

America's Millennium News Clips



September 1999 – February 2000

Hushed Millennial Party Goes On

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Here's the ultimate trivia quiz stumper: What do \$1 million worth of donated seeds, Gaithersburg, Mars and a stretch of old rail bed through Washington have in common?

They're all part of the nation's official millennial observance, which, yes, is still going on and seems to include a little bit of everything these days. Gaithersburg is one of 424 Millennium Communities across the land. The red planet is the focus of the Mars Millennium Project for chil-

dren. The rail bed is among 50 Millennium Legacy Trails for hiker-bikers young and old.

And those seeds? If the plug-a-plant idea dubbed Millennium Green takes off, by summer they'll be sprouting in backyard and schoolyard gardens in every state.

Although many Americans probably figured that they were done with the M-word after the New Year's Eve ball drops and fireworks, the celebration continues until 2001. So does the White House Millennium Council, the small umbrella organization that essentially has been in business since 1997, creating or coordinating the national activities for what President Clinton has called "this historic time."

Asking what the effort has accomplished so far—or what the lasting impact will be—is no trivia question. The council's programs, often publicized through the prominence of first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, have tried to span culture, history, science and community. More than \$140 million in federal and private funds already have been pledged for the larger initiatives, though a total cost may

never be calculated.

To some critics, the country's investment has bought nothing truly significant, nothing to match a project like England's Millennium Dome, for example. That immense structure, built for \$1.2 billion on the banks of the Thames River in Greenwich, will showcase educational exhibits.

"The wealthiest, most powerful nation on Earth will leave little permanent behind to mark the moment," author James Reston Jr. fumed in an Outlook article in The Washington Post in October.

Others say the country's more modest and diffuse tack will prove itself in the end. The British may have heaved one huge boulder into the pond, compared with the numerous smaller pebbles the United States has tossed. Since New Year's Eve, the Millennium Dome has been beset by controversy, plummeting attendance and cash-flow problems.

"We just took a really different approach," said Ellen McCulloch Lovell, executive director of the Millennium Council. More grassroots, she explained, and more democratic. "It may make [the celebration's sweep] a little more difficult to grasp, but it's a lot more American in spirit."

She points to projects such as Save America's Treasures. With two congressional appropriations and intensive private solicitations, it has raised \$100 million to help rescue, at last count, 454 deteriorating or endangered historic sites, relics and documents, including the Mesa Verde cliff dwellings in Colorado, the Thomas Edison Invention Factory in New Jersey and the Apollo Space Program Artifacts at the National Air and Space Museum.

"I'm really proud that in ... 50 years, we'll look around and see all these treasures that have been saved," McCulloch Lovell said.

Nearly five dozen of them are in Maryland, the District and Virginia, including the Hanover Tavern north of Richmond. Its historical claim dates to when Patrick Henry's in-laws owned the property in the 1760s and he argued key legal cases in the courthouse across the street.

"This is kind of a validation," said Joseph Kyle of the Hanover Tavern Foundation, which in December received a \$30,000 millennium grant to catalogue the building's age and the changes made in three centuries. "We're thrilled that we've been listed."

Indeed, at the local level, there's significant support for those pebbles and the ripples they've already made—regardless of whether money has flowed from them.

"It's speeding up the process," D.C. Parks and Recreation planning officer Ted Pochter said of the Millennium Legacy honorific bestowed on the seven-mile Metropolitan Branch Trail, which ultimately will connect Union Station with Silver Spring. The White House recognition included no direct funds but has helped prod negotiations on trail sections. There is no target date for completion, but "the expectations are high to build this," Pochter said.

Similar enthusiasm exists in Gaithersburg, which applied early to be an official Millennium Community. A citizens panel, assembled to suggest ideas that would earn the designation, came up with proposals such as a millennium garden and millennium museum. The museum will open Feb. 16 in Lake Forest Mall, with hundreds of items donated by local residents.

"Any time the White House endorses something, it's just kind of a feather in your cap," said city spokeswoman Suzanne Rosa.

Other millennial ventures, involving a jumble of federal agencies, civic groups and foundations, have hit home on several fronts. More than 123,000 Mars Millennium Project kits were distributed or downloaded from the Internet last year to schoolchildren designing a livable Martian community circa 2030. Millennium Green aims to get 250 million trees and 1 million gardens planted across the country during 2000, and the America the Beautiful Fund is supplying the starter seeds.

Still, little of the millennium commemoration has permeated the national consciousness, according to Todd Gitlin, a professor of culture, journalism and sociology at New York University. Even with Hillary Rodham Clinton as its most forceful advocate, the program as a whole didn't catch on with the media, he said, so there was "no way [for it] to break through the static."

Clinton's spokeswoman insists the first lady is no less committed to seeing the millennium programs through this year, despite her Senate campaign in New York. "This stuff is so tied in her mind to civil society," Lissa Muscatine said. "She will continue to participate and oversee some things and remain as involved as much as she can."

There will be more historic treasures named, and in June, 2,000 Community Millennium Trails will be announced. The White House also will host several more Millennium Evenings, which in the past have featured such prominent figures as historian Bernard Bailyn, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel and jazz musician Wynton Marsalis.

And, McCulloch-Lovell delights, "We still have people coming to us with ideas!"

Jet

January 31, 2000

SECTION: COVER STORY; Pg. 61

LENGTH: 651 words

HEADLINE: Kicks Off The Millennium With New Album 'Willennium'

BODY:

Will Smith always knows how to let the good times roll when it comes to making music. The famed rapper-actor also knows how to keep a crowd moving on the dance floor as he recently ushered in the new millennium with his second solo album, Willennium.

The project's kick-off song, the millennium party anthem Will 2K, was an instant smash when it hit the airwaves. The tune, which features the soulful sound of K-Ci, celebrates the coming of 2000 and the hype that centered around ringing in the new millennium.

Willennium also includes the popular songs Wild Wild West, taken from the soundtrack of the movie by the same name in which Smith starred, and So Fresh, featuring rap veterans Biz Markie and Slick Rick.

And, in addition to a hodgepodge of songs with guest performers that range from Lil' Kim to Eve to his former "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" TV co-star Tatyana Ali, the album also includes a spoken word from his actress wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, on the song Afro Angel.

A true rap pioneer who's won notoriety for more than a decade while staying true to witty, good-humored rhymes, Smith believes that the album is his best thus far.

"Historically, rap music has been a genre of disposable artists and one-hit summers. From one summer to the next, there's no telling who's gonna be out here," he explained. "I feel blessed at this point in my career to still be getting better. Willennium is unequivocally the best work of my career."

Willennium is the follow-up album to his debut solo album Big Willie Style. The multiplatinum album produced the top-selling tunes Men In Black, Gettin' Jiggy Wit It, Just The Two Of Us and Miami. Men In Black, the title track taken from the soundtrack of the movie by the same name in which he starred, and Gettin' Jiggy Wit It both earned him Grammy Awards.

Ringin in the millennium with a new album wasn't the only way the handsome performer celebrated 2000's inception.

He also hosted one of the top end-of-the-century bashes of the year, America's Millennium, a national millennium block party that was the official entertainment of the White House. Held on the Washington Mall, the

much-talked-about gala was co-produced by music mogul Quincy Jones and filmmaker George Stevens Jr.

As he always does with his music, Smith had the crowd rocking, including President Bill Clinton, as he performed Will 2K, where he urged Clinton during the celebration to join in and "Raise the roof, Bill."

With an explosive acting career that boasts such blockbuster films as Independence Day, Men In Black and Enemy Of The State, Smith has the best of both worlds as a hot actor and top rapper.

He also manages to find time to be a husband and doting father to two sons, Trey and Jaden.

Though the superstar entertainer has inarguably won the hearts of the masses as an actor and as a rapper thanks to his firm stand to promote lyric-friendly rhymes without profanity, the 30-year-old performer has often been criticized by his rap counterparts for being too fluffy and not hard-core enough.

"You can be more aggressive without being profane," Smith pointed out to Billboard. "I could easily write an album full of profane records. But that's way too easy. I challenge profane rappers to do what I do -- write an album full of non-profane records."

But, the handsome multi-Grammy Award-winning rapper hasn't let people's opinions pressure him into wanting to stray from doing songs that center around fun, family and fame.

"Rap music has always been a music that's about records; it's never been about musicians," he added to Billboard. "Being a rapper is about who you are, who you've been, and how you've grown up. The records are completely about yourself."

It's a new millennium and you can surely bet that Smith plans to keep it real by making music the Big Willie way.

GRAPHIC: Picture 1, Rap Star Will Smith is ringing in the millennium with a hot new album Willennium; Picture 2, Not just a popular rapper, Smith also is an accomplished actor and family man. He attended the premiere of the film in which he starred last year, Wild Wild West, along with his wife, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, their toddler son, Jaden, his son, Trey, and his nephew, Kyle; Picture 3, Smith recently celebrated the millennium as host of the White House gala America's Millennium. Joined by his wife, and famed husband-wife actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, the versatile performer enjoys festivities at the big event in Washington. Priscilla Clarke; Picture 4, The fun-loving entertainer has earned crossover appeal with his lyric-friendly raps which have earned him numerous accolades. Last year he won a Grammy Award for the song Gettin' Jiggy Wit It; Picture 5, "Willennium is unequivocally the best work of my career," boasts Smith, whose single W2K has become a party anthem of the millennium.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 1, 2000

Hillary's Senate run gets a holiday boost

Big donors attend Washington gala

By Barbara J. Saffir
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Staying in Washington for the holidays did not keep first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton from her New York Senate race.

During a star-studded White House dinner on New Year's Eve, Mrs. Clinton invited two of her key supporters to share her head table: Dennis Rivera, chapter president of a union with 300,000 members in New York, and Bernard Schwartz, a wealthy Democratic donor who heads the New York-based Loral Space and Communications Ltd.

Newly released campaign finance reports show that Mr. Schwartz and his wife, Irene, donated \$40,000 to a special fund-raising account created to help Mrs. Clinton beat New York Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani.

Although Mrs. Clinton will not file her first report with the Federal Election Commission until Jan. 31, records recently filed by her donors indicate that Mr.

Rivera's Service Employees International Union contributed \$10,000 to her campaign.

The FEC reports and other new information also show:

- At least seven of her donors attended the White House New Year's party.

- Many more contributors may have attended that and 10 other holiday parties, but Mrs. Clinton's office only identified 288 of the "thousands and thousands" of the guests at one event.

- One of Mrs. Clinton's joint fund-raising committees raised nearly \$1.2 million as of Nov. 30.

- A contributor to that committee works for Refco, the trading firm involved in Mrs. Clinton's controversial 1978 cattle futures deal that turned her \$1,000 investment into \$100,000 in 10 months.

- Many donors won't be identified until committees file their bi-annual 1999 FEC reports on Jan. 31 and their 2000 reports in August.

see DONORS, page A4

Washington Times
January 15, 2000

FROM PAGE ONE

DONORS

From page A1

• Other notable guests included the Clintons' longtime friend and fund-raiser, Terry McAuliffe, and Walter Kaye, the Democratic donor whose clout helped get Monica Lewinsky her internship.

Several other guests were recently named the Democratic Party's 50 wealthiest donors. They made tax-deductible contributions to a foundation for "America's Millennium," the White House-sponsored public extravaganza on the Mall that was held in conjunction with the private party.

"Big gifts like that are rarely given with only one thought in mind," said Larry Makinson of the campaign finance watchdog group the Center for Responsive Politics. "If you give to a foundation that's also connected with a politician, there's an extra bonus there because the politician will be grateful to you for doing it. And that can come in very handy years later if there's a particular issue where that politician could be helpful to you."

While the intertwined web of donations may not be uncommon in presidential politics, he said it could cause political fallout for Mrs. Clinton if it reminds "people

about the systematic way in which President Clinton used the White House to raise funds for his presidential campaign."

The first-time candidate is using the same fund-raiser for her Senate race, Mr. McAuliffe, who helped her husband craft the much-criticized practice of inviting big donors to sleep in the Lincoln Bedroom.

Niranjan Shah, one of Mrs. Clinton's donors and a former guest at a White House coffees, once told the Voice of America that the Indian community he represents tries "to influence the U.S. foreign policy." He said its lobbying helped defeat a bill that would have cut off aid to India — the same type of legislation Mrs. Clinton would vote on as a senator.

The Chicago-based company Mr. Shah heads, Globetrotters International Inc., donated \$3,000 to "New York Senate 2000," a joint fund-raising committee of Mrs. Clinton's campaign and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Another one of his companies, Globetrotters Engineering Corp., made a generous tax-deductible donation to "America's Millennium."

Mr. Shah did not return calls but a fund-raiser for the festivities said the contribution may have been in the \$100,000 to \$250,000 range. Mrs. Clinton's office, the National

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

White House Millennium Party guests known to have donated to Hillary Clinton's Senate campaign committees:

Name	Company	Donation
Bernard Schwartz	Loral Space and Communications	\$20,000
Agnes Gund	New York's Museum of Modern Art	20,000
Dennis Rivera	Service Employees International Union	10,000
Liz Robbins	Liz Robbins Associates	5,000
Pratima and Niranjan Shah	Globetrotters International	3,000
Vinod Gupta	INFOusa	1,000
Paul Kohn	Edwards	1,000

Notes: Mr. Gupta said he may have donated more. Mr. Rivera is president of SEIU's Health and Human Services Employees Union 1199 chapter in New York City. Ms. Gund's financial assistant, Patricia Lazak, represented her.

Sources: Federal Election Commission reports, interviews, White House guest list

The Washington Times

Park Service foundation, which received the \$15 million in donations, and other top officials connected to the event all declined to disclose a complete list of the donations.

A \$1 million sponsor of the gala, Vinod Gupta, said he also donated the "maximum" legal amount he could to Mrs. Clinton's Senate campaign.

Mr. Gupta, founder of INFOusa, a company that sells computerized mailing lists, said he thinks he donated \$1,000 but that it may have been \$2,000. He also said he plans to hold a fund-raiser for Mrs. Clin-

ton.

Individuals can give a candidate's own committee \$1,000 for the primary election and another \$1,000 for the general election. But the two joint fund-raising committees set up for Mrs. Clinton's race can collect unlimited "soft money" from corporations. Soft money — the unlimited donations parties can receive for so-called "party-building" activities — has already paid for TV ads featuring Mrs. Clinton.

"New York Democratic Victory 2000," a joint fund-raising committee of Mrs. Clinton's committee

and the Democratic National Committee, will not file its first report until Jan. 31.

Mr. Gupta sat at President Clinton's table at the New Year's gala, where they dined on truffle-marinated rack of lamb, beluga caviar, lobster and foie gras. They were joined by Mr. McAuliffe, Elizabeth Taylor, Sophia Loren, and several others.

Also seated with Mr. Clinton was Walter Shorenstein, who was just named in a new book, "The Buying of the President 2000," as one of the Democratic Party's top 50 "soft money" patrons. Daniel Abraham, who made a \$1 million tax-deductible donation for the year-2000 extravaganza and heads the Florida-based Slim-Fast Foods and the New-York based Thompson Medical Co., was also at the president's table.

Mr. Abraham made Mother Jones magazine's list as one of the country's top 10 political donors. Active on behalf of Israeli causes, he could help Mrs. Clinton win over the important Jewish vote in New York.

Mrs. Clinton headed her own table at the gala. She sat with Mr. Rivera and Mr. Schwartz, whose foundation helped sponsor the event, along with actors Robert De Niro and Lynda Carter.

One of the guests who also contributed to Mrs. Clinton's joint

committee was Washingtonian Liz Robbins, who donated \$5,000. Agnes Gund, president of New York's Museum of Modern Art, donated \$20,000 to the committee and was also a major sponsor — a "vice chair" — of the year-2000 extravaganza. Her financial assistant, Patricia Lazak, represented her at the White House soiree.

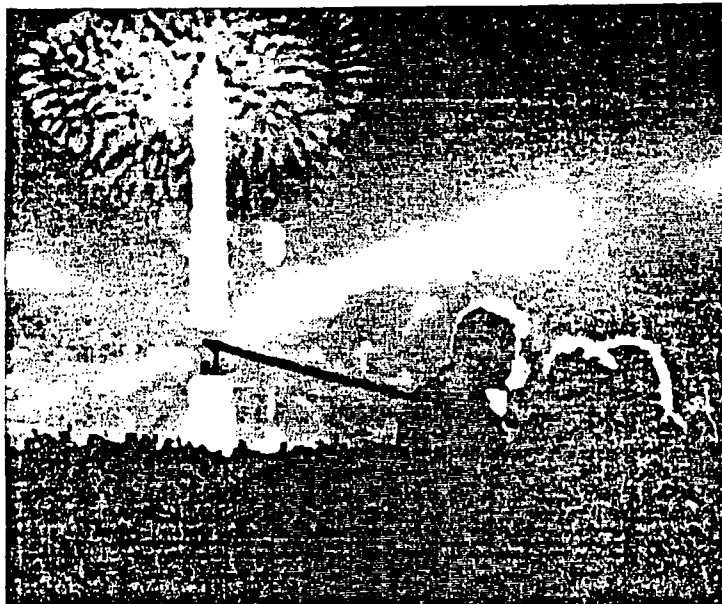
Walter Kaye, whose \$330,000 in donations to the Democratic Party helped Monica Lewinsky gain a White House internship, also attended. His name does not appear on campaign finance reports filed to date and he did not return calls.

Although Mrs. Clinton named virtually all of the 288-plus guests at the New Year's dinner, she declined through her spokesman to disclose the names of the roughly 700 additional partygoers who mingled with celebrities and other luminaries at the White House disco-type party later that night.

Florida businessman Paul McCarthy moved to Washington for six months to direct the public and private festivities that made up the "America's Millennium" celebration. The group was formed by the White House Millennium Council, a cultural history project Mrs. Clinton has directed since she and President Clinton created it.

— Researchers John Sopko and Jae Dell Smith contributed to this report.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2000



FILE PHOTO BY RICH LIPSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The Clintons attended the nation's New Year's Eve party on the Mall, which unlike the city's party on Constitution Avenue has come under criticism.

District's Y2K Party Turns \$40K Surplus

Organizers Report a Bug-Free Festival

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Washington's two-day New Year's festival, a homegrown affair along Constitution Avenue NW that was planned in just five months, came off with nary a hitch and cleared about \$40,000, according to its organizers.

The District's "Main Street Millennium," overcoming skeptics who doubted the city could throw a successful party, drew a crowd estimated at more than 300,000 people Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Organizers also made good on their pledge that no public dollars would be spent, raising \$465,000 in sponsorships and about \$310,000 in food, drink and souvenir sales.

"This was the best of D.C.," said Sandy McCall, executive director of Millennium Washington, an effort that will continue through 2000 to commemorate the city's 200th anniversary as the nation's capital. There were no altercations, no public drunkenness, "not even one incident of a police officer going up and saying, 'Hey, buddy, calm it down,'" McCall said.

And the Jan. 2 cleanup went so smoothly that workers were able to reopen Constitution Avenue several hours ahead of schedule, city officials said.

For 20 hours of celebration, the festival filled four blocks of that prominent thoroughfare with a sweeping melange of music, food and people. On one stage alone one afternoon, Celtic song followed salsa rhythms followed doo-wop beat. It was intensely up close and local, in part because of performers like Mary Jefferson, who began her blues career on U Street almost six decades ago.

"Nearly all of Washington, D.C., turned out," the Washington Afro American applauded in an article last weekend. The newspaper, often critical of Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D), offered him a grudging compliment, saying the festival "may have been one of the few events the mayor has sponsored that turned out to be a success, and one where the residents of the city finally got to see him in rare form."

The universal praise for the District's millennial welcome was in sharp contrast to assessments of the New Year's Eve celebrity show at the Lincoln Memorial, which was taulted by some in-the-crowd critics as a television event catering mainly to the White House and its VIP guests. There were complaints about long lines to get onto the memorial grounds, long waits between acts to accommodate commercials, and a midnight fireworks display that, while spectacular, was too brief, with many in the audience not aware that more fireworks would be going off at 1 a.m.

For the city celebration, several firms initially submitted proposals that would have cost well over \$3 million. A few bills remain to be paid, but McCall expects the bottom line to be about \$734,000, nearly half of which went for tents, generators and signs.

How to spend the leftover \$40,000 is under discussion. One option is to use it to kick off a non-profit city parks conservancy to help fund youth recreation programs.

An announcement likely will be made next month when the mayor unveils the city's "legacy year" program of events and exhibits to mark its bicentennial. A high-powered committee headed by James V. Kimsey, a founder and chairman emeritus of America Online Inc., has raised nearly \$500,000 so far in support of those activities.

Relaxing in his office this week, surrounded by the leftover pamphlets, McCall said several things helped the small contingent of city employees, consultants and volunteers pull off a successful party. Attendance likely was boosted by the cancellation of two other downtown New Year's Eve galas. Mother Nature cooperated, too, offering the crowd springlike temperatures.

But McCall never worried about the weather.

"When you go through as many ups and downs as we did to pull this off in five months, with as few resources as we had except for the goodwill of people, I had no doubt we'd have something to show for it."

2000

AROUND THE WORLD

Washington, U.S.A.

The public spectacle of fireworks shooting up the Washington Monument inspired oohs and aahs. And the President threw a lavish black-tie bash for 300 special guests, including Muhammad Ali, with a menu that evoked its own oohs—Beluga caviar, lobster, foie gras and oyster velouté. Before the midnight fireworks, Clinton addressed the nation. The 21st century, he said, “will require us to share—with our fellow Americans and, increasingly, with our fellow citizens of the world—the economic benefits of globalization.”

AP; CHRIS USHER FOR TIME



Time, Jan. 10, 2000



June, Jan. 10, 2000

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Newsweek

Y2A-OK!

ISSUES TO 2000 NEWSWEEK 7

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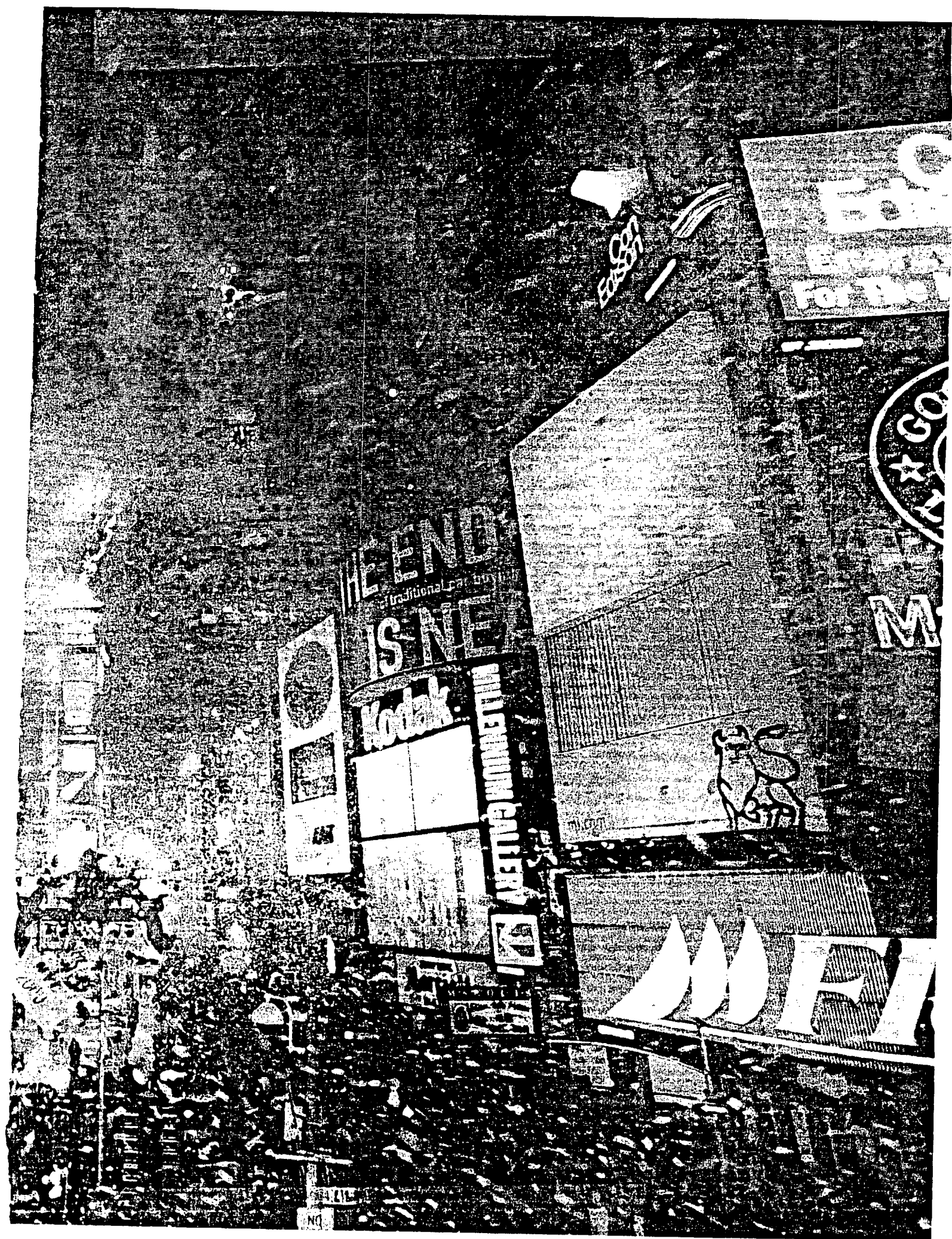


Washington, D.C.



A Capital Show. With an assist from scaffolding in place for a \$10 million restoration project, the 555-foot-tall Washington Monument glowed like a giant sparkler, gleaming in the Reflecting Pool and across the skyline.

ROBERT DROUX - LIAISON AGENCY



TALKING IT OVER

My Own 'Prayer For The New Millennium'

On Jan. 2, my husband and I were honored to participate in services at the Washington National Cathedral. Many presidents and their families have worshiped in the magnificent Gothic structure that sits on the highest point in Washington. But until that Sunday, no president had ever taken an active role in a service.

Bill and I were asked first to read the "Prayers of the People"—a responsive litany of prayers and thanksgiving. Then, the president offered his own "Prayer for the New Millennium."

That weekend marked an extraordinary event in human history, as the world ushered in not just a new year, but a new century and a new millennium. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, billions of people were able to share in the excitement and spectacle of celebrations around the world.

With so much attention focused on the countdown to midnight, it could have been easy to forget the true meaning of the millennium. A Christian concept marking the birth of Jesus 2,000 years ago, the turning of the millennium year offers us an opportunity not only to reflect on the past, but more importantly, a new chance to do better in the future.

God is offering America a new chance as well, for in the new millennium, the world will look to our country for leadership in meeting our common challenges. If we take this opportunity to extend our prosperity to those who have been left behind, then, perhaps, the global economy will bring a better life to the 1.4 billion people who live on less than \$1 a day. If we provide our children with a world-class education, then, perhaps, every child in the world will have a chance for a good education as well. And, if we can build one America, making our diversity our greatest strength, then, perhaps, other nations will see the advantage of working to overcome their own ethnic and religious tensions.

Bill's Jan. 2 "Prayer for the New Millennium" asked God for the strength and wisdom to meet these challenges. As we take our first steps in the new millennium, I'd like to offer this prayer to you as well: "Dear Lord, as we awaken to this second morning of a new millennium, help us to remember that all we are and all we do begins with you, for whom a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is passed, and as a watch in the night.



BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

"So we begin this jubilee year in humility, with profound thanks for the divine light first revealed 2,000 years ago that has brought us now to this sacred place today. Each in our own way, we thank you for the blessings of this life. For me and my family, I give you thanks for good health, good fortune, and the opportunity to serve the American people.

"We thank you for the amazing grace you have shown in getting us through and beyond our individual and collective sins and trials. Through the darkest hours of the 20th century, the shameful trauma of racial oppression, the pain and sacrifice of war, the fear and deprivation of depression, when all

we could do was walk by faith, it was your guiding light that saw us through.

"We thank you for the promise of the new century, and ask your guidance and grace in helping us to make the most of it; to free our children of hunger, neglect and war; to ease the burdens of the less fortunate; to strengthen the bonds of family; to preserve and protect our earthly home; to use new advances in science and technology to lift all the human family and draw us all closer together.

"Finally, we thank you for the rich and wonderful diversity of human life with which you have graced this planet, and ask you to give us the strength and wisdom to give up our fear, distrust and hatred of those who are different. Teach us instead to learn from each other, and celebrate our differences, secure in the knowledge that we are all your children.

"Our Constitution tells us you created us all equal. Jesus told us to love our neighbors as ourselves. The Koran says we must do unto all men as you wished to have done to you, and reject for others what you would reject for yourself. The Talmud instructs us, should anyone turn aside the right of the stranger, it is as though he were to turn aside the right of the most high God.

