedestrians and vehicles. Improved access would be combined with a lighting plan to increase the feeling of safety. Public needs would be better met by new restrooms and additional facilities. First Amendment activities would continue at existing levels. Site awareness / educational opportunities would be expanded. Tour bus pickup would be relocated to 15th and Pennsylvania. All permit parking and buses would be removed.

Historic Preservation: The national historic landmark status would not change.

Connections to the City: The use of the design palette would extend one block into the surrounding area, helping to create a special neighborhood identity. View corridors and functional access would be improved. Parking would be accommodated offsite. Businesses would be encouraged to support the site's activities and destination potential. Visual access and site identification would be improved. Additional information and directions for Metro riders would be provided. Local bus routes would be removed from Madison. Deliveries, service, and maintenance access would be improved. Parking would be provided for Riggs Bank customers. Offsite staff parking would be encouraged. Existing levels of accommodation for business and access would be maintained.

ALTERNATIVE B - LIMITED CHANGE



* PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE WOULD BE USED TO CONNECT THE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT AREAS OF LAFAYETTE PARK AND THE WHITE HOUSE. CURBS WOULD BE REMOVED, AND PAVING PATTERNS IN BRICK AND STONE WOULD DEFINE AREAS FOR PEDESTRIANS AND OFFICIAL MOTORCADES. LAFAYETTE PARK WOULD BE MODERATELY REHABILITATED; ITS BASIC DESIGN WOULD BE RETAINED, BUT THE 1960's FOUNTAINS WOULD BE REMOVED AND RESTROOMS RELOCATED. *



PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
at the **WHITE HOUSE**

Alternative B — Limited Change

Overall Design

- Use consistent site furnishings vocabulary / palette.
- Develop a consistent sign plan and lighting plan.
- Use information kiosks at major entryways.

Pennsylvania Avenue

- Accommodate the inaugural parade route; use removable gatehouses and fencing.
- Use both brick and stone in paving patterns to interconnect Lafayette Park and the White House; delineate existing street widths with the paving pattern.
- Remove all curbs.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with a low, historical, metal fence.
- Remove existing concrete bollards.
- Repair the White House sidewalk, using consistent materials.
- Provide access to the Blair-Lee house, Renwick Gallery, Riggs Bank.
- Articulate entry areas.
- Relocate tour bus pickup to 15th and Pennsylvania.

Madison Place

- Remove DC buses.
- Remove all curbs; make Madison Place part of Lafayette Park.
- Pave the narrow vehicular/pedestrian way with bricks.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with a low, historical, metal fence.
- Provide an unstaffed security gate.
- Plant boulevard trees.

Jackson Place

- Remove all permit parking.
- Reconfigure the H St. intersection to facilitate deliveries.
- Remove all curbs; make Jackson Place part of Lafayette Park.
- Pave the narrow vehicular / pedestrian way with bricks.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with a low, historical, metal fence.
- Locate a staffed gatehouse near the White House Historical Association.
- Plant boulevard trees.

H Street

- Open up view corridors to the White House.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with a low, historical, metal fence.
- Enlarge pedestrian entry areas.
- Relocate tour bus pickup to 15th and Pennsylvania.
- Use brick paving on intersections and crosswalks.

Lafayette Park (Moderate Rehabilitation)

- Retain NHL status.
- Maintain all statues and urns in place.
- Enhance view corridors by pruning trees.
- Enlarge entry areas.
- Retain existing walk configurations.
- Replace brick paving, using a mortared base.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with a low, historical, metal fence.
- Relocate restrooms to a townhouse on the perimeter.
- Remove the 1960s fountains.

Connections to the White House

- Repave the north driveway with stone.

Connections to the City

- Use a consistent site furnishings palette for one block outside of President's Park.
- Provide directional information and maps at Metro stops.
- Provide directional signs on street posts.

Education

- Develop a consistent approach for site history plaques.
- Incorporate history-focused inscriptions in pavement.

ALTERNATIVE C — MODERATE CHANGE

Pennsylvania Avenue would be used to interconnect Lafayette Park and the White House. Consistent materials and elements would be used in all areas of President's Park, and the roads on the perimeter would be specially paved to unify this district. Lafayette Park would be extensively rehabilitated to make it more functional for use by large numbers of visitors.

Security: Security would be provided by a perimeter of bollards following the elliptical shape of the walkways. The bollards would be the same as those on E Street. Gatehouses and vehicle barriers would be provided, along with symbolic gateposts echoing the design of the White House gateposts. Gatehouses, bollards, and vehicle barriers on Pennsylvania Avenue would be removable to a 60' width for inaugural parades. Temporary security needs would be handled through a series of removable posts (placed into permanent sleeves) with chains. Other functional needs would be met.

Presidency: All access and functional needs of the White House, the Blair-Lee house, and the inaugural parade would be met. The bollards would provide a secure but welcoming appearance, as would the gatehouses. A strong identification for President's Park would be provided by using timeless and durable materials in a simple, dignified way to meet the intent of the design guidelines.

Public Use: The appearance of the area would be unified and improved by using a single palette of materials. The H Street entry would be greatly enlarged to enhance a sense of welcome. Entry areas would be identified by historic statues and urns. The consistent use of site elements would provide identification and information. Visual access would be improved for pedestrians and vehicles. Improved physical access would be combined with a lighting plan to increase the feeling of safety. Public needs would be better met with new restrooms and additional facilities, such as picnic / eating areas. First Amendment activities would continue at existing levels, but hard surfaces would reduce damage to the site. Additional site awareness / educational opportunities would be provided. Tour buses would be replaced by a visitor shuttle at 15th and Pennsylvania that would run to the visitor center. Tour bus pickup would be on 15th, near the visitor center. All permit parking and buses would be removed.

Historic Preservation: The national historic landmark status would be reassessed; urns and the Jackson statue would be relocated onsite.

Connections to City: The consistent use of a design palette would extend two blocks into the surrounding area, further helping to create a special neighborhood identity. View corridors and functional access would be improved. Parking would be accommodated offsite. Businesses would be encouraged to support the site's activities and destination potential. Visual access and site identification would be improved. Additional information and directions for Metro riders would be provided. Local bus routes would be removed from Madison Place. Deliveries, service, and maintenance access would be improved. Parking would be provided for Riggs Bank customers. Offsite staff parking would be encouraged. Existing levels of accommodation for business and access would be maintained.

[illegible]

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
at the **WHITE HOUSE**

Alternative C — Moderate Change

Overall Design

- Use a consistent site furnishings vocabulary / palette.
- Develop a consistent sign plan and consistent lighting plan.
- Use information kiosks at major entryways.
- Replace all street paving and walks, using a single palette of materials to unify the entire precinct.

