

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office

Series/Staff Member:

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19425

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Folder Title:
Conferences - 12/1997

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. statements	re: Viewer comments (Personal) [partial] (3 pages)	12/01/1997	b(6)
002. statements	re: Detailed personal stories (15 pages)	12/01/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National AIDS Policy Office

OA/Box Number: 19425

FOLDER TITLE:

Conferences - 12/1997

2018-0764-F

jm2144

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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~~CONF~~ CONF-12/97



DECEMBER 2, 1997

MS. THURMAN,

I WANTED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT SHOW. I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD HAVE A BRIEF BACKGROUND OF WHAT MONTEL WILLIAMS IS DOING FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV AND AIDS.

I HAVE ATTACHED A FACT SHEET AND VIEWER COMMENTS REGARDING COVERAGE OF MONTEL WILLIAMS SHOW EPISODES ON HIV/AIDS.

THANK YOU

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read 'Tom Cestaró', is written above the printed name.

TOM CESTARO
PRODUCER



FACT SHEET

- * NANCY SUSAN REYNOLDS AWARD/ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH
THE MONTEL WILLIAMS SHOW WAS RECENTLY AWARDED WITH
OUTSTANDING TALK SHOW COVERAGE FOR THE EPISODE CALLED
"TEENAGERS LIVING WITH AIDS"
- * MONTEL WILLIAMS SITS ON THE BOARD OF THE JOEY DIPAOLO
FOUNDATION
- * DENNIS VACCO, NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WAS
RECENTLY ON AN EPISODE CALLED "AIDS SCARE IN A SMALL TOWN."
HE PUBLICLY THANKED MONTEL FOR DOING SHOWS ON THE
PREVENTION OF HIV. KATHLEEN LOMBARDO-WHITMORE, AIDS
EDUCATOR FROM JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK ALSO APPEARED ON THE
SHOW.
- * JEANNE WHITE APPEARED ON THE MONTELWILLIAMS SHOW TO TALK
ABOUT THE STRENGTH AND COURAGE HER SON RYAN HAD DEALING
WITH HIV AND AIDS

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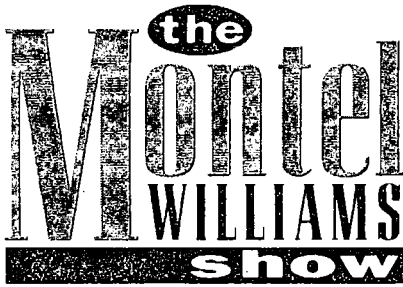
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Nicole Schulnick
Director of Viewer Services

**VIEWER COMMENTS REGARDING COVERAGE OF MONTEL
WILLIAMS SHOW EPISODES ON HIV/AIDS
DECEMBER 1, 1997**

I just graduated from a high school in Midlothian, VA last week. I'm 17 years old and going to Virginia Tech University. I was watching one of your shows concerning kids living with AIDS.

I do not suffer from either HIV or AIDS, but seeing as though I am entering college this fall, having an awareness of this disease is much in need. In my life, I have only met two people with AIDS, to my knowledge, and I only had physical contact with one. It was a very long hug. I did not feel the least bit afraid. I know some people would back away out of fear. I do thank you for putting such wonderful people on your shows to educate everyone who watches. I also thank you for showing me that just because AIDS can kill a body, it can never kill a soul.

Jennifer Gaulden
Midlothian, VA

My name is Lisa and I congratulate you on your show and how you extend your generosity in helping people. I was so moved by a show last week about a little girl that died of AIDS recently, and you had her father on the show. You had dedicated the show in memory of her. My whole reason for writing you is to offer my help in anything I can do. I am a veterinary technician in Florida, but will be moving to Oklahoma soon. I don't know if I could help you in helping others, but I would like to offer it. Good luck in your coming shows.

Lisa
e-mail: Seeese@aol.com

[001]

My name is (b)(6) and I'm writing in regards to Whitney, the little girl that had AIDS. I was really touched when you had her on your show. I learned a lot about AIDS, and how to deal with AIDS.

My ex-girlfriend has AIDS and I caught it from her. When my AIDS test came up positive, I lost all hope in my life, and I wanted to end my life for good. Then, I went into the living room and turned on my television. Your show was on, and Whitney was the guest. I sat on my chair listening to that little girl speaking so positively even though she had AIDS. I broke down and started to cry because if a little girl can have a positive attitude about having AIDS, I knew I could, too.

(b)(6)

I watch your show every day, but today your show really touched me. Your show was about the young people living with AIDS. The reason your show touched me was because my brother died of AIDS on Christmas Eve of 1995. I think its great what Joe, Nina and Jonathan are doing by informing people about HIV and AIDS. I think everyone should know about HIV.

I remember going to visit my brother in the hospital and I passed rooms with sick children that had no visitors for weeks. I think its awful that people could just leave their child in a hospital and never go see them, just because they're HIV positive.

Krissy Thompson
Essex, MI

I watched your show today about the HIV positive drug abuser from Apopka, Florida named Jeremy who was purposely spreading AIDS. I was astounded by the actions of those kids! They get the education on AIDS and condoms, but just don't listen! Let me say right up front, I thoroughly support your views. That young man had a smirk on his face the entire show.

Not only did he have a responsibility to himself, but also to his family, his community, and to G-d. He obviously didn't have much of a conscience by not using a condom. Since I am HIV positive myself, I feel I have a right to say they should have locked Jeremy up while they had a chance and thrown away the key! Its people like him who perpetuate the myth that all people who are HIV positive are bad, immoral people.

I really enjoy your show and think you are smart, honest, sincere, kind, altruistic, and if I was still a kid, you would also be one of my heroes. Thanks.

(b)(6)

I am writing in regards to today's show about the AIDS victims. I was kind of stunned when they were talking about people not wanting to waste their time befriending them because they might not be around next year. I would enjoy getting to know someone like that; someone so courageous. It would be an honor to me! I would enjoy getting to know about AIDS and what it's like to live with the illness. It would really open my eyes, I think.

Amanda Silva
Newman, CA

My name is Rich and I am 30 years old. I am also a proud father of 2 children, and I have lived over six years since my HIV diagnosis. My wife has been diagnosed HIV positive, as well. I found your show today involving the New York man, Nushawn Williams, very disturbing, but not at all unfamiliar.

In the course of our HIV counseling, my wife and I met all sorts of different people, and I discovered that many HIV positive people were so angry, that their goal in life after being diagnosed was to take as many with them as they could, like Nushawn Williams.

The remarks about the attitude of Nushawn Williams do not surprise me, and I am saddened to say I know of many people who would, or may already have had sex, while knowing it could be deadly.

I was moved to write to you after your show when you made the statement, "Keep your clothes on!", at the show's closing. **That is the message.** Not safe sex, and not condoms! Keep your clothes on! You said it, Montel, but I wish you'd said it in the moral and ethical void of the 70's and 80's when I was young and stupid, but thought I knew everything.

(b)(6)

This letter comes to you first to let you know that you are one in a million. Its been said one person can make a difference and you are one of those people. I have been watching your show over a period of time and out of all the talk shows I've seen, **you** are the one who makes a difference.

I was watching your show on HIV. This is my specialty and I am an instructor for the American Red Cross. Please keep showing the importance of this issue. I have seen many people die from the complications of HIV. Once again I commend you and your staff.

Barbara Weathersby
Culvert City, IL

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