"By your grace, we have survived in spite of our blindness to this, your truth. Help us now to accept, at long last, the enduring truth that the most important fact of life is not wealth, or power, or beauty, or scientific advance, but our kinship as brothers and sisters, and our oneness as children of God.

"This, Holy Father, is our prayer for the new millennium. Amen."

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's column is distributed by Creators Syndicate, Inc.

We are a week into the new millennium, and there is a definite feeling of anti-climax. The best anyone can say is nothing horrible happened — no terrorist attacks, no Y2K meltdown — and that the fireworks were fabulous. But this was the beginning — at least the symbolic beginning — of the third millennium, and even among those who were not looking for “a new heaven and a new Earth,” a new messiah or the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, there was a sense of expectancy surrounding the start of Anno Domini 2000. After all, this was an event less of the calendar than of the imagination. No wonder we feel let down.

Technically, it was superb. The transglobal wiring really worked, but the substance didn't rise any higher than comparing the fireworks in Sydney to the fireworks in Paris. And as for the message from the leader of the Free World, it was flatter than week-old champagne. There was no challenge issued, no call to action, not even a phrase to carry with us as a memento a little less ephemeral than the confetti and Kenny G's rendition of “Auld Lang Syne.”

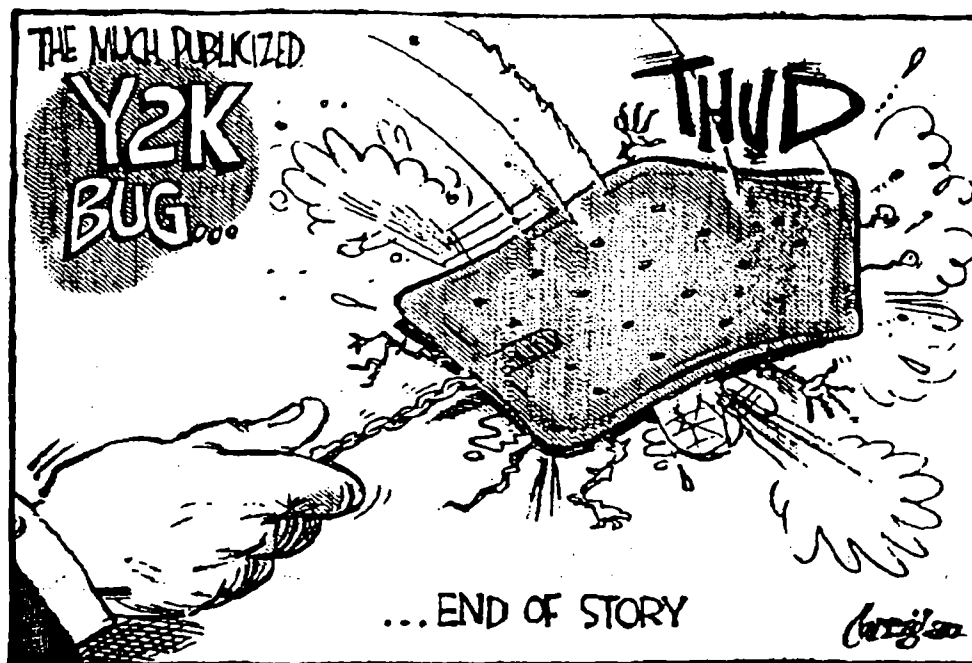
“The sun will always rise on America,” said President Clinton just after Tom Jones belted out “It's Not Unusual.” “Our children are ready. So, again, the torch is passed — to a new century of young Americans.” It sounded more like Dick Clark's Rockin' Eve than an epoch-inaugurating speech.

It was truly a squandered moment — an opportunity that won't come again for another thousand years. What made this sense of “what might have been” even more poignant was my turn-of-the-millennium experience with Habi-

Nailing down the arrival of a new era

tat for Humanity in Hilton Head, S.C. The local Habitat, with the help of the Renaissance Weekend (a four-day forum-filled retreat founded in 1981 by Linda and Phil Lader, who is now U.S. ambassador to Britain), had decided to ring in the New Year by building a house in 3.5 days for Sheila Singleton, a single mother of three daughters who also is helping raise her granddaughter.

So before dawn on Jan. 1, 2000, a few hundred of us who had helped with the building got on buses and arrived at 89 Gum Tree Rd. to dedicate Sheila's new home. Still standing beside it was her old house, awaiting demolition. The day before, Sheila, along with Millard and Linda Fuller, who founded Habitat for Humanity, had taken me inside the ramshackle place Sheila has called home for the past 30 years. The ceiling was caving in, the electrical wiring faulty, the foundation infested with termites. And the smell of mold and mildew was everywhere. When I asked Sheila what was the hardest thing about living there, she didn't hesitate: “The cold. Sometimes at night we'd have to bring our mattresses into the kitchen and put them by



the stove in order to be able to sleep.”

Yet Sheila Singleton was not included in any government statistics that quantify our social problems: She was not homeless; she was not on welfare; she was not unemployed (she works at a child care center); she was not below the poverty line. A family of five living in Third World squalor is apparently no reason to put a damper on the celebration of our economic good times.

For Habitat, eliminating such conditions is more than a New Year's resolution. Its 21st Century Challenge Program works with communities to set a date no more than 20 years out to eliminate substandard housing. “The vision,” Millard Fuller told me, “is not to build for a few lucky families. We

are not ‘Lottery for Humanity.’ Our goal is that everyone should have at least a simple, decent place to live. But we build relationships — not just houses. That's what breaks the cycle of poverty.”

This was hammered home during the sunrise dedication — a giddy mix of the sublime and the comic. “Don't you love my drive way?” enthused one Renaissance participant who had spent the previous day shoveling gravel. I, meanwhile, was offering guided tours of “my” state-of-the-art tool shed. But the underlying mood was crystallized by Tony Campolo — minister, anti-poverty crusader and presidential spiritual adviser — in an emotional barn-raising speech. “Visions and dreams,” he said, “energize people. Where there are no visions and dreams, the people

shall perish.”

If that is indeed the case, most of us must be ready for life support. At the White House black-tie dinner preceding “America's Millennium Gala Event” (a Quincy Jones production), the president toasted the first lady: “No one has done more to infuse this milestone with national purpose.” But that is precisely what was missing from all the hoopla — a national purpose. It was, instead, provided by Habitat.

Think how many more millions could have been inspired and engaged if Habitat's 21st Century

Challenge had been the millennial message issued from the Lincoln Memorial. People would still be talking about it, and better yet acting on it, instead of scratching their heads and wondering: Is that all there is? Is that what all the buildup was about — Tom Jones, cool fireworks and warmed-over homilies? The alternative — starting the new century by giving a family a new start, being part of something bigger than oneself — may not have been as spectacular as the fireworks that lit up the sky across the country, but the memory of the glow on Sheila's face will last a lot longer.

Arianna Huffington is a nationally syndicated columnist.

Washington Times
January 9, 2000

An all-star A-list glitters, shivers and dances the night away as the Clintons go all-out to welcome new year.

BY JANE FULLERTON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton rang in the new year with a star-studded "millennial bash" at the White House featuring a black-tie dinner and all-night dancing.

While the White House tends to throw a good party, this one was all-out — A-list guests such as Elizabeth Taylor, Sophia Loren, Jack Nicholson and Robert De Niro dined on a five-star menu that included caviar, lobster, oysters and lamb before heading to the Lincoln Memorial for a three-hour entertainment extravaganza that culminated in midnight fireworks. And then it was back to the White House for dancing into the wee hours, followed by New Year's Day breakfast.

For the Clintons, dinner came after a full-day of events to welcome the new year. With his toast, the president set the tone for the evening — historic and reflective, but not so much as to dampen the party mood.

"Tonight, we rise to the mountaintop of a new millennium," Clinton told the 320 dinner guests. "Behind us we see a great expanse of American experience, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility still to be explored."

For the dinner heralding the so-called millennium, the Clintons invited "renowned American innovators and creators" from the fields of art and history, science and technology, and sports and entertainment.

That meant the evening was heavy on star-power: boxer Muhammad Ali; Olympian Carl Lewis; actors Julie Harris and Mary Tyler Moore; playwrights Neil Simon, Edward Albee and August Wilson; violinist Itzhak Perlman; musicians Dave Brubeck, Bobby McFerrin; and Don McLean; opera divas Jessye

Norman and Kathleen Battle; and historian Arthur Schlesinger.

While many Americans chose to spend New Year's Eve at home, these guests were in the mood to celebrate.

"It's a huge honor. I'm thrilled," said actress Elizabeth Taylor, resplendent in burgundy velvet and diamonds, as she arrived so late she missed the president's toast. "I can't think of anyplace else I'd rather be."

Nicholson agreed: "It's the beginning of a new year, a wonderful new year, and a new century."

So why mark the occasion at the White House?

"This is America here," Nicholson replied, flashing his trademark grin.

For Loren, wearing a low-cut Armani gown accented with diamonds and rubies, the evening was an opportunity to reflect on history and the American liberation of her native Italy in World War II. "I come here for this evening with great, great emotion," she said catching her breath. "See — I'm getting already very emotional about it."

Historian John Hope Franklin, who earlier in the day had contributed a copy of the 14th Amendment to a time capsule filled with 20th-century artifacts, was looking to the future. "I have a regret that we have not yet achieved full equality and a hope that in the next century we will achieve it," he said.

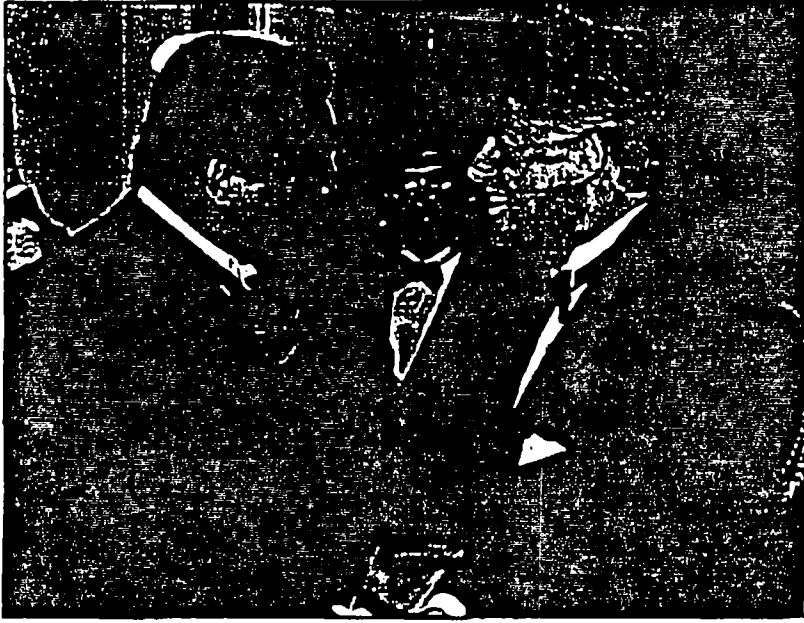
PAST AND PRESENT

The air of history was palpable as guests arrived and headed to a pre-dinner reception under a tent in the sculpture garden that bears the name of Jacqueline Kennedy.

Lynda Bird Johnson Robb, daughter of Lyndon Johnson and wife of Virginia Sen. Charles Robb, contributed to that feeling by donning a red and black velvet smoking jacket that had belonged to her father.

Schlesinger, the noted writer who served as a senior aide to John F. Kennedy, seemed ready to cast the century to the history books. When asked whether he had a "millennium message," he replied succinctly: "I'm glad it's over."

Arkansas was represented at the dinner by Janice Griffin, a Hope native and Washington lobbyist, and Mary Mel French, the



Associated Press

Muhammad Ali is greeted by President Clinton.

State Department's chief of protocol.

In addition, deputy White House counsel Bruce Lindsey, the presidential confidante and former Little Rock lawyer, came with Cheryl Mills, the former White House lawyer who captured the spotlight with her defense of the president during the Senate impeachment trial.

ABSENT BUT INVOLVED

Among those not on hand for the dinner were another pair of Arkansans playing key roles in monitoring events as the calendar flipped from 1999 to 2000 — James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Rodney Slater, secretary of Transportation, both of whom were invited to join the White House festivities.

Witt, who spent the day and night keeping an eye on the national computer-glitch situation from FEMA's operations center just a few blocks from the festivities on the National Mall, declined the offer. With the "Y2K bug" essentially eradicated, he and his wife, Lea Ellen, wanted to take in the fireworks from the roof of FEMA's headquarters, but security issues prevented that. So they had to settle for watching the festivities on television.

Slater, who spent most of his time monitoring the nation's airlines from the Federal Aviation Administration command center in

suburban Virginia, missed the White House dinner. His wife, Cassandra, arrived without her husband just before the president offered his toast. But Slater was able to make it over for some of the festivities at the Lincoln Memorial as well as the party at the White House afterward.

What was billed as the "White House Millennium Dinner" followed the format of a State Dinner, with the president and first lady, joined by their daughter, Chelsea, greeting their visitors in a formal receiving line. The first lady opted for a black satin gown with rhinestone buttons and a rhinestone choker, while the first daughter wore a midnight blue satin gown.

The Clintons were joined by so many guests that the meal had to be served in both the State Dining Room and the East Room, where the shimmering tables were set with gleaming white china and decorated with silver bowls overflowing with white flowers. Another 100 family members of the guests — many of whom arrived to greet the new year with their children — dined in a heated tent in the Rose Garden.

The president presided over the East Room, where he was seated between actresses Taylor and Loren. The first lady's table was in the State Dining Room, where she sat between De Niro and Washington Mayor Anthony Williams. Chelsea Clinton began in the East

Room at her father's table, but wound up with family and friends dining in the Rose Garden.

If this celebration called for a "once-in-a-millennium" meal, the White House did not disappoint. The guests began with beluga caviar, lobster, foie gras and oyster veloute — and that was just the appetizer. They then moved on to truffle-marinated rack of lamb accompanied by roasted artichoke and pepper ragout with a crispy garlic polenta. After a salad course, they ended with a dessert billed simply as "chocolate and champagne delight."

With diners at either end of the White House and in the Rose Garden, the president had to offer his toast three times.

And Clinton toasted three things: the guests who "contributed so indelibly to the narrative of this American century," his wife who "inspired us all to welcome the new millennium by honoring our past and imagining our future," and, finally, "a thousand years of history."

"By far, my most solemn prayer for this new millennium is that we will find, somehow, the strength and wisdom in our hearts to keep growing together — first, as one America, and then as one people on this ever-smaller planet we all call home," he said.

After dinner, the guests bundled up against the chilly winter evening — the White House provided goody bags with seat cushions, hats and gloves — and shuttled to the Lincoln Memorial, where they sat up front for the three-hour, \$12 million, nationally televised gala produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. The evening featured entertainment by the likes of Will Smith, Tom Jones, Kenny Rogers, Trisha Yearwood, Kathy Mattea, Don McLean and Luther Vandross.

As midnight approached, the crowd viewed the premier of Steven Spielberg's 18-minute film, *The Unfinished Journey*, which offered a photo montage of the nation's 20th-century history to date.

Then, with only about five minutes left in the expiring year, Clinton urged Americans to "embrace our shared humanity and our common destiny" in the next.

"We celebrate the future, imagining an even more remarkable 21st century," he said on the marble steps of the Lincoln Memorial. "As we marvel at the changes of the last hundred years, we dream of what



Associated Press

President Clinton gives his daughter, Chelsea, a New Year's kiss.

changes the next hundred and the next thousand will bring."

With that, five children standing at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial lighted a fuse that ran the length of the Reflecting Pool to spark the fireworks that illuminated the Washington Monument at the stroke of midnight.

After the gala concluded, the Clintons returned to the White House to host a private party for some 1,000 guests that featured former Supreme Court Justice Mary Wilson providing the dance music in the East Room. The party lasted until 5 a.m. and included a New Year's Day breakfast.

INDEFATIGABLE EXECUTIVE

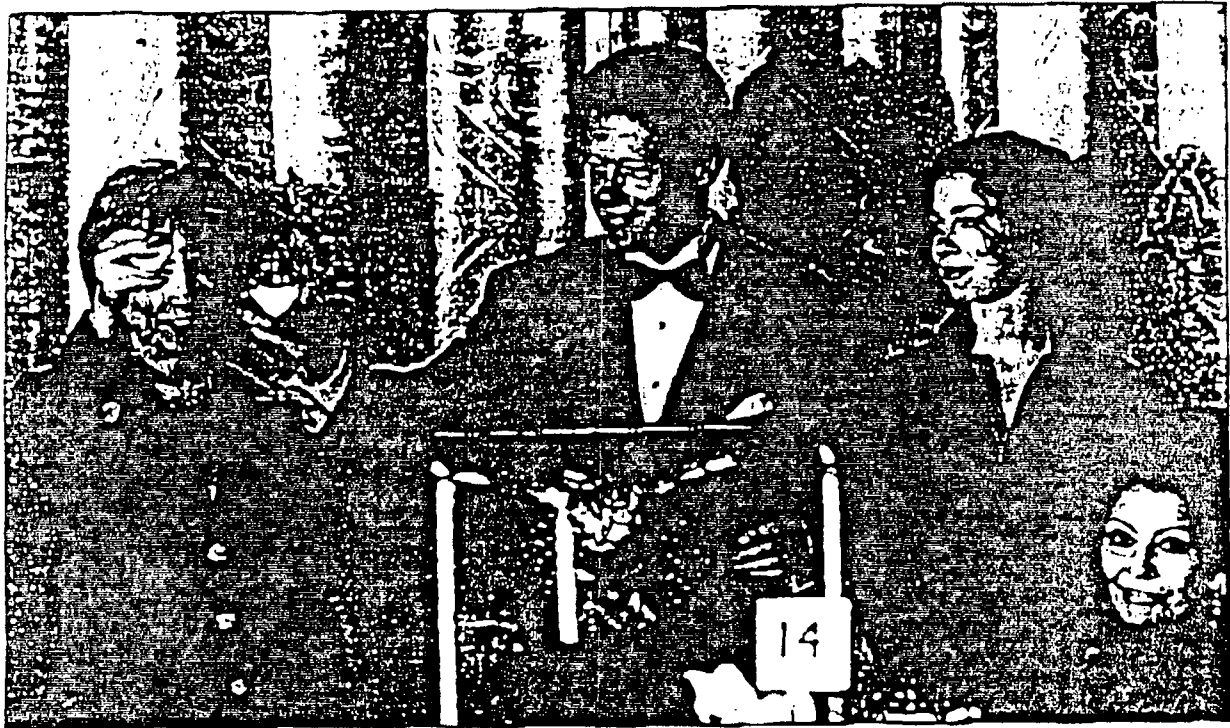
Despite the late night, the Clintons were up early New Year's Day to give a televised version of the president's weekly radio address. Hillary Clinton joined her husband and called on Americans to lead by example in making the world a better place for all its inhabitants.

"In the new millennium, the world will be looking to America for leadership in meeting our great common challenges," she said.

The Clintons wrapped up the New Year's weekend in a more solemn manner the next morning by attending the first Sunday services of 2000 at the National Cathedral.

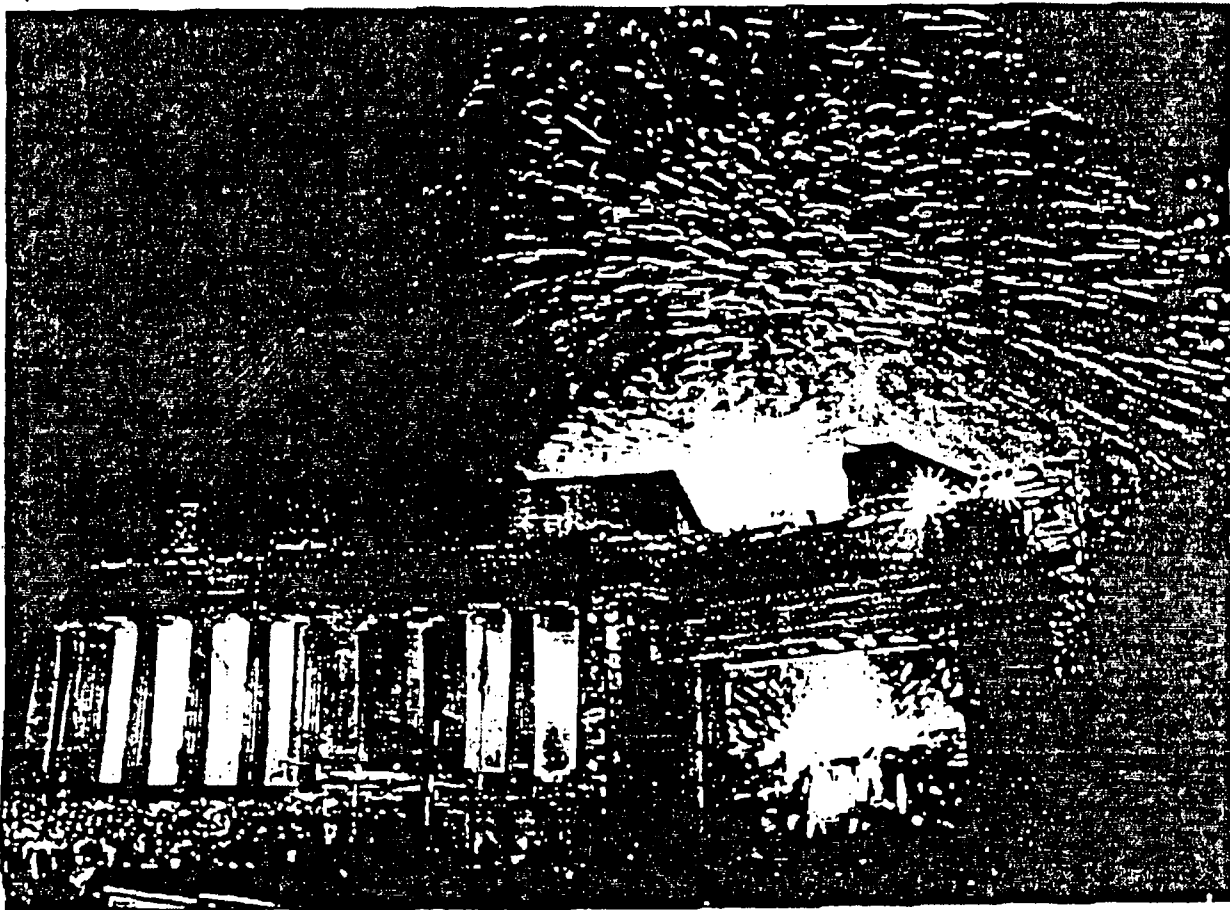
"We thank you for the promise of the new century," he said in leading a prayer at the service, "and ask your guidance and grace in helping us to make the most of it."

Ultimate eve at



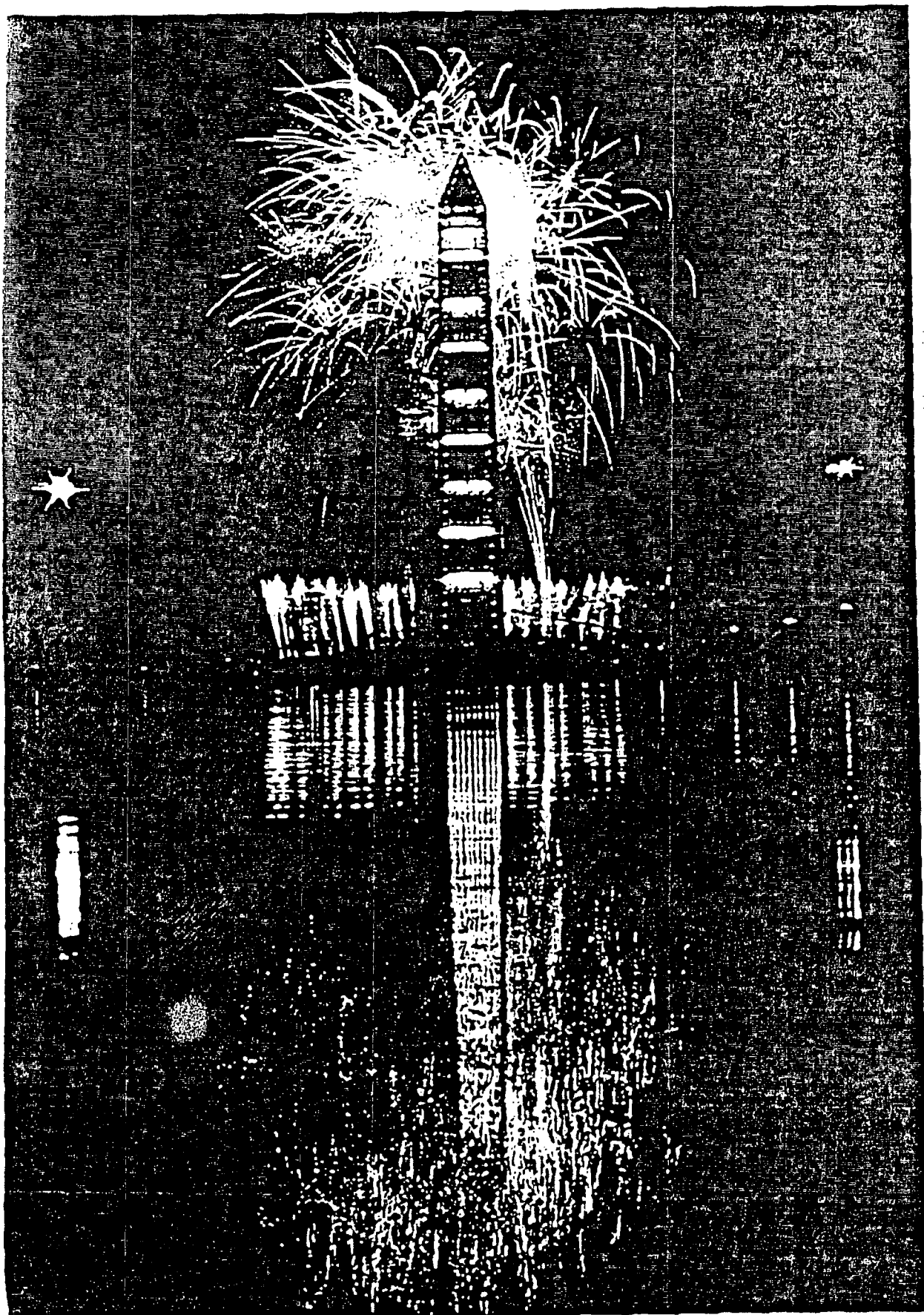
Associated Press

President Clinton with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, toast the new year in the East Room of the White House. Sophia Loren is seated on the right.



AP Wirephoto

the first house



Associated Press

Fireworks illuminate the Washington Monument.

JOYCE PURNICK/Metro Matters

London and Paris Dazzled As New York Dropped Ball

BEFORE we forget New Year's Eve and let our appallingly short attention spans wander to the next distraction, a moment of reflection on New Year's Eve.

Paris gave us the sight of a breathtaking Eiffel Tower, encircled in ascending spirals of fireworks. Britain offered fireworks sweeping over the Thames and a new Millennial Dome in Greenwich. Red Square turned ethereal, with fireworks and snowflakes falling on St. Basil's Cathedral. Sydney was aglow and so was Beijing, even though the Chinese new year is next month.

New York? A pretty ball descended a tower in Times Square, illuminating an ad for Discover, the credit card. Fireworks were hard to see, scattered pyrotechnics around town were nice.

Yes, it was fun and orderly in Times Square. The 24-hour street show was impressive, the N.Y.P.D. did great, people behaved. The ball (made by Waterford) was a new improved model and the electronic glitz of a renewed 42nd Street area provided a glittering backdrop.

But let's face it: for a world-class city we didn't measure up. Anybody who saw those stunning global productions has to admit that. Washington's was O.K., with its lasers and fired-up Washington Monument, but it was so packed with celebrities that it seemed like a cliché — a political cliché thanks to President Clinton's platitudes.

Washington is a capital city, like London and Paris, but New York is New York, so back to the ball and Times Square. Why so unmillennial?

The main reason was money. Except for Sydney's fireworks, paid for by corporate sponsors, celebrations in the other great cities were government-financed. The City of Paris spent about \$550,000 to create that magical Eiffel Tower, and the Ministry of Culture invested \$11 million for those Ferris wheels on the Champs-Élysées. The fireworks on the Thames (spectacular even without the promised flames) cost \$8 million, and the permanent Millennium Dome \$1.2 billion. Most of the money came from lottery profits, appropriated by the government.

Times Square got no government money at all (unless you count the cost of police, fire and other city services). The celebration cost less than \$5 million, contributed by Con Ed, Discover, Waterford, Korbel, the

Doubletree Hotel and the Times Square Business Improvement District. Timothy's donated thousands of cups of coffee.