Pennsylvania Avenue

- Accommodate the inaugural parade route; use removable gatehouses, gateposts, and bollards.
- Remove all curbs.
- Replace all street paving and walks with a single palette of materials.
- Replace Jersey barriers with security bollards and symbolic gateposts.
- Relocate vehicle gates to one side to emphasize a pedestrian focus.
- Remove existing concrete bollards.
- Provide tree planters to define space (removable for parades).
- Provide access to the Blair-Lee house, Renwick Gallery, Riggs Bank.
- Articulate entry areas.

Madison Place

- Remove DC buses.
- Remove all curbs; make Madison Place part of Lafayette Park.
- Replace all street paving and walks, using a single palette of materials.
- Replace Jersey barriers with security bollards and symbolic gateposts.
- Provide an unmanned security gate.
- Plant boulevard trees.

Jackson Place

- Remove all permit parking.
- Reconfigure the H St. intersection to facilitate deliveries.
- Remove all curbs; make Jackson Place part of Lafayette Park.
- Replace all street paving and walks, using a single palette of materials.
- Replace Jersey barriers with security bollards and symbolic gateposts.
- Locate a staffed gatehouse near the White House Historical Association.
- Plant boulevard trees.

H Street

- Open up view corridors to White House.
- Enlarge pedestrian entry areas.
- Relocate shuttle pickup to Pennsylvania near 15th, with shuttle and tour bus pickup at the White House visitor center.
- Provide photo opportunities at a vehicle pull off.

Lafayette Park (Extensive Rehabilitation)

- Reassess NHL status.
- Retain existing walk configurations with some modifications.
- Maintain corner statues.
- Relocate Jackson statue to emphasize the north/south axis along 16th St.
- Add a new statue to balance the relocated Jackson statue (e.g., Washington equestrian, First Amendment, Madison, Dolley Madison).
- Relocate urns to emphasize 16th and H St. entry.
- Add new fountain on the north/south axis of 16th St. to frame views and to repeat the form of the north lawn fountain.
- Widen H St. and Pennsylvania Ave. walk paving to be more welcoming, to emphasize ellipse form in park, and to reduce site maintenance.
- Provide tables and seating to encourage lunch time use.
- Enhance view corridors by pruning tree.
- Enlarge entry areas.
- Replace Jersey barriers with security bollards (sited in an elliptical form).
- Relocate restrooms to a building near Madison Pl. / Pennsylvania Ave.
- Remove the 1960s fountains.

Connections to the White House

- Use design precinct palette of materials.
- Relocate the fence to identify a destination and a connection to the president.
- Reconstruct the north lawn fountain with timeless, durable materials; repeat the shape of the new park fountain.

Connections to the City

- Use a consistent design palette for site furnishings two blocks outside the President's Park perimeter.
- Repave precinct perimeter streets and use street emblems to identify major intersections (Pennsylvania Ave., 16th, E, and precinct corners).
- Provide directional information and maps at Metro stops.
- Provide directional signs on street posts.
- Locate information kiosks at Metro stops.
- Use sidewalk emblems or bollards to lead to Metro stops.
- Encourage surrounding dining establishments to provide food service.
- Consider a tourist-focused food service in a townhouse on Madison Pl.

Education

- Develop a consistent approach for site history plaques.
- Incorporate history focused or inspirational inscriptions (a statement from each president) in the pavement.

ALTERNATIVE D — HISTORICAL CHANGE

Pennsylvania Avenue, Lafayette Park, and adjacent areas would be restored to the time of Andrew Jackson Downing to emphasize the site's cultural landscape and history.

Security: Security would be provided by a metal fence combined with gatehouses and vehicle barriers. The fence design would be based on the historic fence that was relocated to Gettysburg, and the fence would be in its historic location at the curb edge. Gatehouses, bollards, and vehicle barriers on Pennsylvania Avenue would be removable to a 60' width for inaugural parades. An additional secure perimeter would be provided by using hitching post style bollards to present a historical appearance. Temporary security needs would be handled by means of a series of removable fence panels, placed on posts that fit into permanent sleeves. Other functional needs would be met.

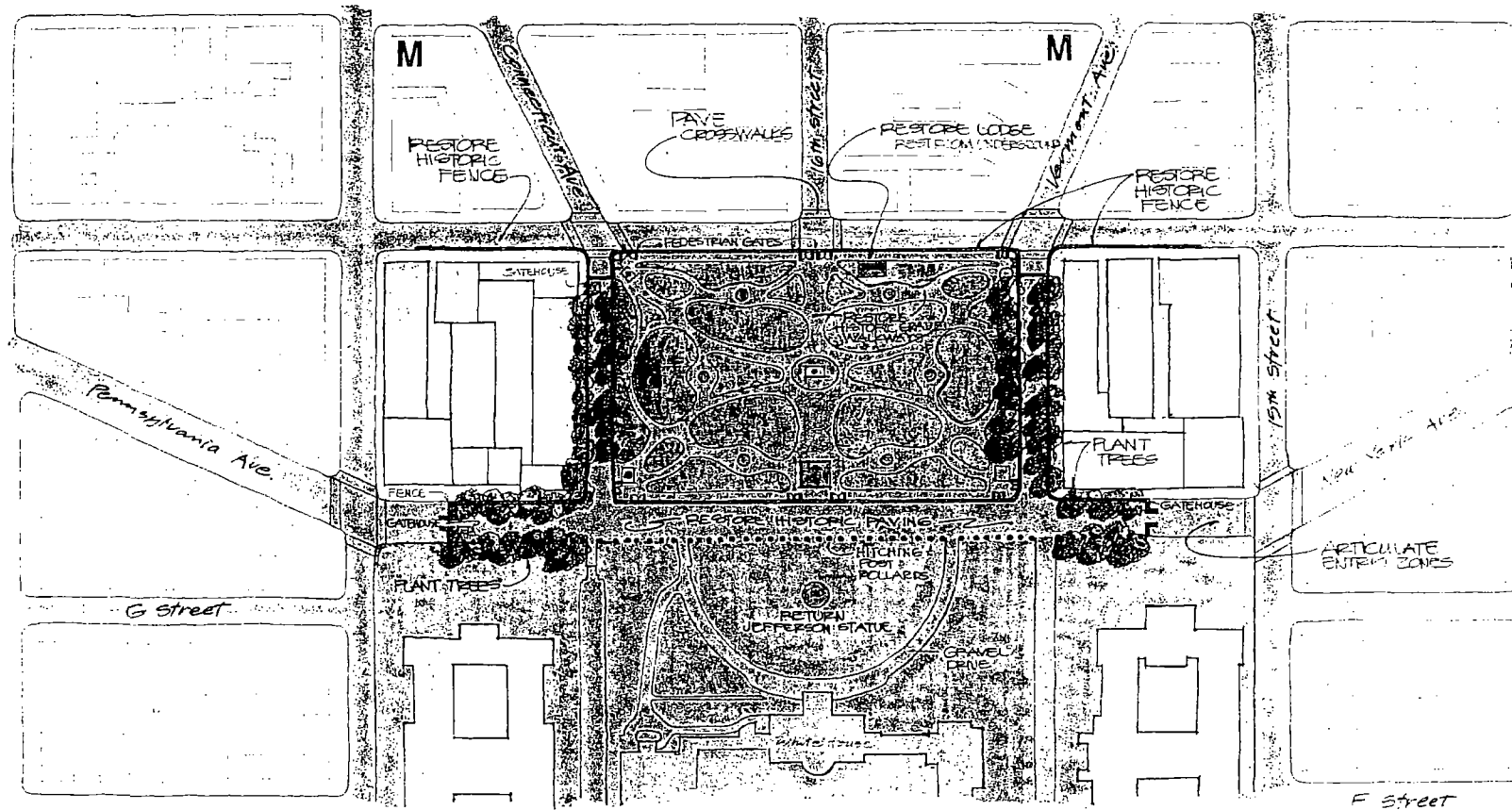
Presidency: All access and functional needs of the White House, the Blair-Lee House, and the inaugural parade would be met. The fence would provide a secure appearance, as would the gatehouses. The design would create a moment in time and would not be compatible with the timeless approach intended by the design guidelines.

Public Use: The fence location at the curb edge would not allow for large, welcoming entry areas, nor would it facilitate views from vehicles. Public needs would be better met with new underground restrooms. First Amendment activities would take place within the totally fenced park. Throughout the site there would be an educational focus on site history and design. Tour bus pickup would be on 15th Street near Pennsylvania Avenue. All permit parking and buses would be removed.

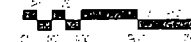
Historic Preservation: The site would be restored to the A. J. Downing era and design. Landmark status would be reassessed.

Connections to City: The design precinct would be limited to President's Park, and the park's separate and distinct areas would be maintained. View corridors and functional access would be improved. Parking would be accommodated offsite. Businesses would be encouraged to support the site's activities and destination potential. Visual access and site identification would be improved. Additional information and directions for Metro riders would be provided. Local bus routes would be removed from Madison Place. Deliveries, service, and maintenance access would be improved. Parking would be provided for Riggs Bank customers. Offsite staff parking would be encouraged. Existing levels of accommodation for business and access would be maintained.

ALTERNATIVE D - HISTORICAL CHANGE



* PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, LAFAYETTE PARK, AND ADJACENT STREETS WOULD BE RESTORED TO THE TIME OF ANDREW JACKSON DOWNING TO EMPHASIZE THE SITE'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND HISTORY. *



PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
at the **WHITE HOUSE**

Alternative D — Historical Change

Overall Design

- Develop a consistent sign plan.
- Develop a lighting plan for each area consistent with the era interpreted.
- Develop a site furnishings vocabulary / palette for each area consistent with the era interpreted.

Pennsylvania Avenue (A. J. Downing era)

- Accommodate the inaugural parade route; use removable gatehouses and security bollards.
- Return to historic era street widths, curbs, materials and detailing.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with a historical replica fence.
- Replace existing concrete bollards with bollards resembling horse hitching posts.
- Return the White House sidewalk to historic era materials.
- Provide access to the Blair-Lee house, Renwick Gallery, Riggs Bank (but no defined parking).
- Articulate entry areas.

Madison Place (A. J. Downing era)

- Remove DC buses.
- Return to historic era street widths, curbs, and detailing.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with a historical replica fence.
- Provide an unstaffed security gate.
- Plant boulevard trees.

Jackson Place (A. J. Downing era)

- Remove all permit parking.
- Reconfigure the H St. intersection to facilitate deliveries.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with a historical replica fence.
- Locate a staffed gatehouse near the Decatur house; design to look residential (not coordinated with Pennsylvania Avenue gatehouses).
- Return to historic era street widths, curbs, and detailing.
- Plant boulevard trees.

H Street (A. J. Downing era)

- Open up view corridors to the White House.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with a historic replica fence at the curb edge.
- Incorporate accent paving at intersection crosswalks.

Lafayette Park (restored to the A. J. Downing plan)

- Reassess NHL status.
- Maintain all statues.
- Return urns to previous locations.
- Return to historic walk configurations and materials (gravel).
- Enhance view corridors by pruning trees.
- Enlarge entry areas.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with a metal fence based on original fence detailing and location (at the curb edge).
- Restore the existing lodge / restrooms to become an entrance to underground restrooms.
- Remove the 1960s fountains.

Connections to the White House

- Remove the north lawn fountain.
- Return the Jefferson statue.
- Replace the north driveway surface with gravel.

Connections to the City

- Provide directional information and maps at Metro stops.
- Provide directional signs on street posts.
- Pave crosswalks at intersections.

Education

- Maintain existing site history plaques.
- Focus on site history.

ALTERNATIVE E — MOST CHANGE

Pennsylvania Avenue, Lafayette Park, and the north side of the White House would be redesigned as an integrated space, with Pennsylvania Avenue as a focal point in front of the White House and Lafayette Park as a town square. Consistent materials and elements would be used in all areas of President's Park.

Security: Security would be provided by a low metal fence plus gatehouses and vehicle barriers. The fence design would be based on the White House fence. Gatehouses, bollards, and vehicle barriers on Pennsylvania Avenue would be removable to a 60' width for inaugural parades. Temporary security needs would be handled by a series of posts that fit into permanent sleeves and chains.