The very idea of asking the federal government for money never even came up, said Brendan Sexton, president of the Times Square B.I.D. In fact, Washington chose to compete with New York. In any case, "We do a different kind of event," Mr. Sexton explained. "Don't get me wrong; we could have used more money, but the crowd is the event here."

O.K., then why not stage something grand elsewhere in New York City? We've done it before. The shimmering Brooklyn Bridge Centennial celebration in 1983, for instance. "This should have been the occasion to do something grand and permanent for the city," said Senator Charles E. Schumer. "If Americans had the same attitude toward New York City, regarding it as a jewel as the French do toward Paris and the English do toward London, we could do these things, and we should."

JEWEL is not exactly the word the average American would use to describe the city. It is a place most love to hate, or at least distrust. And that showed on Dec. 31. Even now, despite our celebrated Wall Street-driven renaissance, crime-fighting mayor, kinder, safer streets and Seinfeld legacy, New York remains alien territory to many in the country.

Ask John Rocker. Look at the presidential candidates who never mention New York unless they rush through to raise funds or are fighting to get themselves on our well-guarded ballots. Consider also how we are perpetually shortchanged by Washington, getting back fewer federal dollars than we contribute in taxes.

It took a mighty struggle just to prevent Congress from cutting operating subsidies to mass transit last year, recalls Mr. Schumer. No New Yorker could even dream of getting fancy subway extensions of the kind bestowed on Paris and London last year by their national governments.

Those projects "were done with purpose of having them stay global cities," said Robert Paaswell of the University Transportation Research Center, at City College. "They know their position in the world."

So does New York. It's the rest of America that hasn't figured it out yet.

January 5, 2000, Wednesday Final

SECTION: News Pg. 6

LENGTH: 603 words

HEADLINE: Clinton contributors joined in millennium party
Those who financed festivities were invited to private gala with president

BYLINE: TOM HAMBURGER

SOURCE: McClatchy News Service

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:

The National Mall in Washington rivaled Times Square as the place for network television cameras to be New Year's Eve, thanks to an entertainment spectacular created with \$16 million in private donations.

The made-for-television event was made possible by a list of contributors that reads in part like the roster of Democratic National Committee supporters. The first couple dominated key parts of the televised spectacular.

In exchange for financing the event, many contributors were invited to ringside seats at the extravaganza. Afterward, they and a thousand other guests danced with the Clintons, members of the cabinet and the other luminaries at a White House party closed to the media.

"It seems crass and inappropriate," said Charles Lewis of the Washington-based Center for Public Integrity, a watchdog group. "Americans don't begrudge the president and first lady for wanting to make the millennium celebration a significant event, but most people don't like the idea that it might be used for political purposes."

Not only did the event showcase the Clintons, but it also rewarded longtime contributors with what Lewis called "one of the ultimate perks," being included in an exclusive White House millennial celebration.

To be sure, some of those listed as sponsors are non-partisan organizations, or contribute to both parties. But fund raising for the event was led by Terry McAuliffe, a real estate and banking baron who gained national attention as finance chair of the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign in 1996. The controversial use of the Lincoln Bedroom as a perk for donors grew out of a memo he wrote the president during that campaign.

After the election, McAuliffe helped raise money for the inaugural celebration. He then turned to raising money for the president's legal defense fund, presidential library and, more recently, Hillary Rodham Clinton's Senate campaign.

Hillary Clinton's office was in charge of the New Year's celebration, dubbed "America's Millennium." And once again the Clintons called on McAuliffe.

"From the beginning, it was decided that this event should be funded by private contributions," said Toby Graff, deputy press secretary to Hillary Clinton. "There was no quid pro quo. The guest list at all events was balanced, including friends, family and supporters." Financial backers, she said, were publicly acknowledged in the widely distributed program.

She said that two prominent Republicans, House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois and Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi, were also on the committee for America's Millennium. Neither was on the guest list, however, and they could not be reached for comment.

Many of those who gave were treated to one of the most opulent evenings Washington has ever seen. The big contributors, such as real estate investor Walter Shorenstein or Teligent Vice President Laurence Harris, joined luminaries from the worlds of sports, entertainment and the arts at a private White House dinner.

The guests, mingling with the likes of actress Sophia Loren, boxer Muhammad Ali and jazz musician Dave Brubeck, dined on Beluga caviar, lobster and rack of lamb before heading to the Mall, where they had front-row seats at a two-hour show emceed by actor Will Smith.

At midnight, the guests watched an initial burst of fireworks before returning to the White House with 1,000 other guests, many of them contributors as well. A second fireworks display at 1 a.m. was visible from the White House lawn and kicked off a second round of partying from which the media were

January 4, 2000, Tuesday ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: VIEWPOINTS; Page A30

LENGTH: 730 words

HEADLINE: FIRST LADY TURNS NEW YEAR INTO ORWELL'S '1984'

BYLINE: James P. Pinkerton. James P. Pinkerton's e-mail address is pinkertofix.netcom.com.

BODY:

IN HIS NOVEL "1984," George Orwell wrote the formula for would-be thought dictators: "Who controls the past controls the future." By that reckoning, Steven Spielberg's new movie, "The Unfinished Journey," which premiered Friday night as part of "America's Millennium Gala," ranks as a minor classic of neo-Orwellianism.

Just as Orwell's "Ministry of Truth" propagandized on behalf of Big Brother, so Spielberg's 18-minute film was yoked to the political ambitions of Big Sister-Hillary Rodham Clinton. And American history was indeed double-thinked by the Washington-Hollywood axis.

To be sure, the Spielberg film and the entire extravaganza -three hours of pop-rock music interspersed with long, loving shots of the first family hugging and nuzzling each other -were televised on only one network: the faithfully Clintonophilic CBS. So one can't accuse the Clintons of being media-monopolizers.

But one can accuse Hillary Rodham Clinton of cooking up a pseudo-event on public property, having it scripted by loyal Democratic operatives such as Bob Shrum, and paying for it with \$ 16 million in fat-cat funding shaken loose by first friend Terry McAuliffe, all to advance her own ego gratification and political ambition.

Emcee Will Smith opened the show with these words: "We're all here because one person had an idea. Let's give a warm round of applause to the architect of America's Millennium, our first lady, Hillary Clinton." (Note to Will: If you ever want to see the inside of the Lincoln Bedroom, remember the "Rodham" next time.) But, if first lady Nancy Davis Reagan had ever had such an idea for an event, she would have been run out of D.C. faster than Katherine Graham could say "Unfair!" The gala's performers danced and pranced on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, facing the Mall, but they were invisible to ordinary people on the grass beside the Reflecting Pool because huge bleachers and camera stands

had been set up in front of them. That's right: At this "people's" event, only VIPs and pressies could see the show directly; mere taxpayers had to crane their necks toward jumbotrons.

That the Clintons love the lifestyle of the rich and famous is not new; what is new is their effort to shape American history to their own advantage. Enter Spielberg and "The Unfinished Journey"; this film will surely turn up in libraries, museums and schools, subtly shaping perceptions of the future by bending the past.

All one really needed to know about Spielberg's "Journey" came in the first few seconds as the image of Abraham Lincoln morphed into Bill Clinton, who recited the words from the 16th president's "with malice toward none" second inaugural address.

Then comes the rest of the film, seemingly a history of America in the 20th Century, done in rapid-fire style, set to John Williams' score.

Yet Spielberg the cineaste gets the better of Spielberg the chronicler; the World War I snippet in his movie features French, not American, soldiers. If only the Tennessee-born Sgt. Alvin York had thought to bring a camera crew as he won his Congressional Medal of Honor! The film makes time for Spielberg's own "Jurassic Park" dinosaurs, but has no time for U.S. war heroes such as Audie Murphy, George Patton or the Marines planting the flag atop Mt. Suribachi.

Spielberg does delight in American technical and scientific exuberance, from rolling assembly lines to towering skyscrapers to rocketing space ships. But a larger share of the film is dedicated to leftward social and political change.

Yet, even here, the historical value of "Journey" is marred by an ahistorical skew toward liberal Democratic icons.

Legendary labor leaders such as Samuel Gompers, John L. Lewis and Walter Reuther have all disappeared down Spielberg's memory hole, replaced by a Clinton-baby boomer cavalcade of stars, including Martin Luther King, John F.

Kennedy, Malcolm X, Cesar Chavez, Gloria Steinem, Barbara Jordan, Harvey Milk-even Madeleine Albright.

In one of her many appearances Friday night, Hillary Rodham Clinton quoted Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was first elected from New York, get it? But, after reciting FDR's "four freedoms" -freedom of speech and religion, plus freedom from want and fear -she neglected to mention the freedom that's really needed right now: freedom from being propagandized by one's own government.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: January 5, 2000

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2000

In a Millennial Prayer, President Gives Thanks

By CARYLE MURPHY
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton offered a "prayer for the new millennium" on behalf of the nation during services yesterday at Washington National Cathedral, giving thanks "for the promise of the new century" and asking divine guidance "in helping us to make the most of it."

Clinton was accompanied by his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who also read parts of "Prayers of the People," the communal petitions offered at each worship service. Nearly 900 people, including six Cabinet members, filled the cathedral, which was decorated with boughs of pine and red poinsettias.

The Clintons had attended funerals and Christmas Eve services at the imposing, hilltop cathedral in Northwest Washington, seat of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. But yesterday was the first time any president had taken an active part in services there, cathedral spokesman Bob Beckett said.

"It's important and appropriate for us to have the president at the first Eucharist of the millennium, and we feel his presence fulfills a symbolic role that the cathedral fills as a house for prayer for all people," Becker said. Clinton is a

Baptist but often attends services at a United Methodist church.

The 11 a.m. Eucharist service opened with Clinton and his wife joining the procession of clergy and choristers, all singing "The First Noel," down the cathedral's main aisle.

Clinton, dressed in a black suit, and his wife, attired in a wide-striped, blue and purple suit, sat in the left front pew beside Mary Ellen Baxter, wife of the cathedral's dean, the Very Rev. Nathan D. Baxter.

Baxter sermonized on religious tolerance. "If there is anything we have learned in the years since the birth of Christ, it is that there is no world peace without peace among the religions," he said.

"We must expand the sense of who is in God's family beyond our own religious identities," Baxter added. "We must grow beyond any bigotry or arrogance that keeps us from loving and respecting others as God would have us to do."

After the sermon, Clinton and his wife were escorted to a wooden lectern on the left of the sanctuary behind the altar where they alternated reading the communal prayer petitions written by cathedral staff.

The final petition was Clinton's own, which echoed the millennial themes preached in religious services around the nation yesterday. It said in part:

"Dear Lord, as we awaken to this second morning of a new millennium, help us to remember that all we are and all we do begins with you, for whom a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is passed, and as a watch in the night.



BY SUSAN RIDDER—THE WASHINGTON POST

After reading prayers, the Clintons are escorted from the lectern at Washington National Cathedral by its dean, the Rev. Nathan D. Baxter, right, and vergers Stephen Lott.

"So we begin this jubilee year in humility. . . . For me and my family, I give you thanks for good health, good fortune, and the opportunity to serve the American people.

"We thank you for the amazing grace you have shown in getting us through and beyond our individual and collective sins and trials. Through the darkest hours of the 20th century, the shameful trauma of racial oppression, the pain and sacrifice of war, the fear and deprivation of depression, when all we could do was walk by faith, it was your guiding light that saw us through. . . .

"Finally, we thank you for the rich and wonderful diversity of human life with which you have graced this planet, and ask you to give us the strength and wisdom to give up our fear, distrust and hatred of those who are dif-

ferent. . . .

"Help us now to accept at long last the enduring truth that the most important fact of life is not wealth, or power, or beauty, or scientific advance, but our kinship as brothers and sisters, and our oneness as children of God. This, Holy Father, is our prayer for the new millennium."

Clinton and his wife then shook hands with clergy around the altar and with a few members of the congregation seated in the right front pew. Both received communion following the Eucharist prayer offered by the Rev. Canon Frank M. Harron II.

"It was beautiful and heartfelt," Kimberly Collinsworth, 33, of Los Angeles, said of the president's prayer. "And it meant a lot to me, to give us hope and peace and that we should love one another and help each other out."

ENTERTAINMENT

2000, and one great night of concerts



D.C. is monumental

WASHINGTON — Will Smith and a few dozen other stars brought in the new millennium Friday by turning the Lincoln Memorial into the scene of the capital's biggest party.

Smith, who hosted the \$13 million America's Millennium Gala, got jiggy with a troupe of dancers on his bouncy *Will2K*, pushing his palms to the open sky and chanting to President Clinton, "Raise the roof, Bill."

The estimated 300,000 people who thronged the Mall enjoyed mini-sets from some of music's biggest stars.

Leading up to midnight, it was the past century in song — jazz, rock 'n' roll, pop, folk, country, opera and hip-hop — that was celebrated in the Quincy Jones- and George Stevens Jr.-produced spectacle.

Some of the night's unusual combinations worked — Trisha Yearwood and Brian McKnight crooning *Abraham, Martin and John*, or Kathy Mattea, Luther Vandross and violinist Michel Bell doing *People Get Ready*. Others, such as R&B star Usher and Kris Kriefferson struggling with *The Weight*, did not.

Stars like Tom Jones (*It's Not Unusual*), Kenny Rogers (*The Gambler*), Foreigner's Lou Gramm and Mick Jones (*I Want to Know What Love Is*) and Don McLean (*American Pie*) had the chance to do their signature tunes in front of a once-in-a-lifetime crowd.

The most stirring sounds came from divas Jessye Norman and Kathleen Battle, singing on the site of African-American opera star Marian Anderson's 1939 Easter Sunday concert, which followed the Daughters of the American Revolution's refusal to allow her to perform at Washington's Constitution Hall.

After midnight, most of the crowd began drifting off, but those who stayed for another hour saw most of the night's cast return to sing *America, the Beautiful* before U2's Bono performed and the cast of *Stomp* put a percussive stamp on the evening.



A toast: Faith Hill welcomes the new year with front-row fans in Nashville.



In performance: Elton John, above, was in Las Vegas. Will Smith, at left, took the stage at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The nation celebrates a new century in concert

By Ken Barnes
USA TODAY

Sweet harmony from Miami to the Mall, 6D

While most Americans witnessed the dawn of the millennium from their couches, those willing to forsake their cocoons (and most of the contents of their wallets) celebrated in style at concert venues across the USA.

Arenas were sometimes less than full, but the audiences occupying the seats experienced marathon musical retrospectives with spectacular stage sets and special effects galore.

Music lovers ventured to locations ranging from the Florida Everglades (where quirky rockers Phish staged a massive concert) to San Rafael, Calif. (where Bonnie Raitt headlined).

An estimated 2 million people packed New York's Times Square area to watch festivities, musical and otherwise.

Also on display:

► In Las Vegas, fans who paid up to \$2,500 a ticket saw Barbra Streisand recap her storied career in what may be her last U.S. concerts.

► Country devotees witnessed the reunion of The Judds in Phoenix and the union of two fans (via a midconcert marriage proposal) at Tim McGraw and Faith Hill's Nashville show.

► Boomers celebrated L.A.-style with local icons The Eagles, partied in Miami with hometown heroine Gloria Estefan and entered a New York state of mind with Long Island's Billy Joel.

► High rollers and hipsters saw private shows by Elton John, Tina Turner and Celine Dion in Vegas and by Sting and a glittery MTV lineup in New York.

► An estimated 300,000 thronged the National Mall in Washington to watch the fireworks and hear a galaxy of stars spanning a wide musical range — Will Smith, Kathleen Battle, Don McLean, John Fogerty, Trisha Yearwood, Luther Vandross, Tom Jones, Jessye Norman, Brian McKnight and more.

► Fans in Las Vegas watched Bette Midler combine the traditional and the satirical as only she can in a show that featured both *Auld Lang Syne* and impressionists mocking Cher, Michael Jackson, Rod Stewart and even Streisand.

Inside today's Life section, a team of USA TODAY reporters recounts the sites, sights and sounds of some of the weekend's hottest millennial concerts.



BU Productions

A rare appearance: Barbra Streisand's Las Vegas concerts were big hits.

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USA
TODAY

Life

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2000

White House shimmers with celebrity guests

By Ann Geracimos
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Movers and shakers from the fields of art, sports, entertainment and business were among more than 350 guests at last night's White House millennium dinner.

Even with Elizabeth Taylor stalled somewhere in traffic before the start of the evening, the Hollywood celebrity quotient was easily filled by the likes of Sophia Loren, Jack Nicholson, Mary Tyler Moore, Robert De Niro and Martin Scorsese.

The dinner was billed as a tribute to American creators and innovators. But the more obvious majority was the number of private company representatives on the list, at least one of whom conceded that the million dollars his company contributed to the weekend celebration was well spent.

Some guests were known to be invited to contribute as much as \$100,000 to take part in the festivi-

ties.

Representing the world of sports were Carl Lewis, Muhammad Ali and Bill Russell. The arts were represented in part by architect Michael Graves; Maya Lin, designer of the Vietnam War memorial; poet Rita Dove; playwright Edward Albee; actors Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis; and jazz musician Dave Brubeck, among others.

And why was Mr. Nicholson here, rather than in Hollywood? "This is America, honey. America is here," the actor said.

Perhaps the real story of the night had to do with who wasn't present, given the draw of the White House and importance of the evening.

In addition to the regular holiday decorations, the mansion was transformed into a white and silver fantasy land, with glass tree sculptures by artist Dale Chihuly on show in the Grand Foyer.

The menu included caviar, lobster and rack of lamb.

"Our country is probably in the best condition it has ever been and also has the most responsibilities it has ever had. And I think we can meet them."

— Sen. Patrick J. Leahy

President Clinton gave the toasts — generally optimistic homages to the future — in the three dining areas (East Room, State Dining Room and a tent set up in

the Rose Garden for family members of honored guests). First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea Clinton were at his side, both in black gowns.

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, Vermont Democrat, attended with his daughter, Alicia. He was celebrating the fact that "our country is probably in the best condition it has ever been and also has the most responsibilities it has ever had," Mr. Leahy said. "And I think we can meet them."

"A century ago, blacks couldn't come to dinner here," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said upon entering the gala.

Humor wasn't entirely absent, however. Asked by reporters to name the greatest invention of the century, Miss Moore responded: "The blow dryer."

Sen. John B. Breaux, Louisiana Democrat, was more conventional in his reply: "The jet engine. It has brought the world closer together."



Photo by Astrid Riecken/The Washington Times

President and Mrs. Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, greet Muhammad Ali at the White House Millennium Dinner yesterday.

Several hundred more guests were invited to attend a post-gala party at the White House, in addition to the earlier crowd.

Singer Mary Wilson was the entertainer at what was being billed as a breakfast feast scheduled to last until 6 a.m.

Washington Times
January 3, 2000

ENTERTAINMENT

TV sends 1900s out with a bang

Global absence of malice made it a grand party

TV NEWS & VIEWS

By Robert Bianco

were all having "terrible problems summoning up the right emotions" for the millennial shift.

But as the day progressed without disaster, you could almost hear Jennings lead a communal sigh of relief. By the time Cokie Roberts launched into a silly but spirited debate with Barbara Walters and Charles Gibson over the respective merits of Italy, France and Great Britain, it was clear ABC had let its guard down and was ready to celebrate.

The other broadcast networks came to the party late and never caught up. CBS misjudged the spirit of the occasion, opening with a David Letterman special designed to prove he's too smart for the millennium. (Letterman has precisely one note, ironic distance, and this was not the night for it.) While CBS' slate improved with its broadcast of Washington, D.C.'s *America's Millennium*, the network was too tied to one city to convey the global nature of the event.

Worse still was NBC, which seemed more interested in promoting Jay Leno than in covering the worldwide countdown. The nadir, however, was Tom Brokaw's fawning



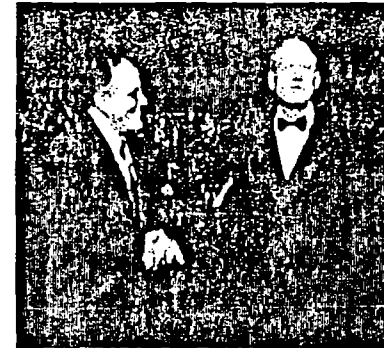
interview with tiresome self-proclaimed Washington society queen Sally Quinn, who prattled on about the social ambitions of the Georgetown party crowd.

There were, of course, plenty of other TV choices. CNN was steady and newsy, but its correspondents can't match ABC's for star power, and its regularly scheduled shows were a drag on the proceedings — particularly *TalkBack Live's* Webcam chat with author Arthur C. Clarke. Internet interviews may be the technology of the future, but they're unwatchable in the present.

PBS ran the most complete foot-

age of international artistic performances but undercut them with a steady stream of somnolent narration. MSNBC was often annoyingly chipper, particularly in those painful hours when Jodi Applegate anchored from London with all the decorum of a tipsy sorority girl. Fox News Channel was too tied to New York and to tabloid fluff like *Page Six* and its imaginary gossip of the future — though to its credit, it was the only network to have a translator ready for the pope's address from Rome.

Still, by the time midnight approached, most viewers were probably in such a good mood, even the



Left, ABC; above, CBS

A magical night: Peter Jennings, left, with David Blaine; David Letterman, above right, with Rudy Giuliani

shots of Barry Manilow trying to dance were endearing. Some other moments to remember:

► The pyrotechnics at Australia's Sydney Harbor, though I would have advised them to drop the smiley face from the bridge.

► Cokie Roberts ending her interview with her mother, Lindy Boggs (ambassador to the Holy See), with "Thank you, Mommy. Happy new year."

► The light shows at the Pyramids

and the Parthenon

► The Eiffel Tower seeming to explode in Paris, easily capturing the world's prize for Best in Show.

► London's Big Ben signaling what was claimed to be the world's largest fireworks show. It was something, all right — though if we were the ones who had spent a billion dollars on a huge dome, fireworks and Vegas dancers in skimpy clothes, we'd be hearing about our ostentatious bad taste for the rest of the century.

► The incredible countdown at the Washington Monument, America's only real monumental challenge to Paris and the only event ABC undercovered.

► A befuddled Barbara Walters getting so lost in a card trick with Blaine, he had to tell her to drop out.

And there was so much more, as we saw the ways the world has been Westernized (they sang *Auld Lang Syne* in Thailand, which doesn't hit the new year on its calendar until April) and the ways it hasn't. "We've looked at the world with such a sense of awe today," Jennings said — and we had fun, too.

Not a bad way to spend a New Year's Eve.

Party Lines

The Washington Times

*people, places and politics*Revelers welcome year
in extravagant fashion

If clothing choices worn by guests to the White House millennium dinner are any indication of trends to come, then more men will be wearing more colorful hats and more women will be in strapless dresses with shawls.

Fabrics were luscious. Jewels were eye-catching, especially when seen atop a generous bosom. Designer dresses garnered the most attention — as usual.

In other words, extravagance may well be the theme of next century's fashions.

The economy booms on as mere mortals continue to ape celebrity attire.

Jack Nicholson arrived at the White House East Wing entrance dapper and smiling, as did **Will Smith**, the titular host for the late-night gala. Mr. Nicholson had on a black fedora above his signature bad-boy grin. Mr. Smith a porkpie.

Even better, Mr. Smith was wearing a sparkling coral-colored vest made to order for the occasion by Donatella Versace to match the knockout clinging chiffon number worn by his wife, **Jada Pinkett Smith**. The couple proudly paraded before the press as they hurried into the pre-dinner reception being held under a tent in the sculpture garden.

Next to draw gasps of surprise and admiration was the low-cut black Armani gown chosen by **Sophia Loren** to show off her diamond and ruby necklace from Van Cleef & Arpels. (Whether borrowed for the occasion or a gift from admirers, she didn't say.) **Elizabeth Taylor** showed up later in shimmering burgundy velvet with a feather shoulder wrap in a lighter shade, escorted by photographer **Firooz Zahedi**, nephew of former Iranian ambassador to the United States **Ardeshtir Zahedi**, with whom Miss Taylor was linked romantically in the 1970s. President Clinton, no fool he, chose Miss Loren and Miss Taylor to be his tablemates at dinner along with Mr. Nicholson. (Hillary Rodham Clinton sat beside District Mayor **Anthony Williams**, with a national labor union official **Dennis Rivera** at the same table.) Conversation was "very strong," Mr. Nicholson reported later in typical wise-guy manner.

Perhaps mindful of unexpectedly benign weather conditions, singer **Kathleen Battle** and many other women had on equally colorful strapless taffeta or satin gowns under furs and stoles. Miss Battle's was a light pink, worn under an enveloping cape of quilted white satin. Actress **Lara Flynn**

Boyle of TV's "The Practice," who was Mr. Nicholson's date, looked alarmingly thin in her strapless pink creation worn without cover. **Mary Tyler Moore** chose a jewel-encrusted baby blue gown with tiny sleeves. **Lynda Johnson Robb** was a standout as well in a red and black brocade smoking jacket that she said had once belonged to her father, the late Lyndon B. Johnson.

Singer **Mary Wilson**, entertainer for the early-morning post-gala White House party, hit all the right notes in her brilliant sweeping red satin gown and sequin-trimmed Coke bottle purse. She was both elegant and sassy at once.

It certainly wasn't an occasion to be modest or mercenary. Bring on the glad rags. Internet entrepreneur **Vinton Cerf**, senior vice president for Internet architecture and technology at MCI WorldCom, said he had looked forward to the evening if only because of the opportunity to wear the top hat given him along with an honorary doctorate from the University of Lurea in Sweden. "I've been waiting for more than a year," he said. "I'm celebrating the 21st century infrastructure. It is all going to immerse us in a sea of connectedness."

With 360 guests, to be joined later by some 500 others frolicking in two dining rooms and two out-sized tents, closeness and connectedness were certainly the evening's themes. No wonder a former White House communications official **Don Baer** suggested jokingly that the best invention of the last century

was "roll-on deodorant — it made us all more social."

— Ann Geracimos

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy and his daughter, Alicia Leahy, arrive for the Millennium Dinner (below) hosted by President and Mrs. Clinton. Singer Mary Wilson, an original member of the Supremes, chats with the assembled press (below right) in a heated tent on the White House grounds.



Photos by Astrid Riecken/The Washington Times

Smithsonian honors past, reflects on future

Thousands attend New Year's events

By Ellen Sorokin
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

An estimated 10,000 people crowded the museums of the Smithsonian Institution this weekend to honor the country's past and reflect on its future during the America's Millennium on the Mall celebration.

Area residents, tourists and political leaders — including President Clinton, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea — began celebrating the new year Friday morning, when the Smithsonian kicked off its free programs, which focused on passing traditions — from music and cooking to scientific knowledge — from one generation to another.

The unseasonably warm weather helped contribute to the success of the Mall events as temperatures yesterday reached 68 degrees, nearly beating the record high of 71 degrees set in 1876.

Legendary blues musician B.B. King concluded the three-day event last night by performing his signature "The Thrill is Gone" on the electric guitar he calls Lucille, before a crowd of 565 fans at the Baird Auditorium at the National Museum of Natural History.

"We wanted to offer a moment of a little more quiet reflection on the millennium, on the new century," said Richard Kurin, director of folk life and cultural heritage at the Smithsonian and organizer of the weekend events.

"It's really about bringing people from all backgrounds together and building a bridge from the past to the future," Mr. Kurin explained.

The events took place at the National Museum of Natural History, National Museum of American History and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Each museum hosted a different menu



Photo by Michael Connor/The Washington Times

Freestyle Union, a rap group that promotes positive images, performs yesterday as part of the Smithsonian's year-2000 celebrations.

of programs, which included "Future Visions," "American Voices" and "Story Circle."

Among the events were: "Technologies of the Millennium," "Searching for Extraterrestrial Life," "40 Years of Sports Photography," "Blues Music Past and Future," and "A Heritage of Pictures and Words." Each program was about an hour long.

The Clintons on Friday attended the session called "Bluegrass: America's Roots Music," which featured a conversation with musician Ricky Skaggs, who has been hailed by music critics as a "Master of Bluegrass."

The National Air and Space Museum also welcomed 2000 by hosting the Mars Millennium Project, a nationwide contest to design a

village settlement on Mars. All participants received a Mars Millennium poster.

"The celebration has been pretty successful," said Vicki Moeser, a Smithsonian spokeswoman. "We've seen a lot of people who had a lot of enthusiasm come to the museums to participate in the programs over the weekend. It's been a wonderful weekend."

The visitors, who continued to file into the museums along Constitution and Independence avenues at 4 p.m. yesterday, agreed.

"It's been very impressive," said Doris Sprull, a D.C. mother who brought her 9-year-old son, Malik, to the programs this weekend.