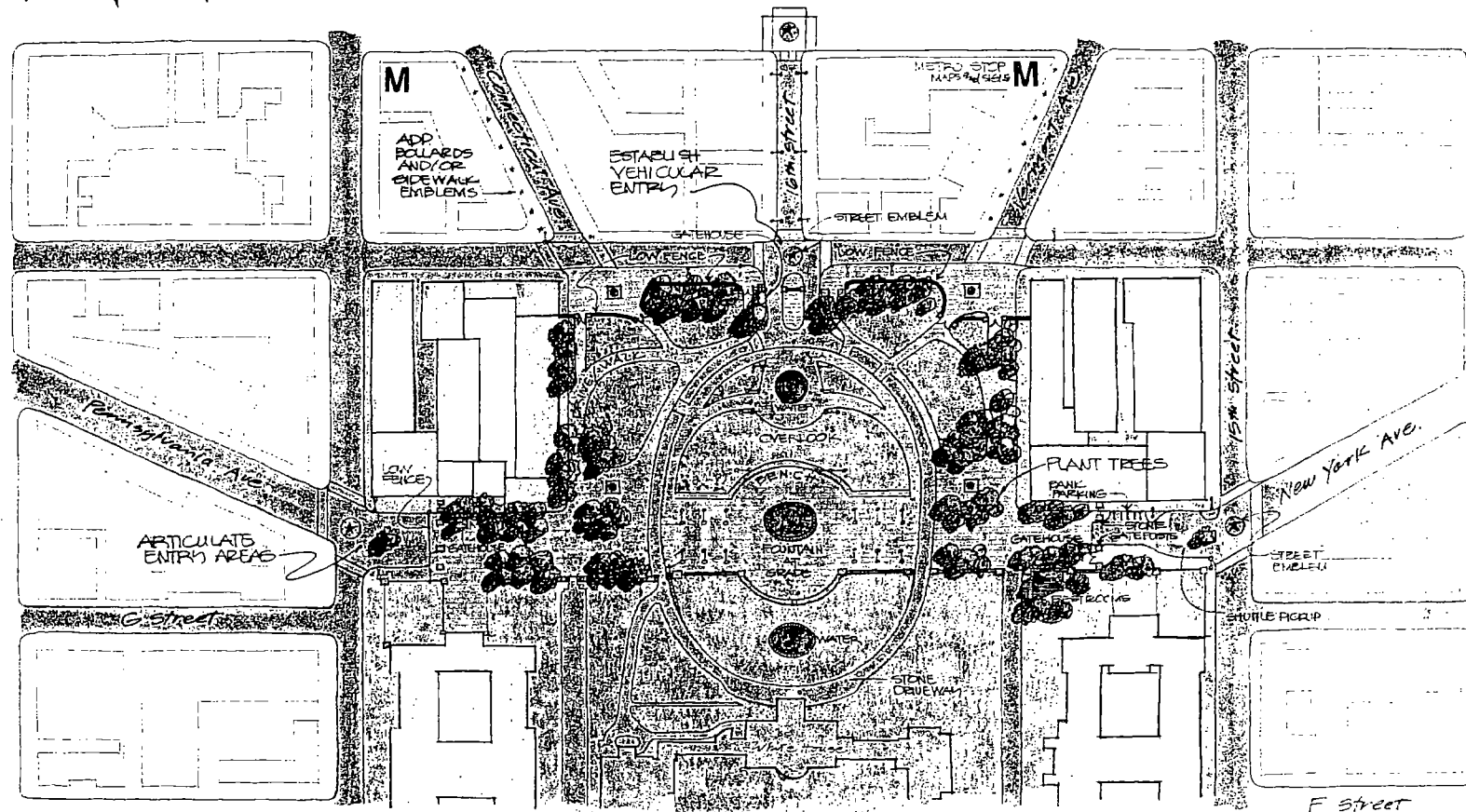
Presidency: All access and functional needs of the White House, the Blair-Lee house, and the inaugural parade would be met. The fence would provide a secure but welcoming appearance, as would the gatehouses. Official arrivals and the business conducted at the White House would be celebrated. The identity of this precinct would be clear and timeless, and durable materials and site furnishings would meet design guidelines.

Public Use: The site appearance would be unified and improved, using a single palette of materials. H Street would become the major entry, and entryways for vehicles and pedestrians would be scaled to indicate a welcoming atmosphere as well as the symbolic importance of the White House. Historic statues and fencing would indicate enlarged entry areas. The use of consistent design elements would provide identification and information. The north/south axis of the site would be emphasized, and visual access would be improved for pedestrians and vehicles. Improved access, combined with a lighting plan, would increase the feeling of safety. Public needs would be better met by new restrooms and covered seating in the Treasury Building courtyard. First Amendment activities would be relocated closer to the White House, but attendant noise would be masked by additional fountains; hard surfaces would reduce site damage. Additional site awareness / educational opportunities would be provided. The tour bus would be replaced by a visitor shuttle at 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue that would run to the visitor center. Tour bus pickup would be on 15th Street, near the visitor center. All permit parking and buses would be removed.

Historic Preservation: The A. J. Downing influences on later designs would be removed and Lafayette Park returned to reflect the earlier influences of L'Enfant and Jefferson. All statues would remain in place. Landmark status would be reassessed and likely lost.

Connections to the City: The consistent use of a design palette would extend two blocks into the surrounding area, helping to create a special neighborhood identity. View corridors and functional access would be improved. Parking would be accommodated offsite. Businesses would be encouraged to support the site's activities and destination potential. Visual access and site identification would be improved, with additional information and directions for Metro riders. Local bus routes would be removed from Madison Place. Deliveries, service, and maintenance access would be improved. Parking would be provided for Riggs Bank customers. Offsite staff parking would be encouraged. Existing levels of accommodation for business and access would be maintained.

ALTERNATIVE E - MOST CHANGE



* PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, LAFAYETTE PARK, AND THE NORTH SIDE OF THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD BE REDESIGNED AS AN INTEGRATED SPACE, WITH PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AS A FOCAL POINT IN FRONT OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND LAFAYETTE PARK AS A TOWN SQUARE. CONSISTENT MATERIALS AND ELEMENTS WOULD BE USED IN ALL AREAS OF PRESIDENTS PARK. *

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
at the **WHITE HOUSE**

Alternative E — Most Change

Overall Design

- Use a consistent site furnishings vocabulary / palette.
- Develop a consistent sign plan.
- Develop a consistent lighting plan.
- Use information kiosks at major entryways.
- Replace all street paving and walks, using a single palette of materials; frame the entire precinct

Pennsylvania Avenue

- Accommodate the inaugural parade route; use removable gatehouses and fencing.
- Remove curbs.
- Replace Jersey barriers with a metal fence.
- Remove existing concrete bollards.
- Replace all walks and drives, using a new palette of materials.
- Extend paving into perimeter intersections.
- Provide access to the Blair-Lee house, Renwick Gallery, Riggs Bank.
- Articulate entry areas.
- Add trees to define space.

Madison Place

- Replace with a driveable walk.

Jackson Place

- Replace with a driveable walk, providing access for deliveries.

H Street

- Open up view corridors to the White House.
- Replace the Jersey barriers with a metal fence.
- Enlarge pedestrian entry areas.
- Replace the tour bus with a shuttle to the White House visitor center.
- Incorporate accent paving at intersections.
- Incorporate street emblems.

Lafayette Park

- Redesign and regrade park (impact on NHL status).
- Maintain all statues in place.
- Relocate or remove urns.

Add fountain at base of the Jackson statue.

Incorporate major diplomatic / business vehicular entry at 16th and H St.

Develop new walk and drive configurations.

Add fountains to repeat elements from the White House grounds, to add symbolism, to mask noise, and to emphasize the north/south axis.

Enhance view corridors by pruning trees and relandscaping.

Enlarge entry areas.

Replace the Jersey barriers with a metal fence.

Relocate restrooms to the Treasury Building's north courtyard.

Connections to the White House

Complete the circular north drive.

Replace the north lawn fountain, using more durable materials.

Reconfigure the fence to make citizens feel closer to the White House.

Connections to the City

Use a consistent design palette for site furnishings two blocks outside the perimeter of President's Park.

Extend street paving materials to I St. on 16th; add street emblem.

Optionally frame precinct streets and use street emblems to identify the area at major intersections (Pennsylvania Ave., 16th, E, and precinct corners).

Provide directional information, maps, and information kiosks at Metro stops.

Provide directional signs on street posts.

Use sidewalk emblems or bollards to lead to Metro stops.

Consider establishing a tourist-focused food service in a townhouse on Madison Pl.

Education

Develop a consistent approach for site history plaques.

Incorporate historical or inspirational inscriptions (a statement from each president) in pavement.

GENERAL LIGHTING

Illumination can be used to establish the importance of the area, emphasize focal points, identify buildings or site elements, reveal information about the site, enhance feelings of safety, and create a mood. A discussion of illumination should include an assessment of the quantity of light, color of light, and potential for negative aspects of lighting (glare, light trespass, and light pollution).

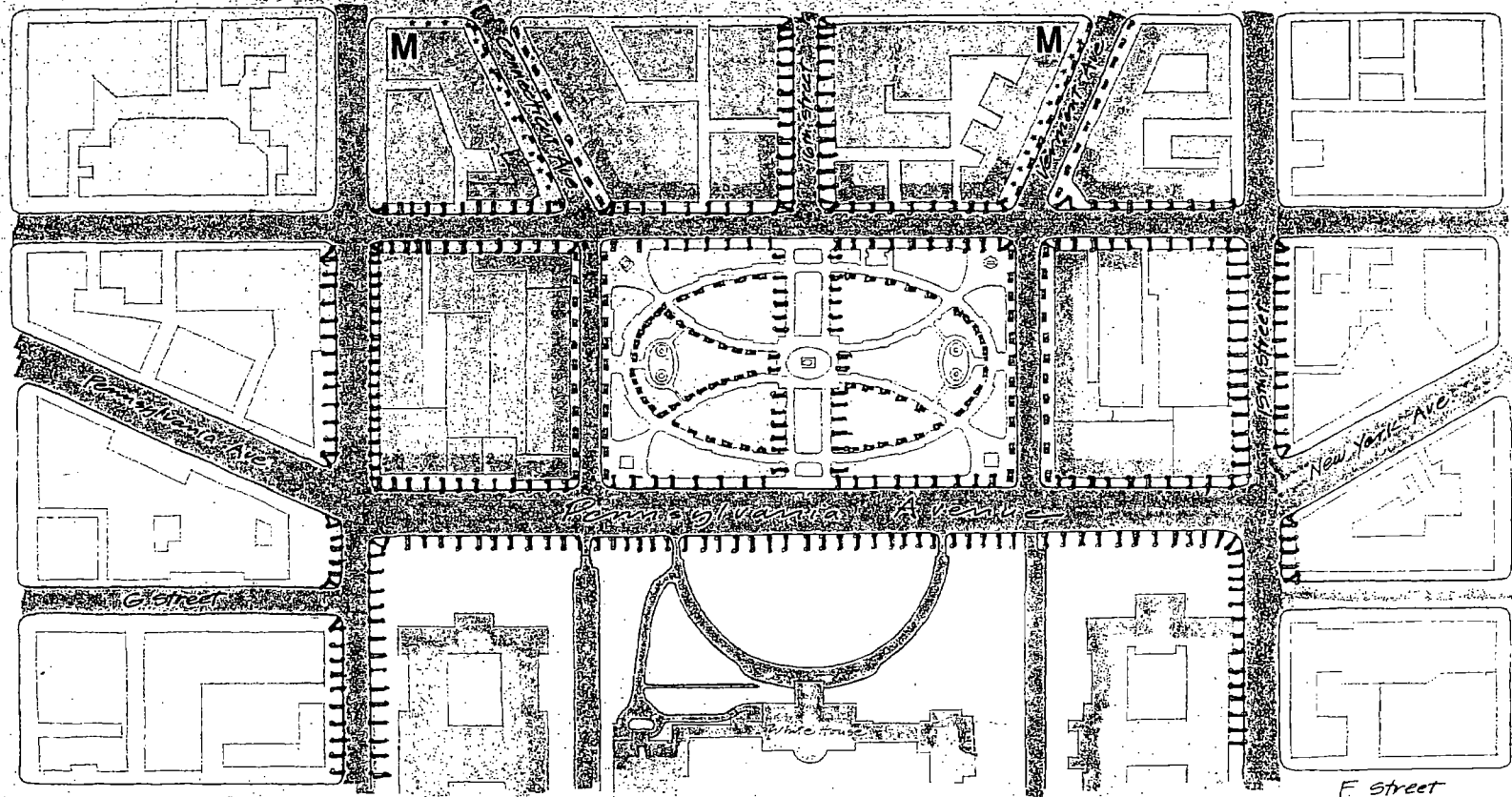
The daytime character of light fixtures is important and can either help establish a site character or detract from it. The character of light fixtures should meet design guidelines.

A general lighting plan / hierarchy identifies the following four major elements of the lighting plan:

- Facade lighting — Buildings surrounding Lafayette Park and Pennsylvania Avenue
- Primary lighting (for high use spaces and perimeter roads) — Double Bacon-style lights or new fixtures
- Secondary lighting (for Lafayette Park, Jackson and Madison Places) — Single Millet-style lights or new fixtures
- Bollard lighting (ground lighting of pedestrian walkways) — Existing “star” theme bollard

The general lighting plan does not indicate number of fixtures, but rather zones of lighting.

GENERAL LIGHTING



- ||| DOUBLE RACON STYLE LIGHTS
- SINGLE MILLET STYLE LIGHTS
- ILLUMINATE BUILDING FACADES
- STAR LIGHT BOLLARDS



PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
AT THE WHITE HOUSE

APPENDIX: CRITERIA

Security:

- Entry checkpoints, gatehouses, vehicle barriers, pedestrian access.
- Unobtrusive, secure perimeter (4' maximum opening).
- Flexible temporary barriers for presidential / diplomatic needs.
- Protective needs accommodated (U.S. Secret Service) — access / parking (vehicular, bicycle, dog).
- Law enforcement needs accommodated (U.S. Park Police and local law enforcement) — access and parking (vehicular, horse, motorcycle, buses, trailers, vans, crowd control).
- Clearly defined / defensible zones for activities such as motorcades, First Amendment activities, diplomatic arrivals / staging, security / law enforcement parking, staging, and activities.

Presidency:

- An identity for President's Park, with a consistent design palette; design guidelines; compatible with Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House.
- A welcoming appearance at gatehouses and entries.
- Inaugural parade accommodated.
- Access for White House and executive branch functional needs — multiple vehicular access routes; pedestrian access; media access; deliveries, service and maintenance; emergency and fire.
- Functional needs of the Blair-Lee house as the presidential guest house accommodated — diplomatic access, staging, and parking; bus staging, pickup, and dropoff; deliveries and service access.

Public Use:

- A welcoming appearance and identity for President's Park, with a consistent design palette; design guidelines; easily identifiable entries and destinations that are fully accessible; a feeling of safety for visitors.
- Visitor information available.