"There was a wide variety of pro-

see MALL, page C2

MALL

From page C1

grams people of all ages could be interested in. I had a good time."

So did Malik, a student at Shepherd Elementary School, who on Saturday enjoyed seeing award-winning actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee read vignettes about the lives of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, scholar W.E.B. Du Bois, poet Langston Hughes and educator Booker T. Washington.

Tourists also got a chance to take part in the activities even though tickets were required to attend the events. All 12,000 tickets were distributed by Dec. 10.

Mr. Kurin said organizers expected that about 25 percent of the ticket holders would not show up for the activities. That gave tourists like Tammy and Wayne Cuslik, of Cleveland, a chance to enjoy the programs.

"We got lucky," Mrs. Cuslik said. What better way to spend the first weekend of the new year and the new century than being in the nation's capital and taking in all that the city has to offer."



Cherokee storyteller Gayle Ross tells tales inspired by her grandmother at the Museum of American History. Photo by Michael Connor/The Washington Times

Clintons offer preview of

BY SUSAN ROTH
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — A Twinkie, a cell phone and a copy of the *Log Cabin Democrat* newspaper from Conway, Ark., may be in a time capsule unveiled by the president and first lady Friday.

President and Hillary Clinton presented a prototype of the capsule, which resembles a large trunk bearing an American flag design, at the opening ceremony of national New Year's celebrations in downtown Washington.

The prototype will go on display at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History. The actual capsule will be filled in the coming months with artifacts representing America as the century ends. It will be sealed in a year

and stored in the National Archives, to be opened in a century.

"Almost three years ago, when the White House Millennium Council began planning a celebration for the National Mall, we decided that an important way to capture this moment in time would be by filling a national time capsule," the first lady told a crowd of 1,500 people gathered under a cloudless sky between the National Museum of American History and the National Museum of Natural History.

"We invited the thinkers and builders and creators of this century — all the past recipients of our nation's highest honors in the arts and humanities, in science and technology, in citizenship and leadership, as

well as builders and creators of the future, the students who are taught by the state teachers of the year across America. We asked them all to help us fill this time capsule, and their responses have been overwhelming," Mrs. Clinton said.

Three of the suggestions alone — a transistor, a piece of the Berlin Wall and Louis Armstrong's trumpet — could tell the story of the 20th century, she said. The transistor started the information age, Armstrong's instrument heralded the rise of jazz and American music around the world, and the parcel of the Berlin Wall "announced the triumph of democracy over dictatorship," the first lady said.

Some of the other items submitted include a World War II helmet, singer Ray Charles' sunglasses, a

century time capsule

piece of Corning Ware and many photos — of the earth from space, of the liberation of a Nazi concentration camp, of fast-food restaurants and of convenience stores.

A group of those thinkers and builders and students who submitted ideas joined the president and first lady onstage to offer proposals for what to include in the capsule.

John Hope Franklin, Duke University history professor emeritus, suggested a copy of the Constitution's 14th Amendment of 1868, which granted citizenship and equal legal protection to all people born in the United States.

Dr. Maurice Hilleman, a pioneer in immunology, contributed a transparent Lucite block containing eight vials of 20th century vaccines that have "prevented illness, disability

and death and changed the face of the world."

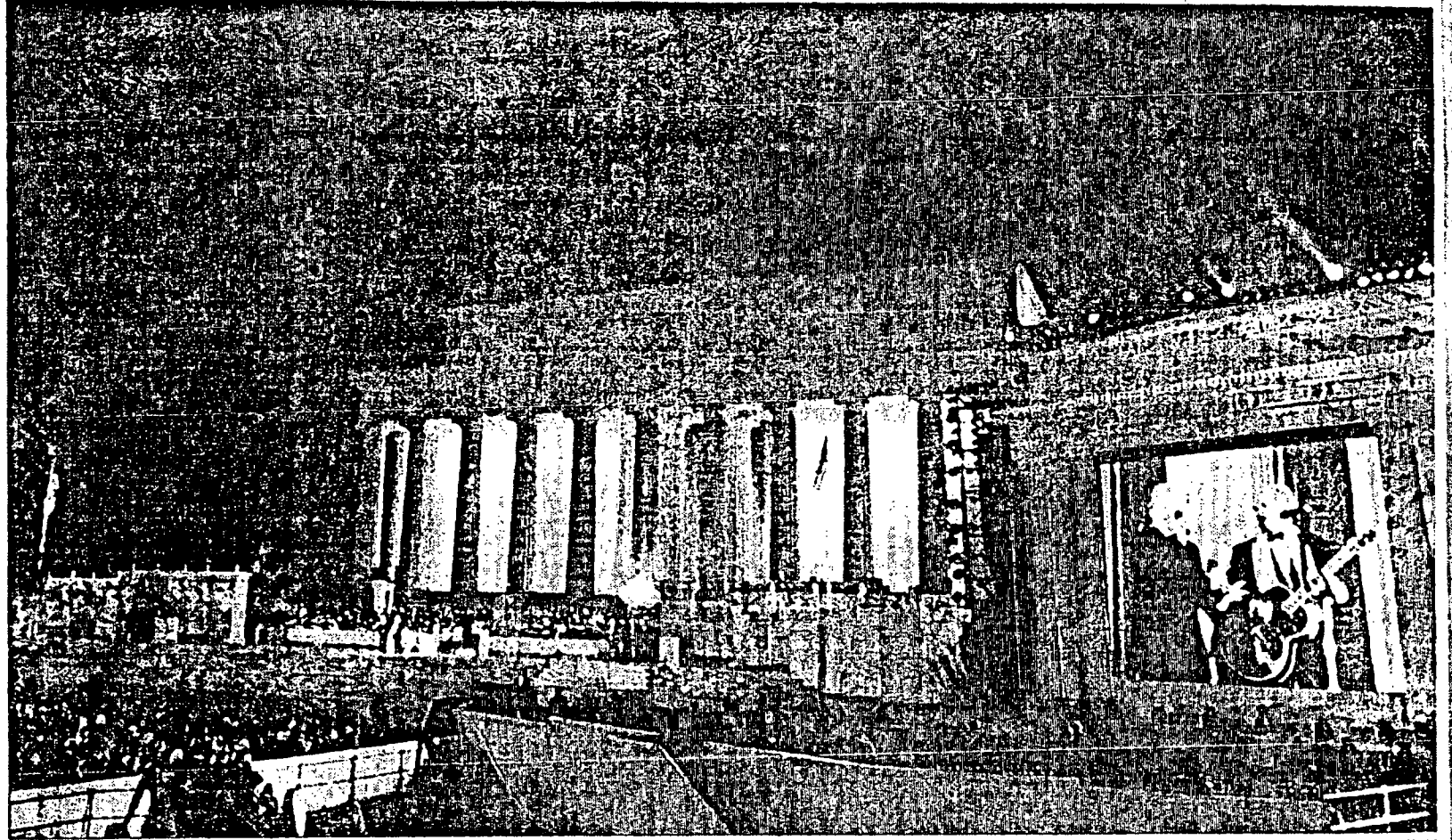
Retired Army Gen. Colin Powell, who received a rousing ovation, offered a set of GI dog tags to honor the "millions of Americans who have been willing to go in harm's way."

And Washington sixth-grader Eric Timmons expressed the hope of "stopping violence so that we can live in peace."

The time capsule will be made of three metals: steel for the Industrial Age, copper for the Information Age and titanium for the age to come, Mrs. Clinton said.

The flag design symbolizes "our optimistic country that is always in motion, always moving forward, always pushing back the frontiers of technology and progress, of tolerance and justice," she said.

January 1, 2000



Memorial millennium: Most of the crowd that thronged to the Mall got to see the performers—such as Kenny Rogers and Don McLean—only on video screens.

A Grand Night of Eclectic Performances



BY LARRY DOWNING—REUTERS

Wild, wild Will: Will Smith hams it up during the opening of the millennium celebration.

Performance

On the Mall And Beyond, A Night of Epoch, And Odd, Proportions

By MEGAN ROSENFELD AND TERESA WILTZ
Washington Post Staff Writers

As the century drew to a close last night, pictures from the "American Century" flashed across big screens set up near the Lincoln Memorial—anxious immigrants, scared soldiers, tap-dancing entertainers, construction workers, celebrities and other examples of American iconography. Compiled by director Steven Spielberg, the 20-minute film titled "The Unfinished Journey" tried to capture the country's agony as well as its glory, with the live grace note of an unknown elderly couple exchanging a kiss at the close of their turn as narrators.

However bombastic the film may seem to partygoers in the year 3000, it led up dramatically to a speech by President Clinton and the eagerly awaited fireworks display that climaxed the "America's Millennium" gala, a three-hour smorgasbord of entertainment that drew thousands to the Mall to celebrate the New Year. Indeed, all across town, America's music sounded—from gospel to folk, Vegas to Broadway, opera, jazz and rap—as hundreds of performers brought in the new

See PERFORMANCE, C7, Col. 1

century in song.

The Mall gala often seemed designed more for television (on CBS) than for those who were actually present, as only the 3,000 ticket-holders in the bleachers near the Lincoln Memorial could actually see the stage. The masses thronged around the Reflecting Pool could see the performers only on big screens, which at times—as when Will Smith's "Millennium" video was playing—meant that audience members stood in line to see television.

Nonetheless, it was probably the first time Abraham Lincoln got to watch a "Soul Train" line. As 30 dancers leapt around a stage built for the event, his marble eminence looked on.

Smith also got President Clinton to pump his fist in a "Raise the Roof" dance moment. "Yo, bro," he called to the commander in chief.

Thousands of folks hoping to get a glimpse of Smith or Trisha Yearwood found themselves light-years away from the headliners, waiting for at least an hour to get through security checkpoints. "I don't mind," said Patrice Hafeman of Frederick, Md. "I'd rather feel safe."

Others were not so sanguine. "They should at least tell us what's going on," said Eldred Deklerk, a police trainer from Cape Town, South Africa. "Some people are giving up and going home." By 1 p.m., the crowd was pushing down the hurricane fencing to get in, according to reports.

At least they didn't have to listen to commercials, as the cocooners at home did. And even the elite ticket-holders found themselves waiting in line, trying to get up the stairs to their seats as performers were trying to get down.

Across town, the superb mezzo-soprano of Washington's own Denyce Graves stepped into the far reaches of the National City Christian Church before an audience of 700. Wearing a stunning coat-dress of white and gold brocade and accompanied by pianist Brian Zeger, she sang a versatile mix of classical arias, jazz and spirituals. Combined with her now-earthy, now-velvet tone, her luminous stage presence and gracious song introductions clearly transported her audience, who seemed to respond to her every note.

Her most striking numbers were an aria from Handel's opera "Amadigi di Gaula," which she performed with spectacular ornamentation, and her signature tune, Camille Saint-Saens' "Mon Coeur s'Ouvre à ta Voix" ("My Heart Opens at Thy Voice"), which brought wild applause.

In Landover, there was a big party at the Jericho City of Praise—in the name of Jesus—with laser lights, a live band and bellowing gospel singers. And just across the Beltway, at US Airways Arena, Ebenezer AME Church drew more than 10,000 people to its "Holy Ghost Praise Party." The old basketball floor trembled as people rocked in their seats and sang an old song titled "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus."

On the Mall, the lineup at the millennium gala was eclectic, to say the least, too often saddled with a tired variety-show feeling. The combination of pop heartthrob Usher, looking uncomfortable in a tuxedo, with aging folkie Kris Kristofferson for a rendition of "The Weight" was the oddest of several odd pairings during the evening. To add to the made-for-TV feeling, the announcer broke into a powerful rendition of "I'll Take You There" by BeBe Winans and Patti Austin with an inappropriate "Only on CBS!"

During lulls in the show—and there were many—Smith hammed it up in front of the bleachers to the delight of the ticket-holding crowd. Inexplicably, producer Quincy Jones failed to use Smith much beyond the opening and the closing, a mistake considering how adept the actor is at impromptu crowd-pleasing.

Not far from the mall, Billy Taylor presided in the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater as the first century of jazz gave way to the third millennium. The sold-



BY PAUL RICHARDS—AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

British star Tom Jones croons "It's Not Unusual" at the Lincoln Memorial.

National Public Radio, initially found Taylor leading a septet composed of the evening's special guests, including tenor saxophonist Stanley Turrentine, vibist Stefon Harris, guitarist Russell Malone and trumpeter Terence Blanchard. The band opened with "At la Carousel," an upbeat charmer brightened by dashing solos from Taylor and Harris, tempered by the soulful attack of Turrentine and Malone and brilliantly illuminated by Blanchard's brassy fireworks.

"Soul Sister," another Taylor composition, featured the pianist's trio alone on-stage, conjuring a relaxed, after-hours groove punctuated by bassist Chip Jackson's inventive and invigorating handiwork. Drummer Winard Harper, a new member of Taylor's trio, then used sticks, mallets, rattlers and bells to create a festive symphony of percussion on Taylor's engaging Latin jazz piece "Tito." The band leader's open suite for piano followed. And though the trio arrangement was pared down to the elegant essentials, the piece nevertheless managed to encapsulate much of the history of jazz piano with great verve and finesse.

Following the second set, the entire audience was invited to don party garb (provided to each ticket-holder) and welcome in the new year at a bash in the grand foyer.

Over at the Kennedy Center's Concert Hall, some men wore suits, some wore tuxedos. One man standing outside the lobby was in a tuxedo with sneakers—prepared for all eventualities.

The National Symphony Orchestra's New Year's Eve concert was equal parts Old World music making and New World slapstick. While grand divas Kathleen Battle and Jessye Norman were down on the Mall, NSO Music Director Leonard Slatkin chose to spend the evening with family and friends—his wife, the soprano Linda Hohenfeld and old chums from his salad days, pianists Jeffrey Siegel and Joseph Kalichstein.

Plus several thousand listeners and a passel of journalists. This was a very weird concert, weird and wonderful. Unlike the usual New Year's Eve concerts around the world that model themselves on the famous Vienna New Year's Day event—dour Viennese soberly listening to champagne music from the dead Strausses—Slatkin gave it a local twist.

The maestro, who marked the millennium by conducting the New Year's Eve concert for the first time since he arrived at the NSO, announced from the stage that he would have none of the usual waltzes: too European, too not-American. But he began with music of France. Why? Because he wanted to.

The centerpiece of the program was Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals," a collection of light character sketches devoted to a baker's dozen of nature's wild creatures (this is the suite for which the universally beloved "The Swan" was composed). Slatkin dropped the Ogden Nash poems that have become attached to the various movements and substituted new verses by 14 prominent journalists from The Washington Post, ABC News and the Weekly Standard. It was a one-time event, he promised. The texts, kept under wraps until the event itself, stole the orchestra's thunder. But that was the point.

Post Publisher Donald E. Graham stayed above the fray, reminding the audience of nobler things. ABC's John Cochran, who read verses for absentee versifiers, contributed his own, a philosophical query about the relative ego size of journalists and conductors. The Post's Henry Allen, who had the "Cuckoo" movement, chose a poetical allusion—"In Xanadu did Cuckoo Kahn, a stately pleasure nest decree..." And his colleague Tony Kornheiser mockingly went for the jugular with a discussion of local fossils (he began with Sens. Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond, and ended with himself).

Slatkin, always a masterful program-

mer, arranged the evening as if to say "Relax, the modern orchestra has been bug-free for 300 years." He played soothing music—Faure's "Pavane"—and music that looked back to this century's forgotten technological marvels—Leroy Anderson's "The Typewriter" and "The Syncopated Clock." He played the typewriter himself—"The hardest thing I had to do in four years," Hohenfeld sang. Songs by Jerome Kern, and Siegel and Kalichstein were the pianists in the Saint-Saens.

But no audience will leave without the New Year's hit of all time, the Strauss "Radetzky" March. They applauded until Slatkin gave it to them, as an encore. They clapped in time, as audiences have for decades, a small nod to tradition before heading out into the brisk night to greet a new century.

No one would mistake the Black Cat on 14th Street NW for the Kennedy Center, but the post-punk club glittered late at night, with strands of tiny white lights hung from the ceiling and the bar. The entertainment was equally grunge-free. Peaches O'Dell and Her Black Cat Orchestra, a 10-piece combo that specializes in songs originally recorded by the likes of Frank Sinatra and the Andrews Sisters.

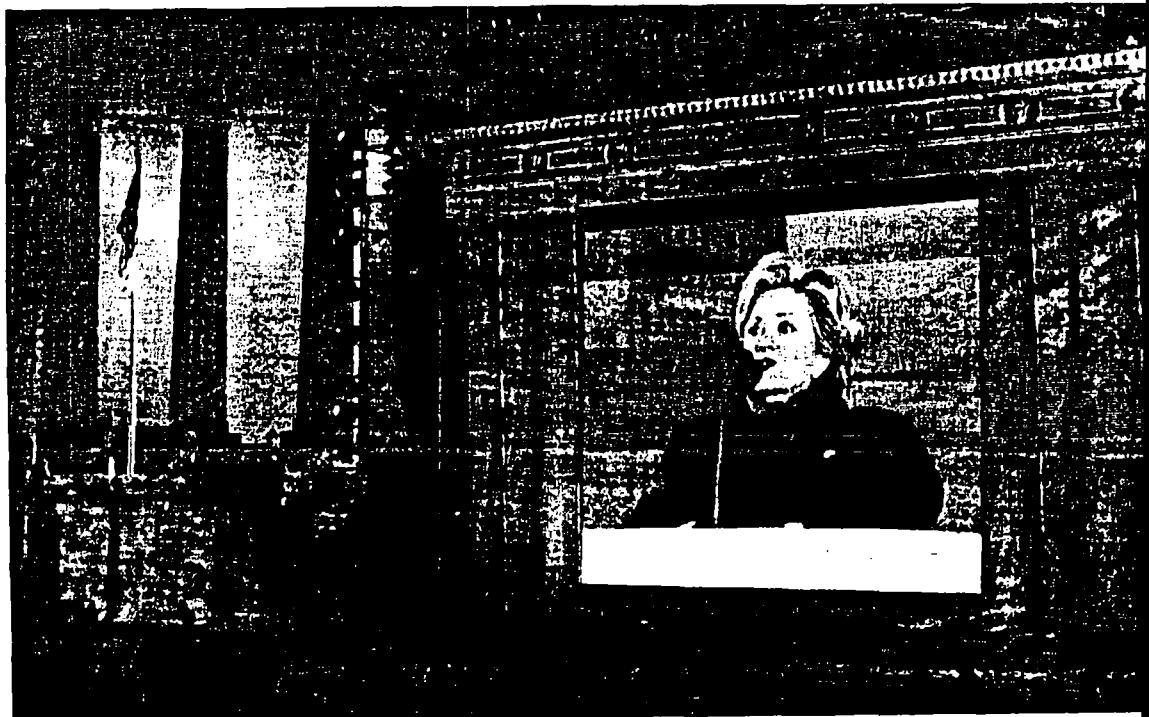
Fewer than 50 patrons were in attendance when the orchestra began playing shortly after 10 p.m., but the dance floor was nearly full an hour later, a credit to turnout for a club that reaches capacity when a hot alternative-rock band draws 500 fans. While the first couple to dance was dressed as if for a Fred Astaire movie, others wore the club's customary black-on-black uniform.

O'Dell promised to return in a "tacher" outfit as her group finished its first set and yielded to the Hidden Persuaders, a minimalist trio that performed such lounge standards as "Moon River" and "The Look of Love."

At midnight, after the stunning flash that lit of the Washington Monument, the Mall gala continued along its gaudy, bo-like way. Following the inevitable "Fanfare for the Common Man" and children's choir leading "America the Beautiful," a panoply of notables came out to read quotes from other notable. They included a surprise visit from Elizabeth Taylor (dark-haired again), and people like Edward James Olmos quoting Ronald Reagan and Atallah Shabazz quoting Cesar Chavez.

Will Smith was seen leaving around then, carrying a child and accompanying his wife. The show wasn't over—it was scheduled to continue with the cast of Stomp and Irish singer Bono, plus a more fireworks—but for many, the night was over and the new century was under way.

Cecelia Porter, Philip Kennicott, Mike Joyce, Hamil R. Harris, Mark Jenkins and Sari Horwitz contributed to this report.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Then an extravagant New Year's Eve dinner was served. Heluga caviar, lobster, foie



PHOTO BY GUY LAWRENCE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Presented by: Hon. Murphy Brown (Chair) and Patricia Clinton
Daniel Abraham, David J. Forsyth, and Louis Abraham



George Stevens Jr. and Quincy Jones, producers of the "America's Millionaire" television



Sparks Were Flying Before Fireworks

Concern for Washington Monument Initially Jeopardized Pyrotechnics Program

By MICHAEL E. RUANE
Washington Post Staff Writer

The idea seemed brilliant.

Washington's millennial celebration on the national Mall would of course need fireworks. But there were fireworks on the Mall every July. How could these be made memorable? What would elevate this show above all others?

The millennium gala's co-producer, George Stevens Jr., found the answer towering right in front of him: 555 feet of shimmering stone, caged for the moment in repair scaffolding: the Washington Monument.

It was perfect.

Might a 10-second fireworks countdown, or count up, be created to safely ascend the hallowed structure right before midnight? Absolutely, replied his fireworks contractor, the Long Island pyrotechnics firm of Fireworks by Grucci.

But when the idea was posed to the National Park Service, the monument's steward, the answer was a grade-A, government-inspected "No way."

The "Midnight Moment"—in which 1999's final seconds were ticked off by fireworks ascending the monument's scaffolding in 50-foot increments—almost didn't happen.

It grew out of Stevens's suggestion, and then survived a delicate, months-long waltz involving the advocates of showmanship, pyrotechnic art and historic dignity that ended just days ago.

It weathered the Park Service's initial no, evolved into a program in which three sides of the structure would be illuminated, then was almost canceled after a congressman called it a "desecration" and the Park Service got cold feet on Tuesday.

In the end, pyrotechnics were ignited only on the west side of the monument, where a \$60,000, 500-foot sheet of fireproof protective plastic had been hung between the stone and the scaffolding.

The fireworks company, which dates to

19th-century Italy, had 26 pyrotechnists working for 15 days to string 135 miles of wire and set up scores of Fiberglas firing "guns" and hundreds of fireworks.

More than 700 cigar-size "waterfalls," for example, lashed to the monument scaffolding three feet apart, were used on the countdown—leaving the structure fully illuminated for about 20 seconds.

Three hundred other small fireworks, arranged in a line of 100 stands in the Mall's Reflecting Pool, made up a simulated fuse preceding the countdown.

They were followed by a two-minute barrage of more than 90 aerial fireworks shot from flatbed tractor-trailers east of the monument, ground-level 40-millimeter roman candles fired north and south of the monument, and the ignition of red strobe lights framing the monument.

A 50-foot-tall structure facing the Lincoln Memorial flashed the number "2000" at midnight. The display at the monument lasted two or three minutes.

A second, six-minute aerial fireworks display was fired from two barges in the Potomac River behind the Lincoln Memorial to cap the festivities about 1 a.m.

The family-run Grucci company, which has also done fireworks for five presidential inaugurations and the centennials of the Statue of Liberty and the Brooklyn Bridge, began planning the show in September in the face of the Park Service's opposition.

"They said no," recalled M. Philip Butler, the Grucci producer for the show. "Then they said, 'What part of no don't you understand?' ... It was tough."

Phil Grucci, a vice president of the company and the grandson of its American founder, added: "The first few responses were no, until we had an opportunity to really explain and present our case."

"Roman candles and fireworks spewing out of the top of it, I'm sure, was the first vision of the people that we proposed it to," he said.

In an interview last month at company headquarters in the pine barrens of central Long Island, Grucci stressed that they planned to work with "the utmost dignity to the structure."

"It's very important for us not to turn it into a roman candle," he said. "It's very important to the nation that we present this with the highest degree of dignity."

The government finally gave the green light for the countdown just three weeks ago. Initially, the plan was for the monument to be "wrapped" in curtains of fireworks on the west, north and south sides.

Grucci technicians traveled to Washington and quickly wired the monument scaffolding on the three sides with hundreds of the modest "waterfall" devices.

The waterfalls were connected with hundreds of yards of pink "shock tube," a lightning-fast fuse made of thin plastic filled with powdered explosive. Shock tube can carry a spark 6,800 feet per second.

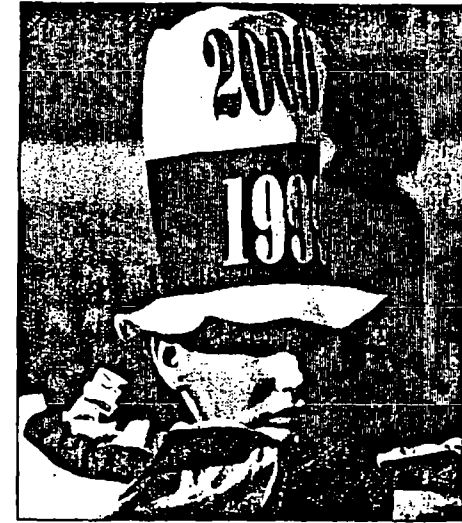
Then, on Dec. 17, Rep. Ralph Regula (R-Ohio), chairman of the House subcommittee on interior and related agencies, wrote a letter of protest to the White House. Regula pointed out that the scaffolding was part of a multimillion-dollar effort to refurbish the monument's exterior stone work, which might be damaged or soiled by the display.

In addition, he wrote, such a fireworks display would be a "desecration" of "one of the most important symbols of the nation's capital, a monument to the father of our country, and a symbol of our patriotism and Democracy."

At the White House, a millennium gala coordinator said all precautions had been taken and no problems were anticipated. Grucci said the waterfalls were too small to be harmful.

But the National Park Service was still worried.

On Monday, the Park Service test fired one of the waterfalls at the monument, and didn't like the results. The agency "became con-



BY JAMES A. PARCELL — THE WASHINGTON POST

David Ellis, 13, visiting from Indiana, wears his year 2000 hat at the Mall celebration.

cerned that there might be some slight soot, or something, which would require the cleaning of the whole monument," said Stevens, the legendary producer of the Kennedy Center honors, said in an interview Wednesday.

A solution had to be found, or the countdown might have to go.

The program was saved by plastic. "The solution was to erect a polyurethane sheet over the whole west side of the monument," Stevens said, "500 feet."

In addition, the producers agreed to ignite the waterfalls only on the monument's protected west side and to forgo the unprotected north and south sides.

"We all wished to take every precaution to make certain that it was totally safe," Stevens said, and to exert "the last full measure of devotion to the monument to our founding father."

For the Gruccis, "It's an honor for our family," Phil Grucci said. "This is one of the major benchmarks of our careers, if you will, in the pyrotechnics and the fireworks industry."

"Having the opportunity to do the America's millennium, certainly it's a moment that when you sit down and you speak to your children and grandchildren, as the years go on, this is one that's going to be one of the highlights."

Washington Post
January 1, 2000

Washington Times
January 1, 2000

Revelers make Mall hum with no trouble in sight

Security produces long lines for entry

By Jabeen Bhatti
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A manmade "sunrise" this morning lit up the National Mall as tens of thousands of revelers welcomed the year 2000 in a glitzy celebration bursting with celebrities, costumes, music and foods from around the world.

The Lincoln Memorial was the focal point of the White House's three-hour "America's Millennium: A Celebration for the Nation" — a \$12 million Hollywood-produced extravaganza of lights and sounds.

Just before midnight, President Clinton, in his New Year's address, encouraged all Americans to "celebrate the future."

"When memories outweigh our dreams, we become old. It is the

destiny of America to remain forever young. We Americans must not fear change. Instead, let us welcome it, embrace it and create it," the president told the throng moments before fireworks illuminated the balmy winter sky.

Five children representing different ethnic groups ignited a fuse running the length of the Reflecting Pool from the Lincoln Memorial to the Washington Monument, which lit up section by section as 2000 arrived. Then a bank of lights lifted by 175-foot cranes created a "sunrise" for the new millennium.

"If the story of the 20th century is the triumph of freedom, then let the 21st century be the triumph of freedom wisely used," said Mr.

see MALL, page A5

MALL

From page A1

Clinton, flanked by the 19-foot statue of Abraham Lincoln.

Actor-rapper Will Smith, wearing a zoot suit, kicked off the festivities with a song-and-dance performance that energized the crowd, which enjoyed the outdoor gala in the unseasonably warm air with little apparent concern for terrorist threats.

Other celebrities quickly followed, including actor Sam Waterston and singers Tom Jones, Kenny Rogers, Trisha Yearwood, Brian McKnight and John Fogerty.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton welcomed the crowd and evoked memories of the 1963 civil rights march on Washington that ended at the Lincoln Memorial: "Here we have come again as individuals with our children in hand and by the hundreds of thousands to witness and strive for what is best in our country and ourselves."