Access to President's Park and the White House:

- Visual access — viewing by pedestrians, viewing from vehicles on H Street
- Pedestrian access — from all intersections, from Metro stops
- Vehicular access — to President's Park, tour bus pickup
- Public transit access — Metro stops, DC bus locations
- Emergency and fire access
- Deliveries, service, and maintenance access

Public needs / activities accommodated (at least at existing levels) — drinking water, restrooms, seating, climate protection / shade, chess tables, picnic areas.

First Amendment activities accommodated — available utilities, legally defined areas.

Site awareness / education:

- Emotional link to the presidency — physical access and closeness, visual access, inspiration, motorcades as an event
- Educational opportunities — site history, presidential history, general U.S. history
- Press / media presence as an event; press access

Historic Preservation:

Maintained eligibility of all properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Maintained eligibility of all properties listed as national historic landmarks or eligible for listing.

Design solutions that are sensitive to the historic resources and that are in keeping with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

Connections to the City:

Activities encouraged and the site's destination potential enhanced by lengthening the activity time frame and by encouraging a local business diversity / mix.

Connections into and out of President's Park:

- **Visual / identification elements — President's Park neighborhood identifiable; distance / intensity ratio; identifying elements (signs, site furnishings, lighting, paving of streets and walks).**
- **Visual access to the White House and President's Park — open view corridors; plan for maintaining view corridors; functional access (local private vehicular transportation patterns, local public transit, Metro, buses, taxis / shuttles, visitor transportation, tour buses, Tourmobiles, service vehicles, deliveries, maintenance vehicles)**

Vehicle parking needs accommodated or solved — executive office staff, other government staff, event parking for diplomatic functions, local businesses.

Functional needs accommodated — local businesses, executive office, other government, nonprofit organizations (churches, museums), tourist-based needs, street-based businesses.

WASHINGTON

Probe expected of Clinton's decision to allow arms sales

The House Rules Committee is expected to recommend establishment of a special committee to investigate charges that the Clinton administration ignored Iranian weapons shipments to Croatia and Bosnia.

Speaker Newt Gingrich announced plans last week to create the panel, technically a select subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, to look into President Clinton's decision to allow Iran to ship weapons to Bosnia in violation of a United Nations arms embargo.

"This much we do know: The president personally approved the decision to permit Iranian arms to flow into Bosnia, the CIA and other parts of our government were bypassed and kept in the dark our allies were misled; and the Congress was not informed," Rep. Benjamin Gilman, R-N.Y., said at a hearing Wednesday.

Gilman said the policy allowed Iran to gain a foothold in Europe and "has led to the single greatest threat against American troops deployed in and around Bosnia." The White House says it welcomes the opportunity to explain how the policy evolved. House Democrats oppose the subcommittee as partisan.

— Jessica Lee

IMMIGRATION: The Senate defeated an effort to kill key provisions of an immigration bill designed to prevent illegal workers from taking U.S. jobs. If the move had succeeded, opponents said, it would have gutted the measure. The Senate also voted to preserve the current process for granting asylum to people fleeing repression in their homelands, removing a provision in the immigration bill that would have made it easier to turn refugees with phony passports and visas back at the border.

Voting 54-46, the Senate turned back an amendment by Sen. Spencer Abraham, R-Mich., to eliminate a plan to create pilot programs for employee verification. That would be an intrusion by the government and an invasion of privacy, Abraham said. The bill would allow a nationwide verification program to take effect only if the plan is approved by Congress; it rules out a national identification card. "Without effective employer sanctions, the United States will not achieve control over illegal immigration," said Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., the bill's sponsor.

FAMILY LEAVE: The nation's family leave law is helping workers without causing hardships for business, a report to Congress concludes. President Clinton's re-election campaign immediately pointed out that the bill became law after Clinton was elected and over the objection of Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, his election opponent. The law, which took effect in August 1993, allows public employees and those who work for private firms with 50 or more workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for family medical emergencies or for births and adoptions. The report by the bipartisan Commission on Family and Medical Leave found that more than 90% of employers reported little or no increase in benefits, hiring or other costs; 86.4% of employers said there was no noticeable effect on productivity. The biggest problem was employees taking intermittent leave, with days of punctuating their schedules.

ALSO . . . The House Judiciary Committee set May 21 as the day to hold hearings on 26 arsonists at black churches in the South. . . . The Pentagon's cost of training a military student has jumped from \$53,194 to \$72,546 in eight years.

2 issues bump heads: Gas tax, minimum wage



By Joe Marquette, AP

McCurry: Tax proposals should be part of budget negotiations.

By Bill Nichols
USA TODAY

In the latest volley in the political war over rising gas prices, the White House said Wednesday that President Clinton has little enthusiasm for a move to combine a repeal of a 4.3-cent portion of the federal gasoline tax with an increase in the minimum wage.

Spokesman Mike McCurry was careful not to close the door on such an idea, raised by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole. But he said Clinton prefers to see any tax proposals taken up as part of broader negotiations to balance the federal budget.

al budget.

"That's the context in which people with ideas on taxes and tax relief for working Americans can come to the table," McCurry said. But he said that if a gas tax repeal was sent to Clinton separately, "we'll have to look at it separately."

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said Democrats would consider a bill coupling a gas tax repeal with a minimum wage increase but only if it "ensures that whatever benefit may be derived from this effort goes directly to the consumer."

Some House Republicans also have expressed concern

about connecting the two issues, favoring a separate vote on the wage increase.

GOP leaders say they plan to send Clinton some kind of legislation by Memorial Day that would repeal the gas tax increase until next January, at a cost of \$2.8 billion, but acknowledge that the revenues needed to pay for a permanent repeal would come through budget negotiations.

Pairing a repeal of the 4.3-cent gas tax increase, which was part of Clinton's 1993 deficit reduction plan, with an increase in the minimum wage is considered a win-win proposition by many Republicans.

Such a bill would remind voters that Clinton increased taxes, while offering political cover for Republicans on the minimum wage increase, a long-held Democratic goal that has bedeviled the GOP in recent weeks.

Democrats, however, insist on a separate vote on raising the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 an hour and continue to question Dole's support in 1982 and 1990 for raising the gasoline tax a total of 10 cents.

Said McCurry: "We ought to deal with the 'Dole dime,' as it's being called, before we worry about a couple of extra pennies added in 1993."

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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Clinton, athletes deliver goal-setting message

By Mike Dodd
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — President Clinton and 37 U.S. Olympians teamed Wednesday to urge teen-agers to set and commit to striving for Olympic-sized goals.

"All these athletes, each in their own way, remind us that we all have a lot of important muscles in our body," Clinton told 1,500 students at Eastern High in the District of Columbia. "But the most important muscle we ever use, in the field of competition as well as in life, is the heart."

"If you young people have heart ... you'll stay away from drugs and violence, and you'll get into developing your minds and bodies," he said.

Clinton and Vice President Al Gore spoke at Wednesday's final stop of the U.S. Olympic Committee's "Champions in Life" program. The Olympians visited 12 other schools in the Washington area with the same message.

"Our athletes spoke to 4,000 kids this morning. If they changed one person's life, it was a great day," USOC executive director Dick Schultz said.

Among the participants were former heavyweight boxing champion Riddick Bowe, five-time gold-medal speed-skater Bonnie Blair and three-time Olympic swimmer Pablo Morales.

"I like to emphasize goal-setting and how important it was in my life to grow



Leading effort: President Clinton and Vice President Gore head a group of athletes who brought antidrug message to Eastern High in Washington, D.C., Wednesday.

up to be an Olympian," said Morales, a former world recordholder in the 100-meter butterfly.

"Some times it takes a while; you have difficulties and challenges along the way. My career illustrates that," said Morales, who finally captured his

coveted gold medal in the '92 Barcelona Games after winning silver in 1984 and failing to make the team in 1988.

Blair stressed reaching potential in whatever field youngsters choose. She told them to "find that one passion you have and strive for that personal best."

Champions in Life, a USOC outreach program, previously was conducted in Miami, Phoenix, New York, Nashville and Atlanta. This was its fifth consecutive year in Washington, and it coincides with the USOC's annual dinner.

Clark tries new dive: Defending Olympic 10-meter diving bronze medalist Mary Ellen Clark and her coach, Ron O'Brien, are going to Plan B in preparation for the Olympic trials June 19-23. Clark, 33, missed the 1995 season because of vertigo and has struggled since her return, especially because the competition format changed and she had to add a dive to her program.

The new dive, a backward $3\frac{1}{2}$ somersault with a 3.3 degree of difficulty, has been a problem. So she began practicing a backward $2\frac{1}{2}$ pike with a difficulty of 2.9 this week. O'Brien said they will decide "within $2\frac{1}{2}$ weeks" which dive to use at the trials.

"The difference in difficulty isn't all that critical. What's critical is to be able to hit all your dives," he said. "If you have one that's really tough, it can make your whole list shaky."

While Clark has had problems on the platform, she is emerging as a contender on the 3-meter springboard. She won the event at the HTH Classic in March and was the bronze medalist at the national championships in April.

USA TODAY
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1996

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

A Good Mother's Day Gift: Pass the Adoption Bill

Howard Metzenbaum did something this week that should qualify for "Ripley's Believe It Or Not." The former liberal Democratic senator endorsed a Republican measure to overturn a bill that he pushed through two years ago and that even bears his name.

Specifically, Sen. Metzenbaum embraced legislation that would prohibit racial discrimination in adoption. This is an issue Howard Metzenbaum cares about so deeply that he has taken on both the Na-

mestic adoption is \$20,000.

This has made it impossible for many middle class parents to adopt. Under the House bill, tax write-offs would be available for incomes up to \$115,000; in addition there would be an income tax exclusion for employer-provided adoption benefits. This provision is relatively cheap, costing the federal treasury less than \$2 billion over seven years, and has only one flaw: It isn't refundable. That's a retreat from the Republicans' Contract With America. Refundability ought to be restored to facilitate adoption for some lower-middle income families.

The most emotional provision concerns interracial adoption. This would prohibit states or anyone receiving federal assistance from discriminating against prospective parents because of race. If everything else is equal, preference may be given on the basis of race, but adoption agencies would not be allowed to delay the placement of a child for reasons of "racial matching."

The need here is clear. Of the almost half-million kids in foster care, about one-third are African-American and, on average, they wait for adoption more than twice as long. A University of California at Berkeley study found that 42% of African-American children wait more than four years to be adopted but only 17% of white children wait that long.

This is a conscious policy of many black social workers, who have assailed interracial adoption as "racial and cultural genocide." Sen. Metzenbaum, with the support of President Clinton, moved to change this in the last Congress. But despite denials by the Department of Health and Human Services, he says that agency "pulled the rug out from under my bill."

The politics of adoption unfortunately got twisted. Too many liberals, in particular, have a blind spot. One reason is abortion. Some pro-choice advocates mistakenly see adoption advocacy as undercut-

ting them. "This is an issue that should unite both sides of the abortion debate," correctly argues Rep. Molinari, who is pro-choice. In his 1992 acceptance speech at the Democratic Convention, Bill Clinton promised to make abortion "safe, legal and rare." One small way to make it rarer is to facilitate adoption.

A more fundamental problem may be an ideological attachment to the landmark

Children In Jeopardy

	CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE	CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM FOSTER CARE	CHILD ABUSE FATALITIES
1985	276,000	16,000	810
1993	445,000	18,000	1,166

Sources: Administration for Children and Families (HHS); American Public Welfare Assoc.; and the Hart Committee to Prevent Child Abuse

1980 Child Welfare Adoption and Assistance Act. This mandates states to make "reasonable efforts" to keep or reunite children with their biological parents under the laudable notion that intact families are better for children.

Unfortunately this well-intended effort may be harming more children than it's helping. Compared to the mid-1980s there are many more children today in foster care, and a much smaller percentage of them are adopted, while reported child abuse is soaring. The files are full of recidivist child abusers, yet as Michael Wald, a law professor and former top HHS official notes, all the research "indicates low levels of success in rehabilitating parents who seriously abuse very young children."

The horror stories are omnipresent. Tuesday's New York Times, for instance, had a front page piece on recriminations following the death of six-year-old Elisa Izquierdo, whose badly beaten body was discovered last November; her mother is charged with the death. Next to that ac-

count is a story about two little children testifying how their mother and father brutalized and killed their four-year-old sister—including beatings, tying her to chairs and burning her with cigarettes and hair curlers.

Eight years ago we had to hospitalize our oldest child. For four days his roommate was a 14-month-old boy who was tossed into a scalding hot tub by his mother's boyfriend because he was crying. The mother, apparently on drugs, visited the little guy only once. Yet in a few days he was slated to go back to that home.

This law needs to be changed. The emphasis on "preserving family" outrages Carol Statuto Bevan, a child welfare and adoption expert: "This risks the safety and welfare of too many children." Instead, she says, the focus should be "on preserving the child's welfare." Such a child-centered approach raises tough issues, especially how to take kids away from abusive parents and make them eligible for adoption. But it needs to be done.

These are issues that President Clinton cares about, and he's actually considering backing the current legislation. And the skepticism that more than a few in the adoption community express about Hillary Clinton is misplaced; in her speeches, her newspaper columns and her recent book she is a strong adoption advocate.

But the Clintons need to be more visible in marshaling support for more public resources (tax breaks and subsidies), reforming the legal system (changing the child welfare and family preservation standards and expediting adoption procedures), improving the private sector (pressure for more expansive employer adoption benefits) and increasing public awareness. It may be impossible in an election year, but here's a terrific idea: Bill Bennett, the conservative Mr. Virtues, and Mrs. Clinton team up to lead a nationwide campaign for adoption.