Filmmaker Steven Spielberg debuted his 18-minute film montage, "The Unfinished Journey," saluting America's role in the past century, accompanied by an orchestral score by John Williams.

The film, narrated in part by Mr. Clinton, actress Ruby Dee and poet Maya Angelou, was projected onto large screens near the memorial, while Mr. Williams conducted a symphony orchestra.

D.C. police had fenced off the Mall for extra security and allowed revelers to enter the area only through a few sites monitored by

metal detectors. Lines waiting to get onto the Mall last night stretched for blocks.

At 9:45 p.m., Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey saw the crowd and stopped his cruiser at 19th Street and Constitution Avenue.

Patrick Shamburg of Herndon walked up and asked, "Are you the chief of police? I can't believe you invited us down here and won't let us in."

Chief Ramsey replied: "I agree with you." He then asked Park Police to move the folks along — and offered help.

Soon after, a busload of D.C. officers arrived to confront lines that stretched for eight blocks.

Mr. Shamburg said he and his friends had waited in a line that didn't move for two hours.

"We just got tired of it and are going home to watch on television," he said.

By 10:20 p.m., police dropped the barriers and allowed partygoers to enter the Mall without security checks. The revelers swelled the area until it was a standing-room-only event.

Police reported that a man was killed in the 5300 block of Fifth Street NW about 9:15 p.m.; otherwise, there were only a few arrests for minor infractions. Few celebrants ignored the police ban on bringing alcoholic beverages to the event.

The rest of Washington was a virtual ghost town. Police officers, waiting for the Mall crowds to disperse, stood on street corners with no cars or pedestrians in sight.

Throughout the District's "Main



Photo by Sean Dougherty/The Washington Times

Debbie and Johannes Williams of Silver Spring celebrate along with 500,000 of their closest friends on the Mall just after midnight.

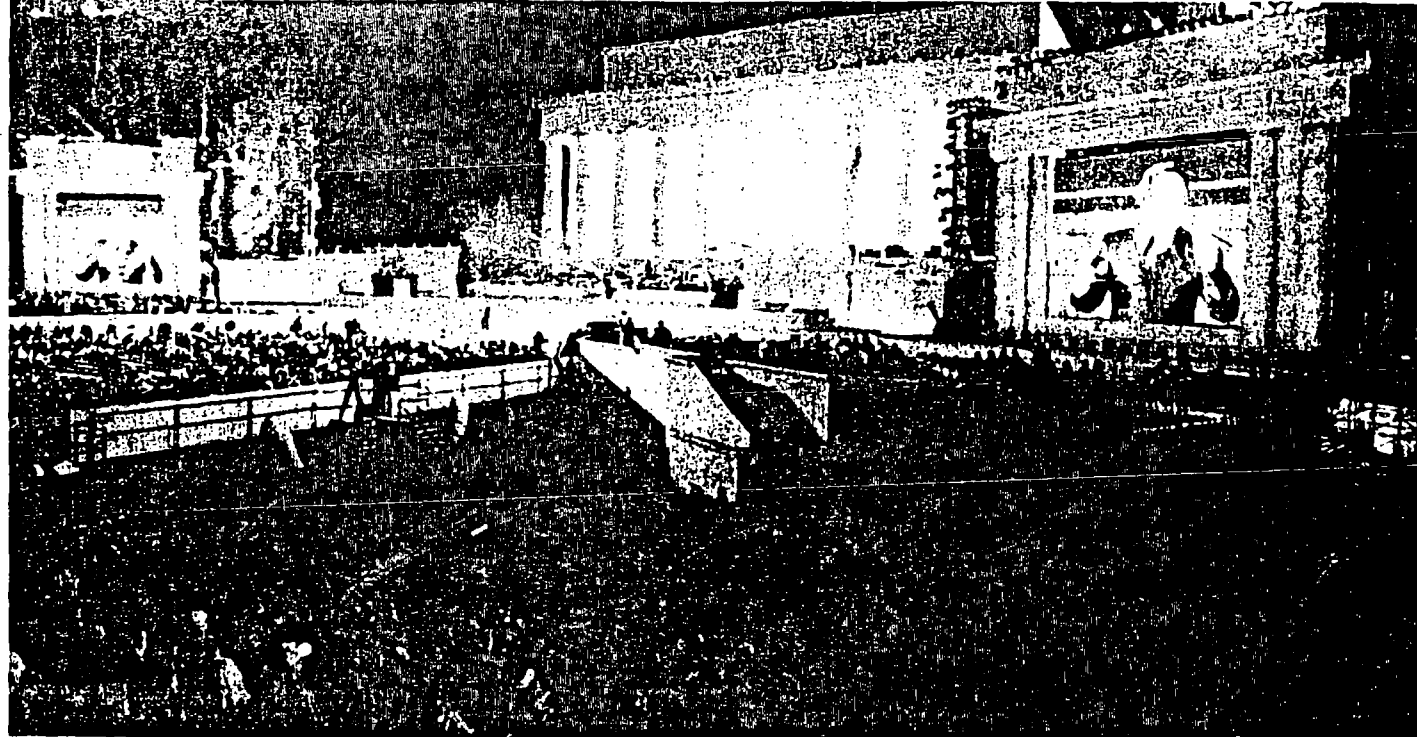
Street Millennium" celebration during the day, the sounds of salsa music merged with the thrum of rap and the smooth strains of the blues all along the Mall, where

celebrants rocked to the city's varied beats.

"This is really cool," said David Giampocaro, of Arlington. "I don't know when again you are going to



Will Smith was master of ceremonies for the festivities, which many Mall visitors had trouble getting near, thanks to tight security.



Tom Jones performs his hit "It's Not Unusual" with the Lincoln Memorial as a backdrop at the beginning of last night's Mall celebration.

Photo by J.M. Eddins Jr./The Washington Times

see this much of Constitution Avenue closed in celebration."

Scores of residents and visitors strolled Constitution Avenue, stopping in large, white, heated tents to sing, dance and be lured to food stands by the smells of barbecue and jerk chicken.

On the main stage at 12th Street NW, a big screen flashed scenes of New Year's celebrations around the world. Drums rumbled, bells clanged and dancers moved to African rhythms.

Celebrants offered differing views about the coming millennium.

"I hope for good things for the world, that things change for the better," said Patrice Dayes, 16, of the District. "I also hope the new year brings better job, education and health opportunities for us."

"I don't think that any magic is going to happen just because we are changing a century," said Marc Stecker, of Manassas. "I am just looking to blame anything I can on the millennium."

Terrorist threats didn't keep these partiers away. Most interviewed said they believed the

warnings were overstated.

"I'm not worried," Steven Hietpas said. "You can't stop living or experiencing out of fear. What's going to happen is going to happen. This celebration is a once-in-a-lifetime chance."

Earlier yesterday, the Clintons and Mayor Anthony A. Williams started the District's year-2000 celebration by showing off the National Millennium Time Capsule, to be opened in the next century.

Hundreds of the nation's most celebrated inventors, entertainers and industrial leaders contributed items to the time capsule, which will be housed at the National Archives.

Around 1:30 p.m., the World Children's Choir performed songs of peace from around the globe to more than 300 from the city's international community.

The Clintons and Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright joined the celebration, held in the light and airy atrium of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center to salute children around the globe.

January 1, 2000, Saturday

SECTION: Special -- AAS 2000; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 215 words

HEADLINE: WASHINGTON, D.C.: Ideal weather draws thousands to National Mall

BYLINE: Scott Montgomery

BODY:

Mild temperatures and a string of flawless midnight New Year's rollovers around the globe enticed tens of thousands to the National Mall for a fireworks spectacular ignited by President Clinton to welcome 2000.

Throngs of people streamed in by nightfall to find grassy seats on the heavily-secured Mall. They choked into long, thick lines through a handful of security checkpoints where revelers submitted to searches. At one point, crowds on 17th Street pushed through barriers and rushed past police.

Clinton, the first president to bring in a new century since William McKinley, stowed 20th century artifacts into a time capsule, including Army dog tags and a library card.

For his final speech of the century, Clinton quoted Abraham Lincoln: "Let us pledge that the new millennium will bring, in the words of the Great Emancipator, 'a new birth of freedom.' "

At midnight, white fireworks cascaded up the 555-foot Washington Monument, sparked by a fuse that ran along the reflecting pool from the Lincoln Memorial.

At the Lincoln Memorial, actor and musician Will Smith hosted the three-hour America's Millennium Gala for Clinton and other dignitaries. The show was broadcast on giant-screen televisions on the Mall.

-- Scott Montgomery, Cox News Service/AP

LOAD-DATE: January 7, 2000

Chicago Tribune

January 1, 2000 Saturday, MILLENNIAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5; ZONE: C

LENGTH: 962 words

HEADLINE: CHICAGO QUIETLY BIDS 1999 GOODBYE . . . WHILE AN EXUBERANT WORLD
GREETES 2000;
A BASH HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

BYLINE: By Lisa Anderson, Tribune Staff Writer.; Tribune correspondents Michael Lev in Tokyo; Liz Sly in Beijing; Colin McMahon in Moscow; Paul Salopek in Johannesburg; Hugh Dellios in Jerusalem; Tom Hundley in Rome; Ray Moseley in London; Paul de la Garza in Mexico City; Laurie Goering in Rio de Janeiro; Stevenson Swanson, Julie Deardorff and Pat Cole in New York; Michael Kilian and Naftali Bendavid in Washington; V. Dion Haynes in Seattle; and Vincent J. Schodolski and Gary Dretzka in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

BODY:

A chance to celebrate like this comes only once every 1,000 years, and Americans made the most of it.

In New York's Times Square, ablaze with the lights of television cameras and towering electronic billboards, some 2 million people cheered as a sparkling Waterford crystal ball dropped at the stroke of midnight and some 4,000 pounds of confetti rained onto the square.

Under the watchful eyes of 8,000 police officers, merrymakers donned shiny Mylar hats and waved balloons within a 75-square-block "frozen zone," where manhole covers and mailboxes had been soldered shut for security.

Gazing up at the glittering millennial ball, August Diarrassouba, 28, of Ivory Coast, was still wondering why so many people would gather outside for hours just to watch a ball fall from a skyscraper. "No one knows why," said the mystified Diarrassouba, after quizzing some of those jammed in around him.

"It's like a new beginning," said another New York reveler, Marilyn Shure, 50, a nurse from Atlanta. "It's like watching the odometer change in the car," she added, clearly struggling for a suitable metaphor.

"They canceled everything in Seattle, so we're glad to be here," said Todd Lucas, 26, a commercial fisherman from Washington state. Seattle may have had the grimmest New Year's Eve celebration on the planet, shutting down its festivities at 6 p.m. because of security concerns.

In the other Washington, the nation's capital, the final countdown was punctuated by a rising cascade of lights that worked its way up the Washington Monument, moving one stage higher with each final second of 1999. Fireworks exploded from the top of the familiar obelisk in a spectacular finale.

An appearance by President Clinton capped a three-hour extravaganza on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial dubbed America's Millennium Gala by the White House. Hosted by actor-singer Will Smith, it featured a dazzling array of artists, from Bobby McFerrin to Kris Kristofferson.

On the Pacific Coast in Los Angeles, the famous "HOLLYWOOD" sign in the hills above Tinseltown was illuminated for the first time in decades. In Pasadena, where preparations for the annual Tournament of Roses Parade went on throughout the night, Disney's new film, "Fantasia 2000," premiered, accompanied by a midnight display of fireworks timed to live classical music from the movie.

New York may host the most famous New Year's Eve party in the U.S., but the nation's official "It" party unfolded at the White House, where Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton welcomed a glittering list of America's best, brightest and most glamorous.

Figures as illustrious as DNA discoverer and Nobel laureate James Watson, as creative as poet Rita Dove, as high-flying as septuagenarian astronaut Sen. John Glenn and as stupendous as film legend Sophia Loren dined on caviar and lobster.

"To be invited to the White House," said Loren, "my mind went back like a flash to the war, when the Americans invaded Italy and liberated us. I came here this evening with great, great emotion."

While all the major European capitals glowed on New Year's Eve, London staged the most expensive celebration in Europe. In what Prime Minister Tony Blair called "the greatest show on Earth in the year 2000," the city unveiled a 443-foot-high Ferris wheel, called the London Eye, along the Thames, as well as a \$1.25 billion Millennium Dome entertainment complex, the largest structure of its kind in the world.

The new year arrived in balmy Rio de Janeiro to a samba beat, as nearly 3 million Brazilians packed the city's famed Copacabana neighborhood for what was billed as the world's largest party.

In Rome, tens of thousands of shivering celebrators from countless countries packed into St. Peter's Square, the spiritual epicenter of millenium festivities, to receive the pope's New Year's blessing at midnight.

The even more ancient city of Jerusalem was solemn and subdued as midnight arrived. Fear of terrorism and a heavy police presence weren't the only factors that kept partying to a minimum. Many parties were canceled in Jerusalem, where the chief rabbi forbade public celebrations because of the sabbath.

Standing on the Mt. of Olives, gazing at the illuminated Dome of the Rock, Perniooe Rohadneier, 26, of Copenhagen said it was all very beautiful, but "we're a bit disappointed. The old city wall didn't cave in, and the messiah didn't come. But it's OK because we had run out of film, anyway."

At midnight in Moscow a heavy snow fell like sparkling confetti on crowds gathered to watch the fireworks blazing over the Kremlin and St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square.

Russia is struggling, but optimism reigned. "It's the Russian mentality," said Svetlana Vorobetz, 35. "Things can be really bad, but one still hopes."

For the first time in its 5,000-year history, China witnessed mass celebrations of a Western new year. Chinese usually mark the traditional lunar new year in February.

In Tokyo, thousands of people filled the streets around Zozoji Temple, one of the largest temples and a traditional site to ring in the new year.

At midnight, with the crowd counting down the seconds, the bells began to ring--108 times to rid man of all the sins and evils Buddhism ascribes to him.

As for the close of the 20th century, American historian Arthur Schlesinger, celebrating at the White House dinner, may have had the final word: "I'm glad it's over."

January 1, 2000, Saturday SPECIAL REPORT

SECTION: Wrapper JANUARY 1 2000 Pg. 6

LENGTH: 568 words

HEADLINE: Entertainers warm up party in Washington

BYLINE: FRANK A. AUKOER

SOURCE: Journal Sentinel staff

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:

Fortified against terrorism with the possibly pesky Y2K bug hovering in the background, the nation's capital welcomed the new millennium with all the warmth and spectacle it could muster.

President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton played leading roles in the public celebrations Friday and early today, while thousands of government workers stood guard in virtually every federal agency and department to monitor systems against Y2K gremlins.

The climax of the day's public events was a "millennium gala" at the Lincoln Memorial, featuring nationally televised performances by an array of entertainers and a special 18-minute film by director Steven Spielberg and composer John Williams.

As 1999 passed into 2000, Clinton touched off a fuse that sent sparks flying across the Reflecting Pool and up the scaffold-surrounded Washington Monument for a countdown to the New Year.

"As the calendar carries us ever forward from our nation's birth, let us pledge that each year we will be closer to this, our founding principle," Clinton said. "Let us pledge that the new millennium will bring, in the words of the Great Emancipator, 'A new birth of freedom.' "

The program included Muhammad Ali, Bill Russell, Robert Duvall and Diane Keaton. At an earlier White House dinner were Robert De Niro, Jack Nicholson, Lara Flynn Boyle, Sophia Loren and Carlo Ponti.

The gala at the National Mall drew thousands of revelers on what was, even for Washington, a balmy winter respite. Of necessity, the celebration was sober as well as enthusiastic. The U.S. Park Police banned all alcoholic beverages on the Mall.

In the "America's Millennium" official program, the sponsors conceded that the U.S. Naval Observatory had stated unequivocally that the third millennium starts not in 2000, but on Jan. 1, 2001.

"Even so," it said, "most Americans and much of the world will focus on the flip of the calendar from '99 to '00. . . . Greeting a new millennium is a once-in-a-thousand years experience. . . . Let's make the celebration last!"

At an opening ceremony sandwiched between two federal buildings just off the Mall -- a location chosen for maximum security -- the Clintons showed off the prototype of a time capsule that will contain artifacts of American life in the waning days of the 20th century. It will be stored at the National Archives and opened 100 years from now.

Symbolic deposits into the capsule were made by, among others, historian John Hope Franklin and retired Gen. Colin Powell.

Powell, who received a standing ovation from more than 1,000 people gathered for the opening ceremony, brought a set of military dog tags, inscribed "the American GI." Franklin's contribution was a copy of 1868's 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed Americans equal protection of the laws.

Clinton said there was no better time than the new millennium to start a new chapter of progress and possibilities for everyone, "no better time to be a truly good neighbor to the people of the world who share this smaller and smaller planet."

After the opening ceremony, the Clintons moved to the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, which was given over to performances and works of art by children from around the world.

The Clintons also hosted a dinner at the White House before traveling to the Lincoln Memorial for the \$12 million gala.

January 1, 2000, Saturday ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: NEWS; Page H11

LENGTH: 419 words

HEADLINE: HELLO 2000! / WELCOMING 2000, FROM THE CAPITAL

BYLINE: By James Toedtman. WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:

Washington-Surrounded by Hollywood celebrities and children from around the world, President Bill Clinton confidently led the nation's capital into a new century yesterday.

The president, taking his cue from the song "Rising Like the Sun," performed by a special children's choir, ad-libbed for a cheering crowd of about 4,000: "Their voices are living proof that the light may be fading on the 20th Century, but the sun is still shining on America." From the sidewalks of the city, to the expansive atrium of the Reagan International Trade Center, to a lavish White House dinner, and finally to a planned midnight entertainment and fireworks spectacular on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, the nation's host in chief balanced a tribute to past accomplishments with anticipation for the next century.

"This is a unique moment in our calendar-but it is also a unique moment for our country," he said, opening the city's weekend festivities. "Our social fabric is on the mend. We're moving forward on America's remarkable journey toward a more united nation, a more just society and a more perfect union." First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who over the past two years has directed preparations for the celebration, presented a steel, copper and titanium time capsule that will be displayed at the Smithsonian Institution over the next year, then closed and stored at the National Archives for a century.

Yesterday, retired Gen. Colin Powell presented a military dog tag in the name of "The American GI" and John Hope Franklin, who had chaired the White House Commission on Race, placed a copy of the 14th Amendment guaranteeing equal protection under the law to all Americans, in the capsule.

As Clinton spoke, the new year had already arrived in Asia without significant incident or disruption. As the hours passed without incident, the mood relaxed and confidence rose and the Clintons prepared for a boisterous celebration.

For the public, the highlight would occur around midnight, when Clinton was to join the entertainment extravaganza in front of the Lincoln Memorial featuring a film by Stephen Spielberg and music composed by John Williams. Just before midnight, Clinton planned to welcome the new year with a tribute to Lincoln.

"We Americans do not fear change. We welcome it. We embrace it. We create it.

Yet on this night, I am struck not only by what has changed, but by what endures: our freedom, our faith, our ceaseless pilgrimage toward the ideals of our fathers."

GRAPHIC: AP Photo - A CHORUS OF HELLOS. President Bill Clinton greets members of the New Millennium Chorus yesterday during the opening ceremony of the "America's Millennium" celebration.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: January 1, 2000

METRO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1999

E
Obituarie
Weather

Parties for All, at Home or on Mall

Fireworks to Dazzle, Delight

Pyrotechnics Prepared for Monument

1 of 2

By MICHAEL E. RUANE
Washington Post Staff Writer

It should be way better than the ball.

The last 10 seconds to 2000 will be counted down, or rather up, tonight in a spectacular pyrotechnic display of light that will ascend the Washington Monument, fracture the midnight sky and be visible for miles.

A simulated "fuse," consisting of a line of 100 separate fireworks positions suspended three feet above the Reflecting Pool, will be ignited by President Clinton and a group of children from the floor of the Lincoln Memorial—the focus of the evening's entertainment gala—and signal the start of the monument countdown.

Then, using hundreds of cigar-sized pyrotechnics lashed to the monument's scaffolding, Fireworks by Grucci, the venerable Long Island fireworks firm, will sheath the 555-foot monument step-by-step in ten 50-foot segments of glittering white light. At the climax of Washington's "Midnight Moment," the monument will be almost fully illuminated for 20 seconds.

Next will come a barrage of aerial fireworks shot from three flatbed tractor-trailers east of the monument; the ignition of banks of ground-level 40-millimeter Roman candles north and south of the monument; and the firing of scores of red strobe lights framing the obelisk.

See FIREWORKS, B3, Col. 1



By ROBERT A. REEDER—THE WASHINGTON POST

Pyrotechnists Bob Citko, left, and Matt Carrara load Grucci fireworks.

Fri., Dec. 31, 1999

Washington
Post

2 of 2

Fireworks Producer Predicts the Mall Will Beat 'the Ball'

FIREWORKS. From B1

In addition, a 50-foot-tall structure bearing the number "2000" and facing the Lincoln Memorial will be switched on at midnight and will then flash on and off.

The Midnight Moment will be brief, lasting about two or three minutes, but "inspiring," said George Stevens Jr., the co-producer of the America's Millennium extravaganza.

As for New York's legendary ball—"The ball's going to be blown away," said M. Philip Butler, the Grucci producer for the Washington show. "I won't hype it beyond the obvious."

A second six-minute aerial fireworks display over the Lincoln Memorial is scheduled to follow 50 minutes of post-midnight entertainment, capping the evening's festivities about 1 a.m.

That display will be launched from special barges that will be anchored in the Potomac River just west of the Lincoln Memorial.

The best place to see the whole show will be the Mall, which is expected to be ground zero for tens of thousands of revelers assembled to party and welcome the next 10 centuries.

But the countdown should be visible from any locale where the monument can be glimpsed.

"It's going to have some overlap, and it's going to be visible

New Year's Pyrotechnic Countdown

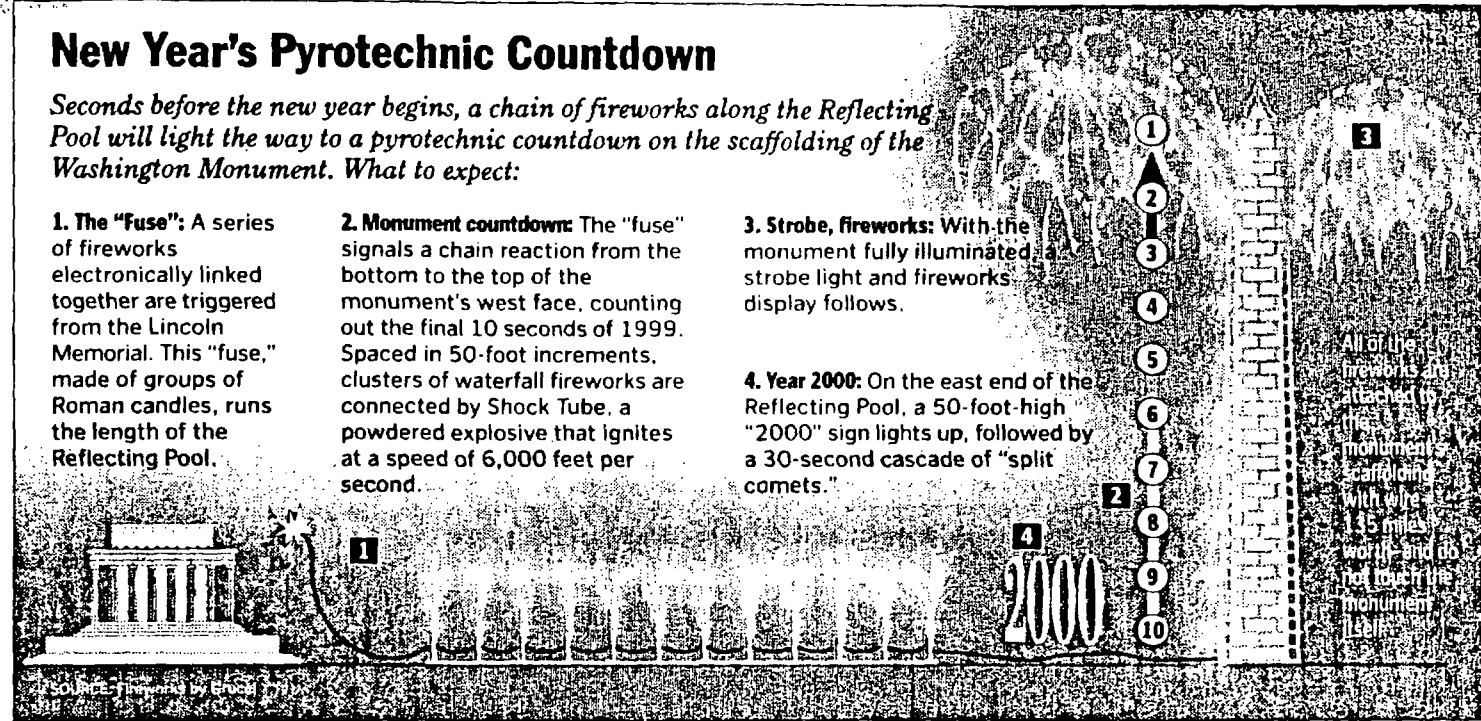
Seconds before the new year begins, a chain of fireworks along the Reflecting Pool will light the way to a pyrotechnic countdown on the scaffolding of the Washington Monument. What to expect:

1. The "Fuse": A series of fireworks electronically linked together are triggered from the Lincoln Memorial. This "fuse," made of groups of Roman candles, runs the length of the Reflecting Pool.

2. Monument countdown: The "fuse" signals a chain reaction from the bottom to the top of the monument's west face, counting out the final 10 seconds of 1999. Spaced in 50-foot increments, clusters of waterfall fireworks are connected by Shock Tube, a powdered explosive that ignites at a speed of 6,000 feet per second.

3. Strobe, fireworks: With the monument fully illuminated, a strobe light and fireworks display follows.

4. Year 2000: On the east end of the Reflecting Pool, a 50-foot-high "2000" sign lights up, followed by a 30-second cascade of "split comets."



from all sides," Butler said of the pyrotechnic display. "It has a lot of wander to it."

Some prime viewing spots beyond the Mall are expected to be Meridian Hill Park at 16th and W streets in Northwest Washington; the Jefferson Memorial; the U.S. Capitol; Hains Point; and West Potomac Park. Good vantage points across the Potomac River will probably be near the Iwo Jima Memorial or Lady Bird Johnson Park.

Many local roads will be

closed on both sides of the river, though, and access to many viewing spots may be only via Metro or on foot.

The monument countdown is a stroke of sheer coincidence, fireworks producers have said. Had the scaffolding—which was erected as part of a \$5 million exterior stonework restoration project—not been in place, such a show would not have been possible.

Stevens is generally credited with coming up with the idea of

an illuminated monument "count up," though he said this week, "Victory has many fathers."

Even with the scaffolding, there have been complaints that fireworks on the monument are potentially dangerous and damaging to the national treasure.

White House and Grucci officials say all precautions have been taken, and Stevens said Wednesday that a giant sheet of plastic has been erected on the Monument's west face, behind

the scaffolding, to protect the stone from soot.

The Grucci company, which helped put on the fireworks displays at the centennials of the Statue of Liberty and the Brooklyn Bridge, won't say exactly how much the show, which is being funded by private donations, is costing.

It's in the "high six figures," Butler said, and is believed to be the most expensive fireworks show being staged for the millennium.

Style

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1999



George Stevens Jr. and Quincy Jones scope out their New Year's Eve production. "Sometimes you want to see how big you can dream. And this is big," Jones says.

BY LUCIAN PEARLS—THE WASHINGTON POST

*The
Millennium
Celebration
On the Mall?
Quincy Jones
Is Glad
You Asked.*

By TERESA WILTZ
Washington Post Staff Writer

You don't hold a conversation with this man as much as you surf it, riding a stream of turbocharged consciousness. Ask a question, and hang on:

"This thing is about the joviality, and embracing and reaching out to each other and celebration. People crack me up when they talk about next year. I mean, 1997-1998, *that's* 'next year'; 1999-2000, that's not next year, that's the beginning of the next *thousand* years. I don't know how anyone can be cynical about that. Because that's pretty heavy stuff. Not many people

ever get to cross that line into the next thousand years, really. Not even into a new *century*. It's more than that. A person that for instance would become a hundred years old New Year's Eve night has seen *three* centuries. ... That's awesome, just awesome. ... It's a big deal to me, crossing over."

Ever the musician, Quincy Jones takes one phrase in the conversation—in the above instance, why he chose Will Smith to host the White House's millennium gala—and riffs on it, stretching it out, turning it upside down, returning to the original motif and then chasing it away, until the notes tumble every which way just like a bebop blitz blar-

See JONES, C5, Col. 3

Riffing With Quincy

JONES. From C1

ing from Bird's ho.

In other words, Quincy Delight Jones Jr. is a motonouth.

But then he's got a lot to talk about. This is a man who's spent his life amassing a major musical portfolio, working in his award-winning, nearly 50-year career with everyone from Michael Jackson to Sarah Vaughan to Count Basie and Frank Sinatra.

And along the way he's seen it all: The gangster life in Al Capone's Chicago. Losing his mother to mental illness. Dining on baked "rats and frijoles" as a hungry kid growing up in Chicago, and then Seattle. Playing polkas with a very young Ray Charles, and then taking on jazz with Charlie Parker, Miles Davis and Lionel Hampton. Watching Billie Holiday self-destruct. Suffering through the failed marriages. Surviving to brain aneurysms that have left him with a metal plate in his head, holding things together. Mounting a nervous breakdown and a couple of near-death experiences and coming through the other side, convinced that life is... "Awesome! Just awesome!"

These days, he can't seem to contain that much experience in the narrow confines of a recording studio. In fact, he hasn't released a CD of original recordings since "Q's Jook Joint" in '95. Instead he's turned his attention to large-scale endeavors, from overseeing a multimedia company to founding Vibe magazine to producing the Oscars and Clinton's inaugural fete to his last effort, co-producing the White House's New Year's Eve celebration, "America's Millennium."

"It's going to be a smoking night," Jones says. "Almost anything we can conceive, we can achieve. Sometime you want to see how big you can dream. And this is big."

But big is what he does. At heart he's a conductor who relishes pulling together the disparate components of a symphony, smoothing over the discordant notes until they're all on key. Doing his bidding.

"You have to let the people you're working with enough to dig and probe," he says. "Then you have to create the environment so that they have no choice but to give it up. To hit that button. The emotion station."

Most of the time he chooses to ignore "no." As Michael Jackson once attested, "I told him that I had something but I didn't want to play it for him. And so he forced me to drive to my house, he forced me to get the engineer and do the song. I was there singing my heart out to this song, and when it was over, he just loved it. He said, 'That was just the song that we were looking for. It was 'Beat It.'"

There's the image of Quincy, the cool Q, the young Q, the Q seen in black-and-white, clutching his horn to his chest as a cigarette dangles from his lips, a haze of smoke misting over his pretty-boy face.

Back in the day, he was a devotee of healthful living, sweaty sessions of Bikram yoga and sushi. But never mind all that. Right now, what he'd really like is some ham hocks and salami.

Greasy food. Really bad-for-you food.

Because, hey, when you've got a show to pull out of thin air, you've gotta have sustenance.

"Where can I get some soul food around here? I've been feeling like I'm homeless."

The week of the show, Jones is on the phone in his makeshift office just outside the Lincoln Memorial, where the New Year's Eve gala will take place. He's talking to South Africa, trying to nail down Nelson Mandela for the show. No need for him to fly in, but how about wishing the United States "Happy New Millennium" via satellite?

Mandela's people promise to get back to him. He hangs up, and the fax machine spits out pages upon pages of the score from his hip-hop hybrid hit, "Stomp!"

"This is great," Jones says. "This is just great. I'm so excited."

In the show, he explains, the song will introduce the drum-dance ensemble Stomp!, which he says was named after his song.

It's another example of things coming full circle, a notion that he likes.

Four days until showtime and he's still looking for some local rappers to fill out the hip-hop quotient and he really can't tell you just what Robert De Niro and Kris Kristofferson are going to do, but Q is playing it cool.

He doesn't believe in the "paralysis of analysis," preferring instead the rush of deadlines, that gun-to-the-head feeling that forces you to "write from your belly button."

Which means sleep gets short shrift. Fine by him. If you're sleeping, he says, the muses will pass you by, on down the street to someone more receptive to their charms.

His is the classic case of the workaholic artist, living the life of a man so absorbed in the process of creation that he doesn't look up until his lovers have moved on and his children are grown.

"I substituted my need for a mother with music," Jones says. "If I had a great family, I'd probably be a sad musician."

To that end, he's spent much of his romantic life hooking up with a succession of glamorous blondes, including actresses Peggy Lipton and Nastassja Kinski. The relationships, which resulted in seven children ranging in age from forty-something to 7, inevitably broke up, casualties of his career. This time around he's spending his time with Lisette Derouaux, an ebony-haired, olive-skinned publicist of Zairean-Belgian-Portuguese descent.

They met four years ago at the Montreux Jazz Festival.

First we were friends, Derouaux says.

"Then we became better friends," Jones says, beaming like a man who just won the lottery.

Derouaux is wise beyond her years, Jones says, "28 going on 50."

And then there's the other Q, the cuddly Q, the (who is poised on the edge of a new century: the 66-year-old grandfather who's given to wearing sued bucks, gabardine slacks and a preppy V-neck sweater, a tiny gold hoop in his right ear the only betrayal of his hipster roots. The once-sleek belly has expanded into a gentle paunch, pads of fat soften hooded eyes. Time changes things. Time changes him.

She dotes and she coos, plying him with a concoction of echinacea and Snapple for his cold, urging him to eat the smoked-salmon sandwich that she's brought just for him. He stubs his finger; she picks it up and kisses it.

Quincy soaks up the love, melting into mellow mush. And for a little while, the motormouth is... still.

George Stevens's Latest Honor

The Production Of a Millennium

By TERESA WILTZ
Washington Post Staff Writer

For just a minute, the clock is pushed back, and there's no such thing as this impending millennium, no such thing as deadlines and divas and no-it-can't-wait faxes.

The construction scaffolding that obliterates the Lincoln Memorial fades into the background, and George Stevens Jr. is no longer a harried co-producer of the Y2K gala to end all Y2K galas. Instead, he's morphed into the lord of the country manor, out for a stroll with his faithful companion, Samantha, an English springer spaniel.

You can almost see the mist drifting off the moors.

Except that there's this security guard who's frantically waving his arms. He's waving his arms and he's yelling.

At Stevens.

The waving arms are accompanied by a question:

"Who are you?"

So Stevens tells him—like, hey, he's the guy running this thing—and suddenly the guard is all apologies just-doing-my-job.

"I don't have too much pull here," Stevens tells a visitor. And grins.

His grin is the satisfied smile of a man who knows he's got juice—especially when it comes to the White House's New Year's Eve shindig, "America's Millennium," to be held tonight at the Lincoln Memorial. Never mind the windowless office in an obscure corner of the Kennedy Center, where every year he heads up the Kennedy Center Honors. Never mind that at an outdoor news conference for "America's Millennium," all the gaping tourists trekking through the Mall were trying to get next to Stevens's far more famous co-producers—Steven Spielberg and Quincy Jones.

Never mind that he's George Stevens Jr., and not the Sr. who's known for directing such classic flicks "Giant," "Shane" and "A Place in the Sun." He's a Hollywood native who's been in this business for a very long time, writing, directing and producing films and TV shows. At 67, he's also a naturalized Washingtonian who's been in and around the business of politics a long time as well. And he's got the pictures in his office to prove both connections: There he is, hanging out on the set of "Giant" with Liz Taylor



BY LUCIAN PERDUE—THE WASHINGTON POST

George Stevens, with co-producer Quincy Jones: "Someone told me once, 'You're a historian.' It colors what I do."

after his writing-directing-producing turn with the TV miniseries "Separate but Equal." Then there are the photos of the Clintons and the Kennedys. And more photos of Bobby Kennedy. (Stevens's wife, Liz, serves as trustee of the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation and worked on President Clinton's 1992 campaign.)

He started out working with his dad on "A Place in the Sun," "Giant," "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "The Greatest Story Ever Told." At 30, he was tapped to run the U.S. Information Agency's motion picture division, where he oversaw the production and distribution of 300 documentaries each year. Later, he helped create the American Film Institute, where he served as director for more than 12 years.

George Stevens Jr. is nothing if not connected.

Those connections hold him in good stead each year when he puts together the Kennedy Center Honors. (The Honors earned him an Emmy, although critics have accused the show of pandering to the lowest common denominator: TV, rather than art.) And those connections helped him pull in luminaries like Warren Beatty and John Huston for a valentine of a documentary about his father's life that he wrote, directed and produced: "George Stevens: A Filmmaker's Journey."

"A lot of what I do comes from me being a writer," Stevens says. "Someone told me once, 'You're a historian.' It colors what I do."

Indeed, the idea of making history inspired him to get involved in "America's Millennium." In fact, this whole millennium celebration thing came about when Stevens sat next to Hillary Rodham Clinton at some event a few years back. He turned to the first lady and asked, "What are you doing New Year's Eve?"

He couldn't resist the challenge of putting on a pull-out-all-the-stops production on the most hyped night of the century.

"The phrase that stuck was to do something 'entertaining and ennobling,'" Stevens says. "You realize it's an extraordinary moment, going from one century to the next. ... One would have to be cynical not to have feelings about our democracy on this night."

Stevens's buddy Quincy Jones (Stevens calls him "Q") came on board, as did Spielberg. And as they planned for the event, Stevens and Jones rode around Washington, imagining what could be. They stopped at the Mall, and stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and said, "Why not?"

These are, after all, men who know how to orchestrate grand moments. And they figured that ringing in the New Millennium under the watchful gaze of Abraham Lincoln would be the granddaddy of all grand moments.

To that end, there will be footage of Marian Anderson singing in her famous Lincoln Memorial concert, followed by a performance by two present-day African American divas, Jazmine Norman and Kathleen Battle. An 18-minute film by Spielberg chronicling the highlights of the century, accompanied by a John Williams score. Marching bands upon marching bands. Dancers boogying with Will Smith, the evening's host. A parade of celebrities: Robert De Niro. Diane Keaton. Kris Kristofferson. Usher. Luther Vandross. John Fogerty. Trisha Yearwood. Tom Jones. Kenny Rogers. Bono. Muhammad Ali.

Suggest that the evening is geared more toward boomers than the younger set, and Stevens bristles.

"Will Smith?" he says, throwing out names as evidence of Gen-X credentials. "Usher? I'm not at home playing Usher records. But I know he's going to be terrific and add something to the show."

Grab him in an interview, and he's got his back up, wary and defensive. But then he gets going talking about the millennium cele-

bration and this great country of ours and, well, he gets all misty-eyed.

He's a seemingly unassuming man whose office passes out a 41-page bio to the press. He's a behind-the-scenes man who's made a career of supporting the arts more than creating them. Not that he sees things that way.

"Creating is what I enjoy, whether it's creating the Film Institute, which is a lot like making a movie, or when I was in the government creating nearly hundreds of films that I'm actually still very proud of. Your question leads me into an immodest description of myself. There's the Kennedy Center Honors, where I'm figuring out what's going to be on the stage."

"My real satisfaction is creating things that engage people. And if they're good enough, they'll be around for people to see. My appetite has never been to be a personality."

He points to his horoscope—he's an Aries—hanging on the wall:

"Circumstances turn in your favor. Be selective. Imprint style. Take initiative; let others know you mean business when you say, 'I deserve the very best and nothing less.'"

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1999

Security, Computers Readied for Real Test

By SUSAN LEVINE
and DAVID MONTGOMERY
Washington Post Staff Writers

From the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to the aisles of a Burtonsville grocery store and the emergency operations headquarters in Fairfax County, dress rehearsals for both celebration and disaster filled the final hours of preparation yesterday for the most anticipated New Year's Eve of this or any millennium.

Government agencies and private companies alike tested computer programs yet again to make sure their systems recognize the new calendar's double-nought as 2000—averting, they hope, any Y2K crashes that could wreak

havoc on power, telephones and other aspects of modern life.

Shoppers stocked up, nonetheless, just to be safe. Some local grocery stores and gas stations reported higher than usual business but assured customers that their inventories are not depleted.

Performers from Don McLean to Kathy Mattea rehearsed their numbers on the massive outdoor stage that the Lincoln Memorial has become, a scene of organized chaos of musicians, set-builders, cables, cameras and squealing microphones that tonight will jell into a kaleidoscopic extravaganza of sound and light.

"Ladies and gentlemen, your host for America's Millennium, Will Smith!" the announcer prac-

ticed repeatedly yesterday, despite the actor-singer's afternoon absence.

And police forces, already on heightened alert because of security concerns, reviewed their preparations for the tens of thousands of people expected on the Mall and the major crowds likely to be lured to numerous other public celebrations across the Washington region. District officials even have a new mobile command center, equipped with infrared camera, generators and satellite phones, capable of responding to such catastrophes as riots or terrorist attacks.

"We are definitely taking a lot

See CELEBRATION, A21, Col. 1



BY TRACY A. WOODWARD—THE WASHINGTON POST

Visitors at the Lincoln Memorial last evening look toward the east end of the Reflecting Pool, where the illuminated "1999" will change to "2000" tonight as fireworks ascend and light the Washington Monument.

Singers, System is Awaiting Tonight's Tests

CELEBRATION. From A1

of precautions," said Sgt. Rob MacLean of the U.S. Park Police, which will deploy hundreds of officers for the Lincoln Memorial extravaganza. State Department alerts in recent weeks have warned about possible terrorist threats both abroad and at home, but MacLean stressed, "We do not have any specific threats for this event or any monument."

An equal show of D.C. police force will be evident at the city's two-day block party along Constitution Avenue NW, and some of those officers were kept busy yesterday responding to three separate bomb alarms. All were false.

The first occurred about 6:40 a.m. when bomb-sniffing dogs doing a routine check of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center signaled the possible presence of explosive chemicals. At 3:30 p.m., police searched the Adams National Bank branch at Union Station because of a letter saying a bomb had been placed there. Half an hour later, a report of a suspicious package at Chevy Chase Pavilion forced evacuation of that shopping center and the nearby Mazza Gallerie, as well as closing several blocks of Wisconsin Avenue during rush hour.

"These fake threats are something that we, unfortunately, know we are going to have to spend a lot of time looking into over the next few days," said Officer Kenny Bryson, a police spokesman. "We don't want to alarm people, but we have to look into each one."

For the most part, though, the penultimate countdown focused on the future.

"Everything we have done is ready," said Quentin Banks, spokesman for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. "We are just waiting for the time to come upon us."

At the state's emergency operations center in Reistertown, representatives from more than 30 federal, state and nonprofit agencies drilled once more with software designed to track any possible problem. Still, the day was one of relative leisure. Even Y2K information hot lines were quieter than usual.

Some restless county leaders hit the streets, however. Howard County Executive James N. Robey (D), a former police chief, toured public buildings and emergency centers in a spot inspection of county preparedness. Montgomery County officials deployed portable stop signs in case of power malfunctions.

At the Burtonsville Giant, Noble and Denise Jolley lay in supplies. "I think there are only going to be sporadic problems, but you never know," she said, glancing at the five gallons of water and 24 rolls of toilet paper in their cart. "With five teens in my house, you can't take a lot of chances."

Those worries aside, this is a New Year's Eve fraught with complications—the most contentious of which is the mathematical reality that, zeroes or not, 2000 is one year shy of a new millennium.

But few have paid attention to that distinction, and hotels and special events have promoted it to the hilt, with prices to match. Since Thanksgiving, numerous celebrations have been scaled back or scrapped, including, this week, a huge affair at MCI Center and a turn-of-the-century masquerade ball that was to have been part of the Maryland city of Frederick's ringing-in. According to a USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll released yesterday, nearly three-fourths of Americans still had no special plans for tonight.

With some, blame procrastination. In the Washington area, numerous businesses that specialize in catering, limousines and baby-

sitters found themselves besieged this week for last-minute assistance.

At White House Nannies Inc. of Bethesda, the calls in the last few days became increasingly urgent, according to Mary K. Lyddane, director of temporary services.

"It's been pretty busy," Lyddane said between efforts to aid several hotels in locating sitters for their guests. "We've been able to place some sitters, but we're still working on getting help for other families."

One nanny was able to negotiate a lucrative deal with a couple who plan to celebrate the New Year by staying out all night. For a flat fee of \$600, she will arrive at their home this afternoon to feed her charges dinner. She then will spend the night, get up with the children and feed them breakfast.

Other families have planned a celebration to include young and old alike. Edwin Jesiolowski, a Haddonfield, N.J., architect, should be arriving in Washington this afternoon with 19 relatives and friends, including eight children, all pumped about the fantastical fireworks finale promised on the Mall at midnight.

"My wife is a fireworks nut," he said earlier this week, explaining why he had called Fireworks by Grucci, the Long Island pyrotechnics company doing the show, to determine the premier place to be Dec. 31.

"They said, 'If you want the best of the best that we've ever done, go to Washington.'" So, he recounted, "I told my wife, 'We're going to Washington.'"

Some of what Jesiolowski and crew will get, well before the clock strikes 12, was on display yesterday afternoon, to the delight of an impromptu audience of hundreds who strained to see celebrity performers during an extended rehearsal.

Capt. Tom Walczyk, a dentist with the Navy, strolled over from his nearby office—and will return tonight.

"This is the essence of America," he said. "To be able to touch and see this... It's got all the lights, the actors, the music, the volume. It epitomizes gung-ho America."

Jennifer Schonberger, 16, a junior at West Springfield High, felt a little disappointed that she couldn't get closer to the stars on stage. But just approaching ground zero of millennial hubbub made the trip worthwhile for her and her mother, Farideh.

Not that the Schonbergers will be grooving on the Mall tonight. They have a party scheduled with friends.

Program organizers say they are expecting 100,000 revelers, though since this New Year's gala is a first, they have no real way of estimating the turnout. Four large screens are in place on the west and south sides of the Reflecting Pool, which is how the real-people crowd will see most of the action. A sizable contingent of VIPs, including the president and first family, will enjoy up-close seats and bleachers.

The public must enter the area through four gates on Constitution Avenue, Independence Avenue and 17th Street, and anyone is subject to a search by Park Police. Security measures will force closure of the Last Firebase, a camouflage-painted kiosk near the foot of the Lincoln Memorial where veterans sell souvenirs and keep hope alive for comrades missing in action. Their vigil has continued nonstop since 1986, but tonight, per U.S. Secret Service orders, they'll shut from 9 p.m. until the president departs.

As yesterday's dry run of the nearly \$13 million spectacle proved, the croonings of Tom Jones, Kathleen Battle's soaring

New Year's Performances

The "America's Millennium Gala" at the Lincoln Memorial tonight features nearly 500 singers, musicians and dancers. The tentative lineup and schedule of the three-hour show includes:

9:58 p.m. National Anthem, Bobby McFerrin.

10:01 p.m. Opening, Will Smith.

10:18 p.m. Tom Jones, Kenny Rogers, Foreigner, Don McLean.

10:23 p.m. Welcome, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

10:27 p.m. Trisha Yearwood and Brian McKnight.

10:33 p.m. Avery Brooks.

10:40 p.m. Kathy Mattea, Luther Vandross, Mark O'Connor, Kris Kristofferson, Usher, BeBe Winans, Patti Austin.

10:45 p.m. Jack Nicholson, John Fogerty, Vernon Reid, Slash, Nathan East, Greg Phillinganes, Kenny Aronoff, Edgar Winter.

11:01 p.m. Kathleen Battle, Jessye Norman, the Symphonic Choir, Bobby McFerrin.

11:12 p.m. Mary Tyler Moore, Brian Stokes Mitchell, the Savion Glover Tappers, Michel Bell, Renee Fleming.

Tom Wopat, Babe Newirth, Priscilla Lopez, cast and dancers from "Chicago."

11:31 p.m. "The Unfinished Journey" by Steven Spielberg, music by John Williams, readings by Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis, Sam Waterston, Nathan and Evelyn Hoffman, Rita Dove, Robert Pinsky, Edward James Olmos.

11:59 p.m. "Millennium Address" by President Clinton.

Midnight Fireworks and music.

12:02 a.m. U.S. Army Herald Trumpets, Symphonic Choir, World Children's Choir, Brian McKnight, Luther Vandross, Trisha Yearwood, Kathleen Battle, Renee Fleming, Jessye Norman, the Garrett Gospel Choir.

12:16 a.m. Bono and Daniel Lanois.

12:35 a.m. Broadway cast of "Stomp."

12:52 a.m. Fireworks finale and song medley.

high C's, the clashing chords of "Also Sprach Zarathustra" and the percussive parade of the Broadway show "Stomp" will carry nearly to the Washington Monument.

"This is the place to be if you're going to be anywhere," Jones told reporters. Asked if this was how he had envisioned the century's end, the 59-year-old veteran entertainer cracked, "It's good just to be here, to still be alive at this point."

Minutes later, Kris Kristofferson laughed off the notion that anyone

should be worried about security during the evening. "I have concerns about breathing," said the singer-songwriter, 63. "I'm an old man. I have concerns about being hit by a car. I don't live in fear of terrorists."

Staff writers Rajiv Chandrasekaran, Stephen Fehr, Raja Mishra, Tracey Reeves, Michael D. Shear, Emily Wax and Scott Wilson contributed to this report.

Here's your guide to celebrating New Year's on the Mall. On these four pages we tell you about events, how to get around and suggest places to eat and other diversions in the area. Turn this page for a detailed map of the Mall.

—By Larry Fox

America's Millennium

The main event Friday is the celebration at the Lincoln Memorial. Actor Will Smith will host the three-hour nationally televised show on CBS, which starts at 10 p.m. on Friday, New Year's Eve. The entertainment will actually begin an hour earlier, at 9 p.m. with concerts by military bands. Joining Smith will be Jessye Norman and fellow opera diva Kathleen Battle; actors Robert Duvall, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Sam Waterston and Dame Keaton; Luke Cresswell and the company of "Stomp"; singers Trisha Yearwood, Bono, Luther Vandross, Usher, Tom Jones, Don McLean, Kathy Mattea, Bobby McFerrin, Kenny Rogers and BeBe Winans; and numerous other celebrities. Poet laureate Robert Pinsky, Rita Dove and author Maya Angelou will read original poems.

At 11:30, a live orchestra will premiere a score by Academy Award-winning composer John Williams as a Steven Spielberg film, "The Unfinished Journey," is shown on four giant screens—one in front of the Lincoln Memorial, three on one side of the Reflecting Pool. Just before midnight, President Clinton, speaking from the Lincoln Memorial, will address the nation on television. And at midnight, there will be a high-powered fireworks show, with pyrotechnic cascades ascending the Washington Monument. After the fireworks, there will be more entertainment for 50 minutes and then a five-minute fireworks finale fired from barges anchored in the Potomac behind the Lincoln Memorial.

For more information, call 888/294-2100 or visit the Web site: www.si.edu/americasmillennium.

The area of the Mall from 17th Street west to the Lincoln Memorial, between Constitution and Independence avenues, will be fenced off. Public access will be through entrances only: 17th Street at the Rainbow Pool (two entrances), Constitution Avenue at 19th Street NW and Independence Avenue at the D.C. War Memorial entrance, just west of the Kurtz Bridge. These entrances will open at 6 p.m. Alcohol will not be permitted on the Mall. The Washington Monument grounds will be closed to the public, though the sidewalks will remain open.



From top, clockwise:
Trisha Yearwood, Will Smith, Maya Angelou and Robert Duvall.

At the Smithsonian

Free family programs, concerts, performances and demonstrations are featured in the Smithsonian Institution's "America's Millennium on the Mall," Friday through Sunday from 11:30 to 5 in these museums: The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the National Museum of American History and the National Museum of Natural History.

Tickets to these free events have already been given away. Unclaimed seats will be given to standbys 15 minutes before each event. Halls will be cleared after each event. For more information, call 202/357-2700 (TDD: 202/357-1729).

The schedule of events:

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Baird Auditorium, 10th Street and Constitution Avenue NW (Metro: Federal Triangle, Smithsonian).

Friday

11:30 A.M. — NBA Hall of Fame player Bill Russell and Washington Mystics players Chamique Holdaway and Nikki McCray will discuss "Basketball: We Came to Play."
1 P.M. — Music star Ricky Skaggs discusses and demonstrates "Bluegrass: America's Roots Music."
2:30 P.M. — Scholar Clay Jenkinson, activist Julian Bond and Richard West, director of the National Museum of the American Indian, discuss the "Paradox of Thomas Jefferson."

plays a women's rights advocate in "Sunflower: The Life and Loves of Elizabeth Cady Stanton."

Saturday

11:30 A.M. — Dog-sledder Dave Monson discusses the Iditarod race.
1 P.M. — Historian Philip Brack stars as the jurist in "Justice: Oliver Wendell Holmes: A Clear & Present Danger." Assistant Attorney General Bill Linn Lee and attorney Wesley Williams Jr. join the discussion.
2:30 P.M. — Actor Edward James Olmos examines the history of Latino Americans in "Americanos."
4 P.M. — Actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee enact vignettes from American history in "Making History."

Sunday

NOON — Sports photographer Walter Iooss on "Capturing the Moment: 40 Years of Sports Photography."
2 P.M. — Noel Puga, a history professor at the University of New Mexico, on "Harry Truman: Good Horse Sense, Decency & Guts."
4 P.M. — Legendary bluesman B.B. King and National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman Bill Ferris discuss "Blues: Past & Future."

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Carmichael Auditorium, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW (Metro: Federal Triangle, Smithsonian).

Friday

NOON — Sweet Money in the Rock founder Bernice Johnson Reagan sings and discusses songs of the civil rights movement in "I Remember, I Believe."
1:30 P.M. — Author/illustrator David Wisniewski on "Words & Pictures."
3 P.M. — Children's author/illustrator Yumi Hoo on "A Heritage in Pictures & Words."

Saturday

11:30 A.M. — Children's song leader Ella Jenkins on "The Future Is Our Children."
2 P.M. — National Book Award

2:30 P.M. — Author Gayle Ross on "Rabbit Meets Coyote: Trickster Tales."
4 P.M. — Author/storyteller Jose Grijeco on "Cuentos & Songs From Northern New Mexico."

Sunday

NOON — Jazz workshop by the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra Quintet.
1:30 P.M. — Storyteller Marc Spiegel on "Fantasy for the Unborn Child."
3 P.M. — The Freestyle Union presents "SLAM! Poetry for Young People."

HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

Ring Auditorium, Seventh Street and Independence Avenue SW (Metro: L'Enfant Plaza).

Friday

NOON — Physicist Neil Gershenfeld and other scholars from MIT discuss "Glimpsing the Future: Technologies for the Millennium."
1:15 P.M. — Christopher Chyba, Seth Shostak, Kent Culiers and Dan Werthimer, from the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute, discuss "Searching for Extraterrestrial Life in the New Millennium."
2:30 P.M. — Computer entrepreneur/MIT professor Ray Kurzweil discusses "The Age of Spiritual Machines."
3:45 P.M. — Officials of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention discuss "Are Humans Endangered?"

Saturday

NOON — Author/sports writer John Feinstein talks about "Can Sports Be Mended in the New Millennium?"
1:15 P.M. — Physicists Neil Gershenfeld and Philip Morrison, 8-year-old David Dalrymple, 16-year-old Hillary McQuaide and MIT doctoral candidate Yael Maguire discuss "What's in Your Future?"
2:30 P.M. — Chef's Martin Yan, Vertamae Grosvenor and Raji Jallepalli discuss "The Future of American Taste."
4:30 P.M. — U.S. Post Laureate

Sunday

NOON — "The Future of Planet Earth," with James Baker, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Charles G. Oost, director of the U.S. Geological Survey.
1:15 P.M. — Writer Virginia Postrel on "The Open Future: Progress Without a Plan."
2:30 P.M. — "The Future of Democracy," with Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.
3:45 P.M. — "The Prospect of Peace," by Richard H. Solomon, president of the U.S. Institute of Peace.

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW (Metro: L'Enfant Plaza)
Children will be invited to participate in the Mars-Millennium Project, a contest to design a village settlement on Mars. The activities run from 11 to 3 Friday and Saturday. All talks take place in the Space Hall.

Friday

12:15 — Living and working in space, by shuttle astronaut Roger Crouch.
1 — Exploring Mars, by Donna Shirley, former manager of the Mars Pathfinder program.
2 — Visiting Mir, by shuttle astronaut Wendy Lawrence.
3 — Becoming a space engineer, by Donna Shirley.
4 — Visiting Mir, by Wendy Lawrence.

Saturday

11 — Exploring Mars, by Donna Shirley.

The District Of Columbia Celebration

The District of Columbia's "Main Street Millennium" festival is Friday from 10 a.m. to midnight and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. along Constitution Avenue NW, between Ninth and 14th streets.

The festival will feature huge tents with interactive exhibits showcasing Washington and five stages of entertainment.

Partygoers can buy tickets for the food and drink that will be served at four heated pavilions throughout the festival area. Eight tickets will cost \$5. Food and drink items will require differing numbers of tickets.

For more information, call 202/727-8449 or visit the Web site: www.2000dc.com.