Politics & People

By Albert R. Hunt



tional Association of Black Social Workers and the Clinton administration's Health and Human Services bureaucrats. He feels his bill has been undercut, so he's supporting House Republican efforts to achieve the same goal.

This is part of a broader pro-adoption bill that the Republicans are bringing to the floor next week, not coincidentally only a few days before Mother's Day. The legislation is laudable and Democrats and the Clinton administration should join Sen. Metzenbaum and get behind it.

Adoption isn't a panacea for abortion or child abuse or foster care. But a more aggressive pro-adoption policy, involving both the public and private sectors, would help. (The youngest of our three children is a seven-year-old—as of yesterday—adopted daughter from Korea, so absolutely nothing in this column is dispassionate.) The House bill, led by House Rules Committee Chairman Gerald Solomon (an adoptee), Rep. Susan Molinari and Rep. Clay Shaw, proposes a \$5,000 tax credit to help defray adoption expenses. Adoption can be prohibitively expensive; the National Council of Adoption figures the average cost of a do-

A Failed Policy in Lebanon

By AMINE GEMAYEL

In the recent military operations in South Lebanon, the stated goals of the government of Israel were to secure Israel's northern border and to negotiate peace agreements with Syria and Lebanon, leading to Israel's acceptance into the family of Middle Eastern nations. If these objectives reflect the true intentions of the Israelis, then the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon failed.

According to numerous sources, the shelling of Lebanon was intended to separate the Lebanese people from Hezbollah and force the Lebanese government, with Syrian support, to curtail Hezbollah activities. The recent rounds of shelling have had the opposite impact. Across the political spectrum in Lebanon, support for Hezbollah has increased, not diminished. Hezbollah fighters are seen as freedom fighters resisting foreign aggression. The bombing of power plants, reservoirs, and other civilian facilities, as well as the massacre of innocents in ambulances and refugee camps, have won no friends for Israel in Lebanon.

This is not 1982. When the Israelis invaded Lebanon in that year, many Lebanese welcomed them as liberators from foreign occupation. This acceptance will not happen again. Continued Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the wanton destruction of Lebanese life and property have seriously altered Lebanese perceptions of the Israelis. They are viewed as tyrants and bullies and capable of the brutalization of Lebanon. Further-

more, the Israeli retreat from central Lebanon in the mid-1980s, while under attack from anti-Israeli terrorists, forever erased Israel's image of invincibility.

The best partner for peace with Israel is an economically sound and independent Lebanon free of all foreign forces. Included in my use of the term "foreign forces" are not only the Israelis but also



the Syrians. The Israeli attacks only strengthen Syria's role in Lebanon and diminish Lebanon's ability to act independently. This combination is not in anyone's interest. The Lebanese clearly lose, but so do the Israelis. If the Lebanese people continue to be used as pawns in regional politics, Lebanon will remain a spawning ground for international terrorists and dissidents. Only when the

Lebanese believe they are responsible for their own destiny will they be responsible members of the international community and reliable partners in peace.

An important step in reestablishing a Lebanon which can be a positive factor in the reach for peace in the Middle East is the return of economic prosperity. The Lebanese are known for their energy and financial accomplishments. Only the political turmoil of the last 20 years has held them back economically.

Some progress at reestablishing economic viability in Lebanon has been made during the last five years of peace. Greater Beirut once again has a significant night life, and some reconstruction and redevelopment have occurred. Significant portions of the economic infrastructure have been repaired. But these achievements could have been far more impressive had it not been for the increase of Syrian influence in Lebanon. This influence has constrained economic development. Many Lebanese, even those who have returned to Beirut, have been unwilling to invest major capital in redevelopment projects so long as the future role of Syria in Lebanon is not defined. The Lebanese do not want their country to be politically suppressed. Lebanese prosper in a politically and economically free society.

Existing conditions in South Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley also contribute to the current unwillingness of the Lebanese to invest fully in the future of their country. Under Syrian control and Iranian influence, terrorist groups continue to function

in these areas. Until full Lebanese sovereignty is restored throughout Lebanon, outside powers will continue to use regions beyond the control of the Lebanese government to promote their own national interests. The Lebanese, as well as all our neighbors, have a national interest in eliminating terrorist groups from our territory so we can get on with rebuilding our region.

South Lebanon remains a special problem. Clearly, the "Israeli Security Zone" does not provide security. In fact, in contrast to the past, the Security Zone creates insecurity. The Israeli occupation of South Lebanon has become a rallying point for all Lebanese nationalists. The 600,000 impoverished people of South Lebanon will provide all the troops necessary to continue the attacks on Israel for generations. Only the improvement of the lives of the people of South Lebanon with peace and prosperity will end the attacks upon Israel. The recent wave of Israeli bombardments has made that goal less likely.

Most discouraging to those of us who love Lebanon has been America's tacit, if not actual, support for Israel's failed policies in Lebanon. In the past, the U.S. had been consistent in its support for a democratic, sovereign Lebanon free from all foreign forces. Although no one doubted American support for Israel, in the past when Israeli actions harmed innocent civilians or placed America's commitment to freedom and democracy in doubt, the U.S. would differ publicly or privately with Israel. During the current crisis, however, the destruction of power plants, reservoirs, apartment buildings, and the lives of some hundreds of innocent Lebanese civilians drew virtually no negative response from the U.S. This seriously brings into question America's commitment to its own values and the ability of Washington to bring a lasting peace to the region.

Mr. Gemayel was president of Lebanon from 1982 to 1988.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1986

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE
Maggie Williams

Daily Log

Date May 6, 1996

Date Recd.	Date of Ltr.	From (Name & Affil.)	Brief Descrip.	Action Taken	When
✓ 5/6	4/30	Cheri Carter	Personal Note		
✓ 5/6	5/2	Marcela A. Olsen	Copy of an invitation to the Georgetown Garden Tour.	to Peggy	
✓ 5/6	5/1	J. Veronica Biggers	Copy of their premier issue of "The Art of Taking Charge"		
✓ 5/6	5/3	Raúl Granillo Ocampo	Invitation to HRC		
✓ 5/6	5/1	PETER BARTUSKA	GOLF VET - REG. DISABILITY AND COURT CASE		
✓ 5/6	5/4	Herb Sprunt	RON BROWN'S PLANE CRASH		
✓ 5/6	5/1	MICHAEL STANCO	2 CDS OF MICHAEL WINSTON		
✓ 5/6	5/5	Harold Leches	Job Description for Marsha Scott		
✓ 5/6	5/3	Jodie Tonkelson	Memo re '96 official travel		
✓ 5/6	4/23	Stephanie Street & Anne Wilkey	bcc concerning BC's travel		

Daily Log

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