Here is the schedule (subject to change):

Friday

Millennium Stage

On 12th Street just north of Constitution Avenue:
10 A.M. — Marine Band concert
11 — Opening ceremony, with the president and Hillary Clinton, Mayor Anthony Williams.
1:30 — Okeyema Asante with Punky (African percussion)
3 — Brother Ah World Music Ensemble
4:15 — Map Turner Sextet (blues)
5:35 — Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun (rock)



Other Things To Do

HISHORNS MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN — Independence Avenue and Seventh Street SW (Metro: L'Enfant Plaza). There's a lot of new stuff, including the large—and largely lovely—"Regarding Beauty" survey of contemporary art and an installation of environmental miniatures by Pakistan-born painter Shahida Sikander. Outside are two newly installed sculptures by the majestic Mark di Suvero and the mercenary Jeff Koons. The Hishorn is open 10 to 5 daily. Free. 202/357-2700 (TODD: 357-1728).

ARTHUR H. SACKLER GALLERY — 950 Independence Ave. SW (Metro: Smithsonian). A new exhibition mounted of three small but worthy shows around the theme of Orientalism: Anton Savvugin's photos of Iran from the late 1870s to the 1930s, Jananah al-Ani's contemporary photographic meditation on the subject of the veil and a calligraphy sampler from antiquity to today. Without ever leaving the building, you'll feel like you've traveled to the nearby NATIONAL MUSEUM OF

OLD PATENT OFFICE BUILDING—Eighteenth and N Streets NW (Metro: Gallery Place/Christown). This building, home to two museums, is getting ready to shut down for three years of renovation. You can still catch **NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY** exhibits on Ernest Hemingway, the caricatures of Edward Sorel, the photographs of Henri Cartier-Bresson and the daguerotypes of Lewis and Clark. Also on display is the same room, the **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART** features the watercolors of Edward Hopper and a small taste of paintings and sculptures from the Sara Rorby Foundation collection. Both museums open 10 to 5:30 daily. Free. (202)357-2700 (TDD:357-1729).

AMERICA — In Union Station at 50 Massachusetts Ave. NE (Metro: Union Station). 202/682-9555. Open Friday 11:30 to 4, Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. on. Casual menu of sandwiches, entrees and "regional specialties."

AMERICAN GRILL — In Lowes L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza SW (Metro: L'Enfant Plaza). 202/484-1000. Open daily from 6:30 on. Nice, broad family fare.

AUSTIN GRILL — 750 E St. NW (Metro: Gallery Plaza/Chinatown). 202/393-3776. Open Friday 11 to 3, Saturday and Sunday from 11 on. Good Tex-Mex food, excellent chips and salsa. Funky atmosphere, great music.

LE SWITHY — in Union Station at 50 Massachusetts Ave., NE (Metro: Union Station). 202/289-6188. Open Friday at 5, Saturday at noon and Sunday at 11:30. Updated southern fare with both soul and smarts.

REDFLORES — 801 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Archives/Navy Memorial). 202/638-2140. Open Friday 11:30 to 8, closed Sunday, open Sunday 11:30 to 9. *Specialty*: Mexican and Tex-Mex.

BBS — in Hotel Cosmos 15 E St. NW (Metro: Union Station). 202/661-2700. Open Friday, fixed-price only after 5:30; 5:30 to 11:30 at 4:30; Sunday from 11:30 on. Classic French bistro fare in large portions and upscale atmosphere.

CAFE ATLANTIC — 405 Eighth St. NW (Metro: Metro Center). 202/546-3739. 202/559-0812; Friday, 202/559-0812 after 5:00 p.m. *Specialty*: Mediterranean after 5.

QUINCY and satisfying Mediterranean fare.

CAPITAL GRILLE — 601 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Archives/Navy Memorial). 202/737-8200. Open Friday 11:30 to 3, dinner tastings at 5, 8 and 11 only. Saturday and Sunday from 5 on. Expensive, account steakhouse with opportunities for celebrity sightings.

CHRISTOPHER MANN'S — 1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). 202/826-8038. Open Friday and Saturday from 11:30, Sunday at 4. Updated *Le Tour du Monde* fare.

CORNER BAKERY — at the National Press Building at 14th and Wisconsin NW (Metro: Metro Center). 202/462-1100. Open Friday 9 to 5, Saturday 10 to 4, Sunday 10 to 3. Gourmet salads and sandwiches.

LEB BAKERS — 1201 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). 202/347-6848. Open daily from 11:30. French-American steakhouse with the atmosphere of a French cafe.

THE COUNTRY CLUB CAFE — 999 E St. NW (Metro: Capitol Hill/Chinatown). 202/717-7623. Open Friday, lunch only 11 to 2, 4 to 5 p.m.

and Sunday from 11 on. Hamburgers, barbeque, ribs, etc.

NATIONAL PLACE — 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Metro Center). Food court open Friday noon to 5, closed Saturday, open Sunday noon to 5.

OCCIDENTAL GRILL — in the Willard Hotel at 15th and Pennsylvania NW (Metro: Metro Center). 202/783-1475. Opens Friday for fixed-price 5 and 5, seatings at 7:30 and 10. Saturday at 5 and Sunday from noon on. Modern-eclectic American food, unusual in-crowd atmosphere and good views.

OLD KENTBY GRILL — 675 15th St. NW (Metro: Metro Center). 202/347-4801. Open Friday 7 to 5, Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 on. Tavern fare made modern American; signature chili and oyster bar.

OLD POST OFFICE RESTAURANT — 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). Food court open Friday 10 to 5, closed Saturday, open Sunday noon to 6.

PALOMINO BURRO DINING — In the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center at 13th and Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). 202/842-8900. Cafe opens Friday at 11:30; dining room opens Saturday at 5, Sunday at noon.

Pan-California Fare, from pizzas to restaurant fare.

PLANET HOLLYWOOD — 1101 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). 202/783-7827. Open Friday and Saturday from 11 to 7, Sunday from 11 to 10:30. Pub-plus fare.

THE PRINCE'S — 12th and Pennsylvania NW (Metro: Federal Triangle). 202/628-8443. Open Friday and Saturday and Sunday from 11 on. Familiar family franchise with reliable and fairly varied fare.

RED WINGS — 1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW (Metro: Union Station). Food court open Friday 10 to 6, closed Saturday, open Sunday noon to 6.

- Five Other

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM—The National Air and Space Museum is a Smithsonian Institution located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The museum is the largest of the Smithsonian's museums and is one of the most popular. It is a place where you can see the history of flight and space exploration. The museum is home to a vast collection of aircraft, spacecraft, and space-related artifacts. It also features a large planetarium and a theater. The museum is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Scenariists. The museum explores the biodiversity of American history, offering a look at the American West that will give children a sense of the American West. The museum is located at 1000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The museum is located at 1000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The museum is located at 1000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

On Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th streets:
 12:15 — Bob Smith as Benjamin Banneker
 1:15 — Los de la Mount Pleasant (salsa)
 2:30 — Ivan Cuesta y sus Valientes Autenticos (Latin)
 4 — Cecily Patterson (as Sojourner Truth)
 5 — Urmoa String Quartet
 6:30 — United House of Prayer Brass

11 — Charles Sayles Quartet
(electronic harmonica)

Southeast Singe

On Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th streets:

12 — Charles entertainers
1 — Shante' (Nuyorican)
2:30 — Don Munley Trio (sax)
4 — Los de la Mount Pleasant
8:30 — Cecily Patterson as Sojourner Truth
11:30 — Bob Smith as Benjamin Banneker
12:30 — Raging Sun (reggae)
8 — Movement (poetry)
9:30 — Charles Sayles Quartet
11 — Kenny Reed Quartet (trumpet)

Northeast Stage:
On Constitution Avenue between 10th and 12th streets:
12:30 — United House of Prayer Brass Band
2 — Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun
1:30 — Bob Smith as Benjamin Berniker
4 — Jean Claude Toran (poet)
5 — Danny Doyle
6:30 — gr Ah
8 — Mac Lurgie-Smetana

11 — Poogie Hudson & the Sparrows
12:30 — Don Rouse Spasm Band
2 — Sonny Tli's Legendary Oracles
3:30 — John Cephas & Phil Wiggins
5 — Kater Betts Trio

Southwest Stage:

11 — Sonny Tli's Legendary Oracles
12:30 — Blues Work Trio
2 — Cephas & Wiggins
3:30 — John Jackson
5 — Rising Sun

2:18 — Don Sheehy's Mariachi
Magos
3:45 — Sunny Sumner Quartet
8 — Movement (poetry and music);
Northeast Stage:
11 — Blues Work Trio
12:30 — John Jackson
2 — Katee Batts Trio
3:30 — Curtis Pope & the Midnight
Movers
8 — Sunny Sumner quartet
Northeast Stage:
11 — Bob Smith as Benjamin
Banneker

a – Ujima Kivete & Mamaya African

Weekend's Best

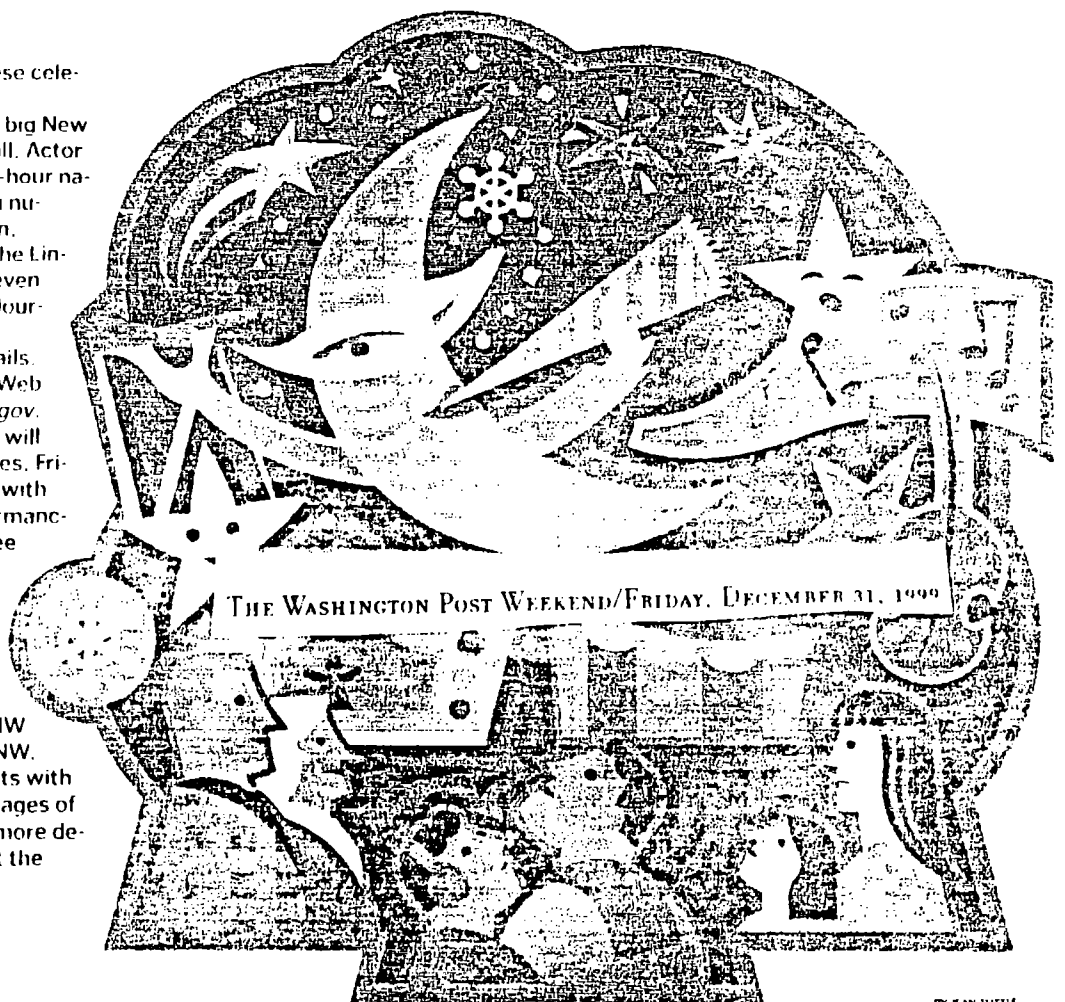
Millennium Mania

The millennium arrives, with these celebrations in Washington:

■ **America's Millennium** is the big New Year's Eve celebration on the Mall. Actor Will Smith will host a free, three-hour nationally televised show featuring numerous stars of stage and screen, starting Friday at 10 p.m. from the Lincoln Memorial, followed by a Steven Spielberg film, "The Unfinished Journey," and a midnight fireworks show. See Page 27 for more details. Call 888/294-2100 or visit the Web site, www.americasmillennium.gov.

■ **The Smithsonian Institution** will host three days of indoor activities, Friday through Sunday 11:30 to 5, with dozens of discussions and performances about a variety of subjects. See Page 27 for more details. Call 202/357-2700 (TDD: 202/357-1729).

■ **The District of Columbia** will hold a festival Friday from 10 to midnight and Saturday 11 to 6 along Constitution Avenue NW between 10th and 14th streets NW. The festival will feature huge tents with exhibits and activities and five stages of entertainment. See Page 27 for more details. Call 202/727-8449 or visit the Web site: www.2000dc.com.



BY KAN HITTIE

Unprecedented security at nation's capital for gala

Organizers expect about 500,000 at the \$12 million fest. Officials are closing streets and bridges and beefing up law enforcement.

By Laurence McGillian
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has been dreaming of ushering in 2000 with a celebration like none other in the storied history of Washington, where party planners always try to outdo their predecessors. It looks like his dream will come true.

Never before has there been an extravaganza with such glamour, glitter and fireworks. Never before have government officials shut down bridges, closed so many streets and called out the National Guard to do it.

The "America's Millennium" celebration is being tempered by concerns about potential terrorism and possible Y2K glitches. Officials are happy to make grand predictions about the next 1,000 years but are less certain about this weekend. "We're trying to strike a balance between taking the right precautionary measures and letting people know the information we have and not creating an unnecessary fear," Deputy White House press secretary Jake Stewert said.

"We obviously wouldn't have invited people to the Mall unless we were intent upon making it safe," he said.

Gala security

Organizers predict that about 500,000 revelers will turn out for a \$12 million New Year's Eve celebration set at the Lincoln Memorial. It features an array of big name performers and a special 13-minute Steven Spielberg film. The event is funded by private and corporate donations.

USATODAY.com

USATODAY.com covers the world as it moves into the 21st century. Coverage begins with the first New Year's celebrations (5 a.m. ET Friday) and includes:

- ▶ Worldwide photo coverage
- ▶ Interactive map tracking the dawn of 2000
- ▶ Conversations with cybercasts around the globe
- ▶ Exclusive reports from the USA and abroad
- ▶ Live cybercasts from big-city celebrations

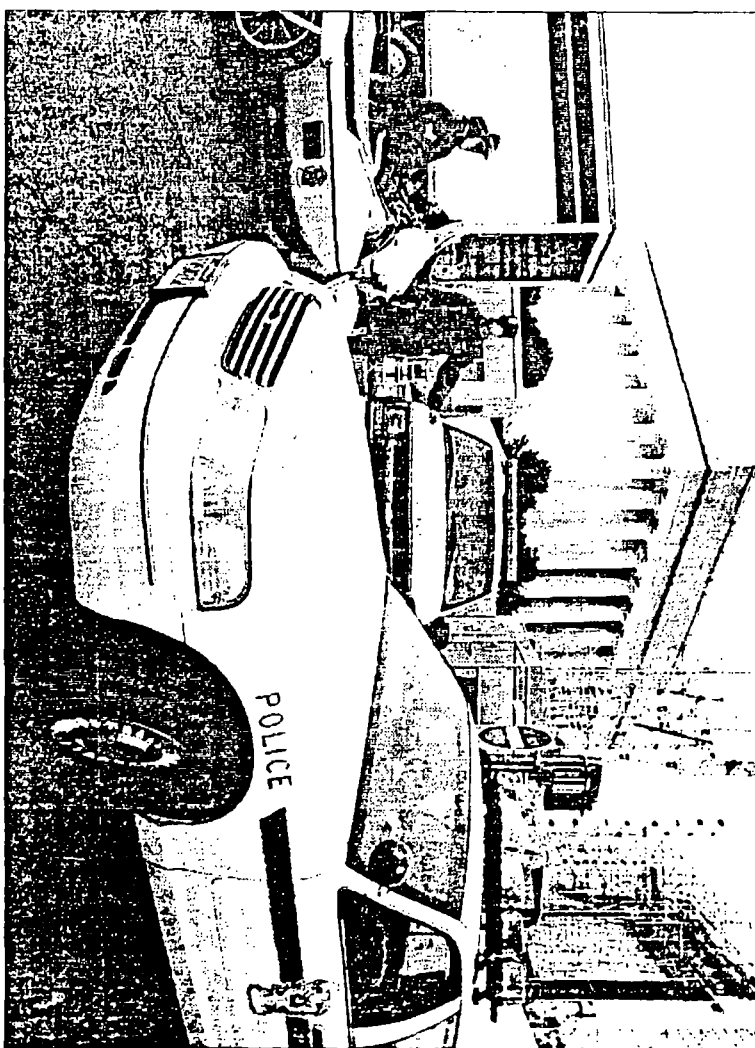
The program, which will be aired live by CBS, includes a dramatic fireworks display that planners say will out sparkle anything ever done in Washington, a city that takes its July 4th festivities seriously.

So how do you protect half a million people on a night that prompted cities such as Seattle to call off plans for galas because of security worries?

You put the District of Columbia's 3,500 police officers on extended shifts, and then ask the Defense Department and the city's National Guard for additional help.

Law enforcement officers will direct traffic at about 150 street intersections. Large sections of major arteries in the city's downtown will be shut down, as will the Memorial and Theodore Roosevelt bridges and the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Snow fences have been set up in the area between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument to help control and monitor the crowd.



Outside the Lincoln Memorial: U.S. Park Police officers keep watch near the memorial Thursday in Washington. The District of Columbia's 3,500 police officers also are on extended shifts.

Officers of the U.S. Park Police will be stationed at each of the four entrances to the viewing area to inspect packages and look for suspicious behavior, officials said.

'Midnight moment'

About 50 stars and 450 singers, dancers and musicians will participate in the extravaganza produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. The list of entertainers includes such stars as Will Smith, who hosts the event, Tom Jones and Diane Keaton.

Clinton, who will host a private gala at the White House earlier in the evening, plans to read some passages from the works of Abraham Lincoln during remarks just before the stroke of midnight.

Organizers say the "midnight moment" will feature fireworks

and sound-and-light displays centered on the 555-foot-tall Washington Monument.

Worries about possible violence surfaced Thursday when police briefly closed the city's second-largest federal government office complex and a road just four blocks from the White House because of a security scare. Police converged on the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center after a government bomb-sniffing dog on routine patrol reacted to what could have been explosive material, a police spokesman said. The police bomb squad found no explosives there.

This afternoon, the president and the first lady will participate in a celebration of children around the world at the building, which is the largest U.S. government office structure after the Pentagon.

Special, and safe

Producer Stevens and Ellen Lovell, director of the White House Millennium Council, dismissed thoughts that their grand plans will fall victim to concerns generated by terrorists. "It's never crossed our minds to cancel this. We are prepared," Lovell said.

Gazing at the preparations at the Lincoln Memorial, Stevens agreed: "I have a feeling the space we're on will be the safest place anywhere in the United States. People should enjoy the night and live it and consider it as a night of celebration. "There's lots to be said about staying at home near the fireplace," the producer said, "but for those who come here, they will see something special that they will remember for the rest of their lives."

D.C. set to celebrate — in style

Spielberg's film,
Clinton's speech
featured on Mall

By Patrick Butters
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Clinton will light a fuse at the Lincoln Memorial just before midnight tonight, setting fireworks — and America's celebration of the year 2000 — in motion.

It is the climactic moment to "America's Millennium: A Celebration for the Nation." Children also will light fuses to spark beads of light dancing over the Reflecting Pool to the Washington Monument. The scaffolded, 555-foot obelisk will then light up in sections, timed with Mall revelers counting down the seconds to midnight.

Finally, the piece de resistance: The Ferris wheel next to the Lincoln Memorial, which has been lording over passing traffic on Henry Bacon Drive, will rise 175 feet into the air. Powered by three massive cranes, the fat hunks of metal will ignite a circle of beams. More than 500 stage lights will form a sun to blaze in the new year.

This caps a privately funded but very public \$12 million pyrotechnic blast that will ring in 2000. Not surprisingly, Steven Spielberg, Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. all have a hand in the production.

The celebratory spectacle extends from the Lincoln Memorial to other sites around the city.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, and eight other clerics will lead services at the Washington National Cathedral. Thousands will gather at the U.S. Naval Observatory for the time-ball drop and time-cannon blast. (The observatory, however, is sticking with its insistence that the millennium officially begins on Jan. 1, 2001.)

"We expect two to three thousand people," says spokesman Geoff Chester, who added that all public tickets have been snapped up. "Anybody who didn't get a ticket can't get in."

The mega-bash "National Millennium 2000" at the Grand Hyatt features four party "levels" with

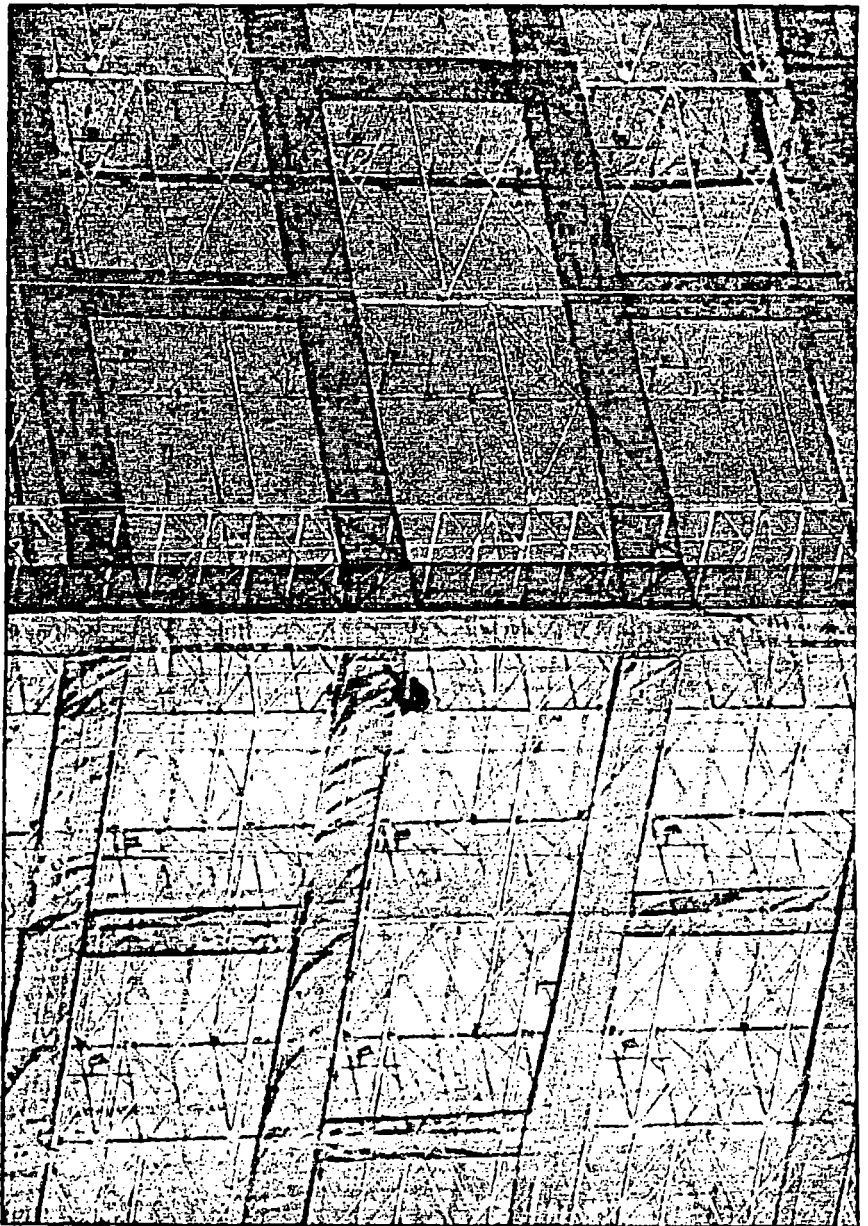
see MALL, page A10

Washington Times
Friday, Dec. 31, 1999

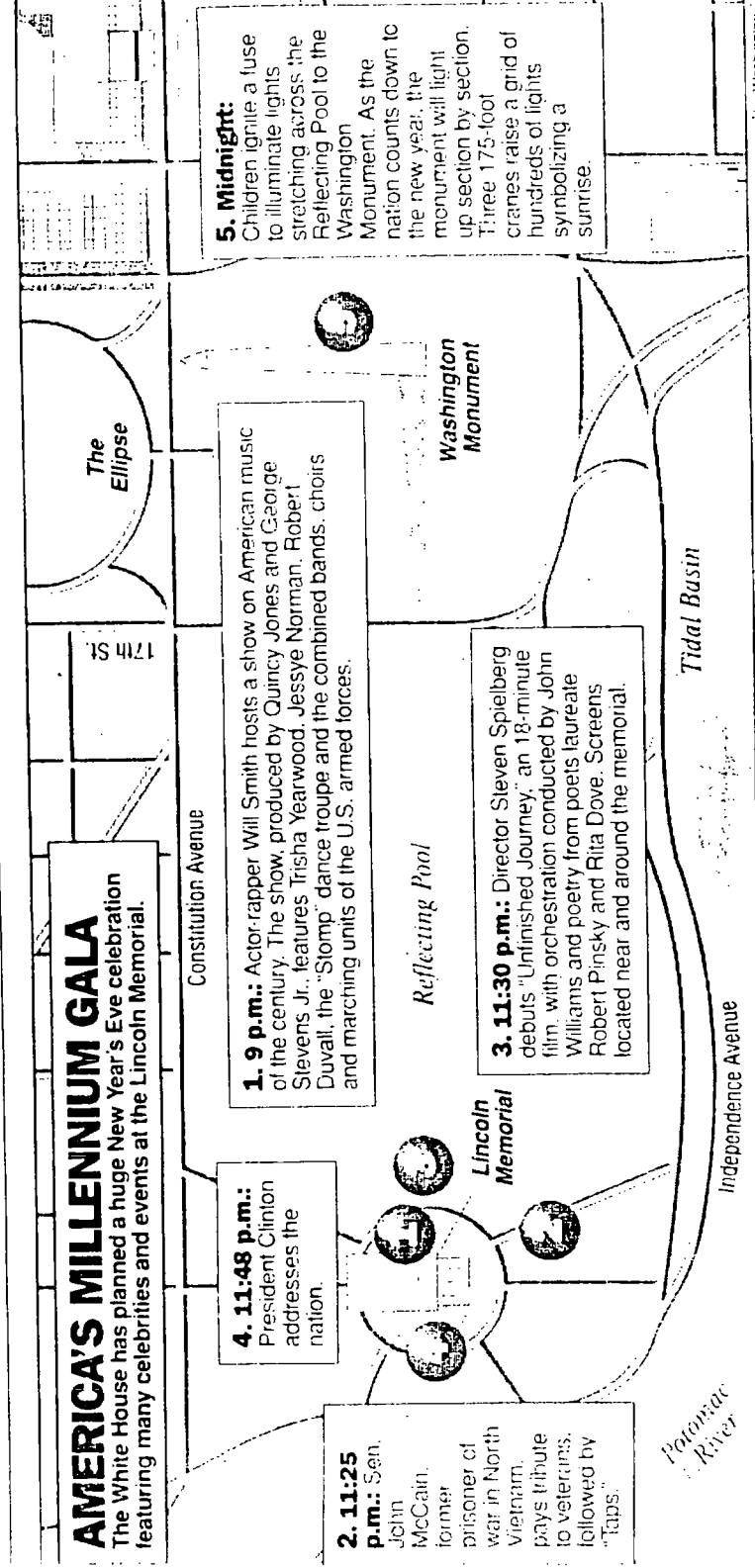
1 of 2

Finishing touches: A worker does his part in getting the Washington Monument ready for tonight's Mall extravaganza. "America's Millennium: A Celebration for the Nation" will feature a film by Steven Spielberg.

Photo by Sean Dougherty/The Washington Times



FROM PAGE ONE



MALL

From page A1

performances by Marvelous 3, 2 Skinnée J's and Emmet Swimming.

"Washington will sell out today," said Jennifer Fonts of Lindy Promotions, which has also organized parties in Baltimore and Atlanta. "Baltimore's selling rapidly and Atlanta's skyrocketed. There's absolutely no way we are canceling any of our events."

This comes on the heels of cancellations of three major D.C. events. Yesterday, a New Year's Eve gala at the MCI Center featuring Third Eye Blind was scrubbed. Earlier, fetes at Georgetown Park — which had merged into the MCI party — and the Ronald Reagan Building — with a charity show starring the Who's Roger Daltrey — also fizzled due to lackluster sales.

Daylight will still see the Smithsonian Institution holding more than three dozen programs spread out over three days. "America's Millennium on the Mall" touches on the U.S. experience in four tourist hot spots: "American Voices," Natural History; "Story Circle," American History; "Future Visions," Hirshhorn Museum; and "Launch 2000," Air and Space.

Terrorist fears — including Seattle's cancellation of its festivities — haven't shaken the film di-

rector, musician and producer behind the New Year's Eve "America's Millennium" gala on the Mall.

"I have a feeling that the space we're on, on Friday night is going to be the safest place in the United States," said Mr. Stevens in a press conference Tuesday at the base of the Lincoln Memorial.

"We have to feed into fear or love at one point," Mr. Jones added. "We refuse to feed into fear."

The District will have 3,500 police patrolling the city, buttressed by the FBI and 300 members of the National Guard. Although there will be no metal detectors on the Mall, bags and packages will be screened. Alcohol is not permitted at the event.

The public gala, which begins at 9 p.m., is hosted by movie star/rapper Will Smith. Others appearing include actors Jack Nicholson, Sam Waterston, Robert Duvall and Diane Keaton, former Sen. John Glenn, presidential candidate and Sen. John McCain, ex-Boston Celtics center and Hall of Famer Bill Russell, ex-boxer Muhammad Ali, children's author/illustrator/puppeteer David Wisniewski, gospel singer Bebe Winans, pop singers Bono, Tom Jones and Don McLean, opera singer Kathleen Battle, country singers Kenny Rogers, Kathy Mattea and Trisha Yearwood, "Ragtime" star Brian Stokes Mitchell, and the cast from Broadway's 25-member "Stomp."

At 11:30 p.m., Mr. Spielberg tops the show by presenting his 18-

minute film, "Unfinished Journey," which will be shown on three screens near and around the Reflecting Pool. On Tuesday, Mr. Spielberg called it a "kind of musical and poetic celebration of why we are all here today, what were the shoulders we stood on to achieve this moment in time and in history."

The film includes poems by U.S. poet laureate Robert Pinsky, previous laureate Rita Dove and author-poet Maya Angelou. Mr. Clinton will read from Abraham Lincoln. John Williams conducts his own orchestration. Then Mr. Clinton addresses the expected crowd of 100,000 as well as a nationally televised audience.

The huge stage at the base of the Lincoln is ribboned with 250 miles of cable, which workers were still threading through trees yesterday morning. The president, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and thousands of his closest pals will sit on heated risers, buffered from the crowd.

"Are you looking forward to this great mess on the Mall?" asked actress Elizabeth Perry from her New York home. "What they're talking about on TV — in Washington, New York and Seattle — is scary stuff."

Her one-woman show, "Sunflower, the Life and Loves of Elizabeth Cady Stanton," plays at 4 p.m. today at the National Museum of Natural History. It's part of the three-day "America's Millennium

on the Mall" program. Born in 1815, Stanton delivered the "Declaration of Sentiments" at the first Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y. It led to the eventual women's suffrage amendment to the Constitution 70 years later. Miss Perry's show was featured at the 150th anniversary. She also performed it for New York Gov. George E. Pataki's Economic Summit for Young Women.

"I wanted to show a woman with love in her heart for humanity," said Miss Perry. "There is a view of [some women as being as] outspoken as battleaxes. That's not my view or my experience. And I'm glad when men come to my place and bring their sons, because Elizabeth loved her husband and her sons."

Over at the State Theatre in Falls Church, rangy blues guitarist Tom Principato will be cutting loose when the clock strikes 12. The local guitar hero said he just bought a European gypsy guitar and is experimenting with world music.

Southern rockers Little Feat and local folkies Seldom Scene will headline Montgomery County's fifth-annual, nonalcoholic First Night celebration. For the first time, it will be held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg instead of downtown Silver Spring. Fireworks will go off at 6 p.m.

• This article is based in part on wire service reports

PAUL GREENBERG

Talk about a New Year's Eve bash: The Clintons are planning one that perfectly captures the spirit of this new gilded age. It sounds boffo: There'll be celebs galore, deep thoughts ever so attractively packaged, and fireworks right up the Washington Monument.

The first couple will be having 320 people in for dinner. The guests will have to be split between the State Dining Room and East Room, with a hundred more in a heated tent outside, not counting the additional 500 to 600 who are invited for a post-midnight dance before breakfast.

I feel full just reading about it. Between dinner and breakfast, there'll be a three-hour show outside. (Have no fear: The goody bags for the guests feature scarves, seat cushions and hand warmers; heated air will be piped in under the seats.)

Not even the shah of Iran ever put on a bash this splendid. Everything's been provided except that indefinable quality that Mr. Jefferson called republican simplicity. It won't do for this, an imperial age.

The president himself is to ignite

White House jubilee

a long fuse that goes from the Lincoln Memorial across the Reflecting Pool before it sends a cascade of fireworks all the way up the Washington Monument. Hot ziggedy. It's hard to sum up the spirit of this whole enterprise in any single word. Rome, maybe.

"This will be no ordinary party for no ordinary time," to quote the first lady. "This is a tremendous opportunity to really unite the nation." And indeed the size of the guest list does approach the U.S. Census.

Actually, it all sounds like an ordinary party in ordinary times, only with elephantiasis. For the outsized arrangements are enough to make ordinary wretched excess seem modest.

Why is it that the Clintons' national celebrations tend to turn into celebrations of themselves, or at least of their — and this time the awful word is appropriate — lifestyle?

Because the Clintons R Us, circa

1992-00. Because they're the very image of the strangely spiritless spirit of the age. Because they could have stepped out of, or into, the pages of *Vanity Fair*, or the advertisements in the *New Yorker*, or the interchangeable Arts and Style sections of the *New York Times* at any time during this directionless decade.

How do they do it? How do the Clintons manage to capture us at any given, passing time? It's not just the emphasis on PR, the habitual spin for the sake of spin or the 24-hour war room. It's not even the inevitable next election coming up, this one in New York.

No, it's something more: It's the Clintons' perfect, conscious contemporaneity. They're the spirit of the Nineties to the hollowed-out core. They're completely Now. There is no room in their omnipresent for any thoughts of past greatness or future destiny, except perhaps for rhetorical purposes. And it is this freedom

from past and future that eliminates any need for moral consistency.

Some concern has been expressed about the effect of these fireworks on the Washington Monument, but the only thing really to be feared is that, at the stroke of midnight, the familiar handwriting will appear on the walls: Mene mene tekel upharsin. But HRC knows that, should she be weighed in the balance, she will not be found wanting if she can just keep her thumb on the scales. Perception is reality.

Hillary Clinton says it's a great opportunity to unite the nation. (The way she's united New York?) But the Clintons are never so polarizing as when they are intent on uniting us. How can that be? Maybe it's their perfectly fabricated authenticity. The '90s have had much the same effect, stirring the same vague dissatisfactions — and sparking sudden outbursts of temper. What was it that poor, embarrassed David Brinkley, thinking his mike was off, said after the president's victory speech in '96? "We all look forward with great pleasure to four years of wonderful, inspiring

speeches, full of wit, poetry, music, love and affection, plus more . . . nonsense."

At the time, David Brinkley was only at the halfway point of the Clinton administration, and he'd already lost it. His extemporaneous analysis had to be one of the great unrehearsed and unrehearsable moments in the history of American television, though you are not likely to see it mentioned in any of the endless turn-of-the-century retrospectives this weekend. True art seldom is.

Speaking of "wonderful, inspiring speeches, full of wit, poetry, music, love and affection, plus more . . . nonsense," don't you wish you could spend New Year's at the White House? You could hobnob with Elizabeth (Cleopatra) Taylor, a legend in her own time and several others, and Arthur Schlesinger Jr., noted polemicist and son of the great historian. You could hear a poem by Maya Angelou, and not one but two toasts by Bill Clinton — plus still another of his speeches.

Maybe if David Brinkley were seated across the table offering his

comments sotto voce, all this might be fun. Then again, as Bill Faulkner commented on declining an invite to the White House, it's a fur piece to go for supper.

It was John F. Kennedy who greeted a gathering of Nobel Prize winners at the White House (the one Mr. Faulkner couldn't make) by saying they represented the greatest collection of intellect under that roof since Thomas Jefferson dined there alone. This little gathering New Year's Eve represents the greatest collection of showmanship under that roof since Teddy Roosevelt dined there alone, if he ever did.

Looking over the extent of the guest list and the Olympic nature of the partying, it's all enough to make one yearn for a quiet New Year's evening curled up in front of the fireplace with a book and somebody you love. Make that an old book. Maybe one of Mr. Faulkner's. Not for nothing does the Constitution itself extol domestic tranquility.

Paul Greenberg is a nationally syndicated columnist.

EDITORIALS



Hey, what a party

New Year's at the White House



TALK ABOUT a New Year's Eve bash: The Clintons are planning one that perfectly captures the spirit of this new gilded age. It sounds boffo: There'll be celebs galore, deep thoughts ever so attractively packaged, and fireworks right up the Washington Monument.

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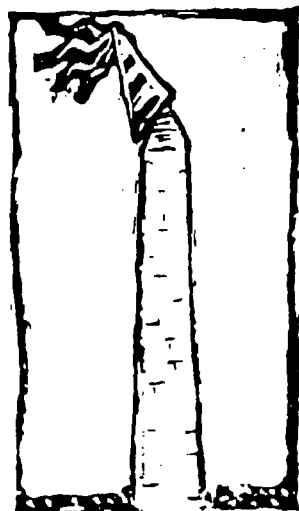
Because the Clintons R Us, circa 1992-00. Because they're the very image of the strangely spiritless spirit of the age. Because they could have stepped out of, or into, the pages of *Vanity Fair*, or the advertisements in *The New Yorker*, or the interchangeable Arts and Style sections of the *New York Times* at any time during this directionless decade.

How do they do it? How do the Clintons manage to capture us at any given, passing time? It's not just the emphasis on PR, the habitual spin for the sake of spin, or the 24-hour war room. It's not even the inevitable next election coming up, this one in New York.

No, it's something more: It's the Clintons' perfect, conscious contemporaneity. They're the spirit of the Nineties to the hollowed-out core. They're completely Now. There is no room in their omni-present for any thoughts of past greatness or future destiny, except perhaps for rhetorical purposes. And it is this freedom from past and future that eliminates the need for moral consistency.

By now the country's First Lady has moved qualmlessly through more conflicting roles than a Hollywood bit player. The activist who denounced the 1980s as a Decade of Greed was making a quiet killing in cattle futures at the same time. The socially conscious candidate who's running for the Senate in New York is also the impresario of this Belshazzar's Feast at the White House.

Some concern has been expressed about the effect of these fireworks on the Washington Monument, but the only thing really to be feared is that, at the stroke of midnight, the familiar handwriting will appear on the walls: *Mene mene tekel upharsin*. But HRC knows that, should she be weighed in the balance, she will not be found wanting if she can just keep her thumb on the scales. Perception



is reality.

When people speak of First Couple's sense of history, if they do, they must be referring to last week. The Clintons glide along the surface of history; they don't make it. Or bear it. Their sympathies, like their animosities, are remarkably weightless. They are the picture of cool.

Word has it William Jefferson Clinton himself is to recite Honest Abe's lines in this New Year's Eve pageant. Whoever writes these scripts has a natural talent for irony. For some irrepressible reason, we can't help but think of that costume party in *The Manchurian Candidate*, complete with Red Queen and Abe Lincoln in stovepipe hat and fake beard.

HILLARY CLINTON says this party is an opportunity to unite the nation. (The way she's united New York?) But the Clintons are never so polarizing as when they are intent on uniting us. How can that be? Maybe it's their perfectly fabricated authenticity. The Nineties have had much the same effect, stirring the same vague dissatisfactions—and sparking sudden outbursts of temper. What was it that poor, embarrassed David Brinkley, thinking his mike was off, said after the president's victory speech in '96? "We all look forward with great pleasure to four years of wonderful, inspiring speeches, full of wit, poetry, music, love and affection, plus more goddam nonsense."

Still not finished, Mr. Brinkley added that this president "has not a creative bone in his body. Therefore, he's a bore, and will always be a bore." Oh, dear. The commentator's unintentionally public thoughts were all the more embarrassing for being so widely shared by any Americans still sentient four years into the Age of Clinton. But it's one thing to notice such things, quite another to say them out loud. Why belabor the obvious?

At the time, David Brinkley was only at the halfway point of the Clinton administration, and he'd already lost it. His extemporaneous analysis had to be one of the great, unrehearsed and unrehearsable moments in the history of American television, though you are not likely to see it mentioned in any of the endless turn-of-the-century retrospectives this weekend. True art seldom is.

SPEAKING OF "wonderful, inspiring speeches, full of wit, poetry, music, love and affection, plus more goddam nonsense," don't you wish you could spend New Year's at the White House? You could hobnob with Elizabeth (Cleopatra) Taylor, a legend in her own time and several others, and Arthur Schlesinger Jr., noted polemicist and son of the great historian. You could hear a poem by Maya Angelou, and not one but two toasts by Bill Clinton—plus still another of his speeches.

Maybe if David Brinkley were seated across the table offering his comments *sotto voce*, all this might be fun. Then again, as Bill Faulkner commented on declining an invite to the White House, it's a fur piece to go for supper.

It was John F. Kennedy who greeted a gathering of Nobel Prize winners at the White House (the one Mr. Faulkner couldn't make) by saying they represented the greatest collection of intellect under that roof since Thomas Jefferson dined there alone. This little gathering New Year's Eve represents the greatest collection of showmanship under that roof since Teddy Roosevelt dined alone, if he ever did.

Looking over the extent of the guest list and the Olympic nature of the partying, it's all enough to make one yearn for a quiet New Year's evening curled up in front of the fireplace with a book and somebody you love. Make that an old book. Maybe one of Mr. Faulkner's. Not for nothing does the Constitution itself extol domestic tranquility.

December 31, 1999 Friday 2D EDITION

SECTION: E; Pg. E-01

LENGTH: 343 words

HEADLINE: Pyrotechnics to top gala on D.C.'s Mall

BYLINE: Denver Post Wire Services,

BODY:

WASHINGTON - The plan is to end the year with a bang, not a whimper.

A crowd of more than 100,000 is expected to gather at the base of the Lincoln Memorial on New Year's Eve for the celebration of 'America's Millennium,' a \$ 10 million extravaganza on the Mall.

President Clinton is scheduled to speak a few minutes before midnight, after a 19-minute Steven Spielberg paean to America called 'The Unfinished Journey' accompanied by an original score by film composer John Williams.

In keeping with the patriotic theme, the host will be Will Smith, the actor who saved America from aliens bent on annihilation in 'Independence Day,' backed up by 30 dancers.

Opera divas Jessye Norman and Kathleen Battle will be there to raise the brow of the event.

The show's co-producers are director George Stevens and composer Quincy Jones.

While the producers have devoted thousands of hours to planning the entertainment and the speeches, the event may be remembered most for the fireworks.

A half-minute before midnight, a burning fuse will travel the length of the reflecting pool, ending at the base of the Washington Monument.

As the final seconds of the 1900s tick away, the monument will be transformed into a giant Roman candle, sheathed in cascading pyrotechnic light.

At the stroke of midnight, the sky behind the obelisk will turn golden with fireworks, symbolizing, Stevens said, 'something about aspiration and the future.'

The idea of the whole program, Stevens said, is to celebrate the American experiment in popular government - and to have a little fun along the way.

'Despite all the persiflage and hype and expense,' he said, 'our hope is to somehow capture a little of the wonder of democracy on the swamp that George Washington chose as our capital and designed into a city, between the monuments to Lincoln and Washington with the Capitol in the background.'

'In this cynical age,' he concluded, 'it makes your heart beat a little faster.'

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Knight Ridder/Chuck Kennedy Workers assemble scaffolding at the end of the Reflecting Pool at the site of the Millennium Celebration on the Mall in Washington.

LOAD-DATE: December 31, 1999

December 31, 1999, Friday

SECTION: Main News Pg.12

LENGTH: 594 words

HEADLINE: Security is tight in Washington

SOURCE: USA Today

BODY:

for tonight's unprecedented gala

By LAURENCE MCQUILLAN

USA Today

Washington, D.C. - President Clinton has been dreaming of ushering in 2000 with a celebration like none other in the storied history of Washington, where party planners always try to outdo their predecessors. It looks like his dream will come true.

Never before has there been an extravaganza with such glamour and fireworks. Never before have government officials shut down bridges, closed so many streets and called out the National Guard to do it.

The "America's Millennium" celebration is being tempered by concerns about potential terrorism and possible Y2K glitches. Officials are happy to make grand predictions about the next 1,000 years but are less certain about this weekend.

"We're trying to strike a balance between taking the right precautionary measures and letting people know the information we have and not creating an unnecessary fear," Deputy White House press secretary Jake Siewert said. "We obviously wouldn't have invited people to the mall unless we were intent upon making it safe," he said.

Organizers predict about 500,000 revelers will turn out for a \$ 12 million New Year's Eve celebration at the Lincoln Memorial. It features an array of big-name performers and a special 18-minute Steven Spielberg film. The event is funded by private and corporate donations.

The program, to be shown live on CBS, includes a dramatic fireworks display that planners say will out-sparkle anything ever done in Washington, a city that takes its Fourth of July festivities seriously.

So how do you protect half a million people on a night that prompted cities such as Seattle to cancel galas because of security worries?

You put the District of Columbia's 3,500 police officers on extended shifts and then ask the Defense Department and the city's National Guard for additional help.

Law enforcement officers will direct traffic at about 150 street intersections. Large sections of major arteries downtown will be shut down, as will the Memorial and Theodore Roosevelt bridges and the adjacent sections of the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Snow fences have been set up between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument to help control and monitor the crowd. Officers of the U. S. Park Police will be stationed at each of the four entrances to the viewing area to inspect packages and look for suspicious behavior, officials said.

About 50 stars and 450 singers, dancers and musicians will participate in the extravaganza produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. The list of entertainers includes host Will Smith, Tom Jones and Diane Keaton.

Clinton, who will have a private gala at the White House earlier in the evening, plans to read some passages from the works of Abraham Lincoln during remarks just before the stroke of midnight.

Organizers say the "midnight moment" will feature fireworks and sound-and-light displays centered on the 555-foot-tall monument.

Worries about possible violence surfaced Thursday when police briefly closed the city's second-largest federal government office complex and a road just four blocks from the White House because of a security scare. Police converged on the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center after a bomb-sniffing dog on routine patrol reacted to what could have been explosive material, a police spokesman said. The police bomb squad found no explosives there.

This afternoon, the president and first lady will participate in a celebration of children.

United Press International

December 31, 1999, Friday

SECTION: GENERAL NEWS

LENGTH: 508 words

HEADLINE: Yearlong celebration

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Dec. 31

BODY:

Yearlong celebration- President Clinton opened America's millennium celebration New Year's Eve Friday by saying it was not just "a kick off" but a whole yearlong of events throughout the coming year. He deferred mainly to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton who has been planning the celebration for the past two years and set the tone with the motto: "Honor the past and imagine the future." Several activities were planned, including a star-studded, black tie dinner at the White House, and a three-hour gala at the Lincoln Memorial. A highlight of the program under blue skies and a bright warm sun on the Mall was the first lady's announcement of the items to go into the refrigerator-sized national time capsule, including: Louie Armstrong's trumpet, a piece of the Berlin Wall and a transistor that launched the information age. Retired Gen. Colin Powell contributed dog tags from the wars American soldiers fought, The time capsule, to be stored in the National Archives, will be opened in 100 years. "This is more than a unique moment for our calendar; it is also a unique moment for our country," Clinton told the outdoor crowd.

"Our economy is strong, our social fabric is on the mend. We are moving forward on America's remarkable journey of creating a more unified nation, a more just society, a more perfect union," he added. In introducing his wife, Clinton said: "Now, it is my privilege to present the person who has done more than anyone else in America to help us appreciate and properly celebrate the dawn of the new millennium. Ladies and gentlemen, the first lady of the United States." "Almost three years ago, when the White House Millennium Council began planning a celebration for the National Mall built around our theme, 'To Honor the Past and Imagine the Future,'" the president said, "we decided that an important way to capture this moment in time would be by filling a national time capsule -- filled not only with the symbols and achievements of the century just past, but with our hopes and dreams for the next." The first lady said thinkers and builders and creators of this century were invited to contribute to the time capsule, including "all the past recipients of our nation's highest honors in the arts and humanities, in science and technology, in citizenship and leadership -- as well as the thinkers and builders and creators of the future" and students from across the country. "We asked them all to help us fill this time capsule, and their responses have been overwhelming," she said. Teachers and students nominated computers, while scientists nominated the transistors that made them possible, the first lady revealed. She said Bruce Penniman's English class in Amherst, Massachusetts, sent a highlighted copy of Ralph Ellison's "The Invisible Man," while novelist Philip Roth recommended works by William Faulkner and Saul Bellow. June Moore's second grade class in Laramie, Wyoming, selected the sport of baseball, while playwright August Wilson suggested a recording by Bessie Smith. -- --

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 1, 2000

| The Washington Post |

MIETRO

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1999

Making Music for the Millennium



BY ROBERT A. PETER — THE WASHINGTON POST

Performers from the cast of the New York musical "Stomp" rehearse at the Lincoln Memorial for their New Year's Eve performance in "America's Millennium Gala." A list of events, including times and acts, is available at www.americasmillennium.gov.

Time Capsule Contents

The nation's millennium time capsule—which won't be opened until 2100—will contain items like these: a Hostess Twinkie, **Ray Charles's** sunglasses, a chunk of the Berlin Wall, a cell phone, a World War II helmet and a student-made collage featuring pictures of Pokemon cartoon characters, **Fidel Castro** and a box of Lean Cuisine. **President Clinton** and **Hillary**

Rodham Clinton, who hatched the idea of the capsule to symbolize America at the century's end, will officially unveil its contents at a ceremony tomorrow. A prototype will then go on display at the National Museum of American History, and the actual capsule—a 4-by-6-by-2-foot chest—will be built in the spring and then stored in the National Archives.

Washington Post
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1999

Daily News (New York)

December 29, 1999, Wednesday SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6 MILLENNIUM COUNTDOWN

LENGTH: 254 words

HEADLINE: MILLENNIUM SPECTACULAR SET FOR D.C.

BYLINE: By KENNETH R. BAZINET DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

BODY:

WASHINGTON - The most spectacular New Year's celebration may not be in Times Square, but on the National Mall, where President Clinton and 500,000 others will celebrate - guarded by a thick cordon of police.

"America's Millennium Gala at the Lincoln Memorial" will be a star-studded extravaganza that CBS will air live from 10 p.m. Friday to 1 a.m. Saturday.

Unlike Seattle, where fears of a terrorist attack shut down that city's millennium celebration, the show will go on in the nation's capital, with the President and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in attendance.

"We refuse to feed into the fear," said co-producer Quincy Jones.

Clinton will later play host to a couple of black-tie White House parties, although he may have his sleeve tugged in mid-waltz if any serious Y2K problems flare up.

The highlight of the Washington bash will occur at midnight, when Clinton lights a fuse that will run down the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, over the Reflecting Pool and shoot up the Washington Monument to ignite a massive fireworks display.

Before partygoers get a chance to see the fireworks or listen to entertainers - ranging from U2's Bono to Las Vegas crooner Tom Jones to opera diva Jessye Norman - they will have to pass through one of four security checkpoints.

Much of the mall will be fenced in and lined with personnel from the FBI, Washington police, U.S. Park Police, Capitol police and Secret Service agents, among others. Bomb-sniffing dogs will search coolers, backpacks and purses.

LOAD-DATE: December 29, 1999

Gannett News Service

December 29, 1999, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: Pg. ARC

LENGTH: 755 words

HEADLINE: New Year's Eve splash on the Mall promises star-studded memories

BYLINE: STEVE DiMEGLIO; Gannett News Service

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- When midnight tolls on Friday, the Washington Monument will become a giant sparkler. Thirty minutes before, the Lincoln Memorial will be a giant movie screen for Academy Award-winning director Steve Spielberg's tribute to the nation as some 500,000 celebrants will hear the strains of composer John Williams' latest original score.

And before the evening is over here -- sometime around 1 a.m. Eastern -- about 50 stars and almost 450 singers, dancers and musicians will have appeared during the three-hour New Year's Eve extravaganza at the National Mall co-produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr.

"You will see almost everything you could imagine," Jones said.

Americans not on the Mall can view it on CBS, which has the exclusive broadcast rights to what is being billed as "America's Millennium Gala." The show starts at 10 p.m. Eastern.

Tuesday, a contingent of workers raced to complete the giant outdoor stage featuring jumbo movie screens and thousands of lights at the base of the Lincoln Memorial that will be the centerpiece of the gala. Beyond the Reflecting Pool at the Washington Monument, a similar group of workers worked feverishly on final details of a pyrotechnic outburst that is set to explode at midnight.

And in the middle of the frenzy that is transforming the mall into one of the world's largest sound and stage theaters, Spielberg rushed to finish his latest cinematic wonder, an effort that has consumed a hefty block of his time since June. But he isn't being pressed to meet the deadline of a major motion picture studio. Instead, he's busy wrapping up a movie for the president of the United States.

Called "The Unfinished Journey," Spielberg has collaborated

with Williams to develop a 20-minute concert of original music, poetry and images highlighting the 20th century.

"We've put together a musical and gaudy celebration of why we are all here today, and what were the shoulders we stood on to achieve this moment in time," Spielberg, whose credits include "Schindler's List," "Saving Private Ryan," and "E.T.," said about his movie.

"It's just a thank you to the past and a present for the future, and this is the most symbolic setting to bring in the next 1,000 years and salute the last 100."

Slated for an 11:33 p.m. showing, the movie features five acts - immigration and the building of America; the various wars the country fought; sports and show business personalities; the Civil Rights and Women's Rights movements; and flight and technology.

President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will host 3,000 stars, diplomats, congressional leaders and friends for the millennium gala. Among the celebrities invited to an elegant White House dinner and the festivities on the Mall are Muhammad Ali, Elizabeth Taylor, Don McLean, Robert De Niro, Robert Duvall, Bono, Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson.

Clinton will make a brief speech. The gala's emcee is actor Will Smith.

The high-profile, celebrity-studded party will also include performances by Tom Jones, Trisha Yearwood, Kenny Rodgers, The Supremes and the 25-member company of "Stomp," along with a 100-piece orchestra and the combined bands, choirs and marching units of the U.S. Armed Forces. Everything from jazz to rock 'n' roll to country and western will be played.

"The music runs the full gamut," Jones said.

The celebration culminates at midnight with a high-tech, sound and light display. Clinton will light a special fuse at the Lincoln Memorial that will race down the middle of the Reflecting Pool and ignite a pyrotechnic explosion that will feature two separate bursts of fireworks. Cascades of fireworks will turn the 555-foot Washington Monument into a giant sparkler.

Stevens and Ellen Lovell, director of the White House Millennium Council, said the show would go on rain, shine or snow - and despite concerns over possible terrorist acts that led to the cancellation of Seattle's millennium party.

"It's never crossed our minds to cancel this. We are prepared," Lovell said.

"I have a feeling the space we're on will be the safest place anywhere in the United States," Stevens said. "People should enjoy the night and live it and consider it as a night of celebration."

"There's lots to be said about staying at home near the fireplace, but for those who come here, they will see something special that they will remember for the rest of their lives."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 30, 1999

METRO

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1999

B

Obituaries
Weather

5

New Year's Financing A 'Success'

*Nearly \$15 Million Raised
In 3-Month Money Sprint*

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

The New Year's Eve extravaganza that will rock the Lincoln Memorial is being financed with nearly \$15 million from about 40 companies, foundations and individuals, the event's main money man said yesterday.

The total includes more than \$3.2 million that CBS television paid to broadcast the Friday night show live, which means the network will not be cutting away to the traditional ball-drop at Times Square in New York.

"It's been a huge success," fund-raiser Terence R. McAuliffe declared gleefully, having helped to raise what White House organizers expect they will need to host the weekend of celebration. "There's been a huge outpouring of people . . . on very short notice."

The nail-biting, three-month time line to pull in the money was "very late," McAuliffe said, especially because many corporate and philanthropic budgets had been committed for the year. It also complicated planning for the show, which is costing nearly \$13 million, and for the Smithsonian Institution's three days of programs, demonstrations and exhibits.

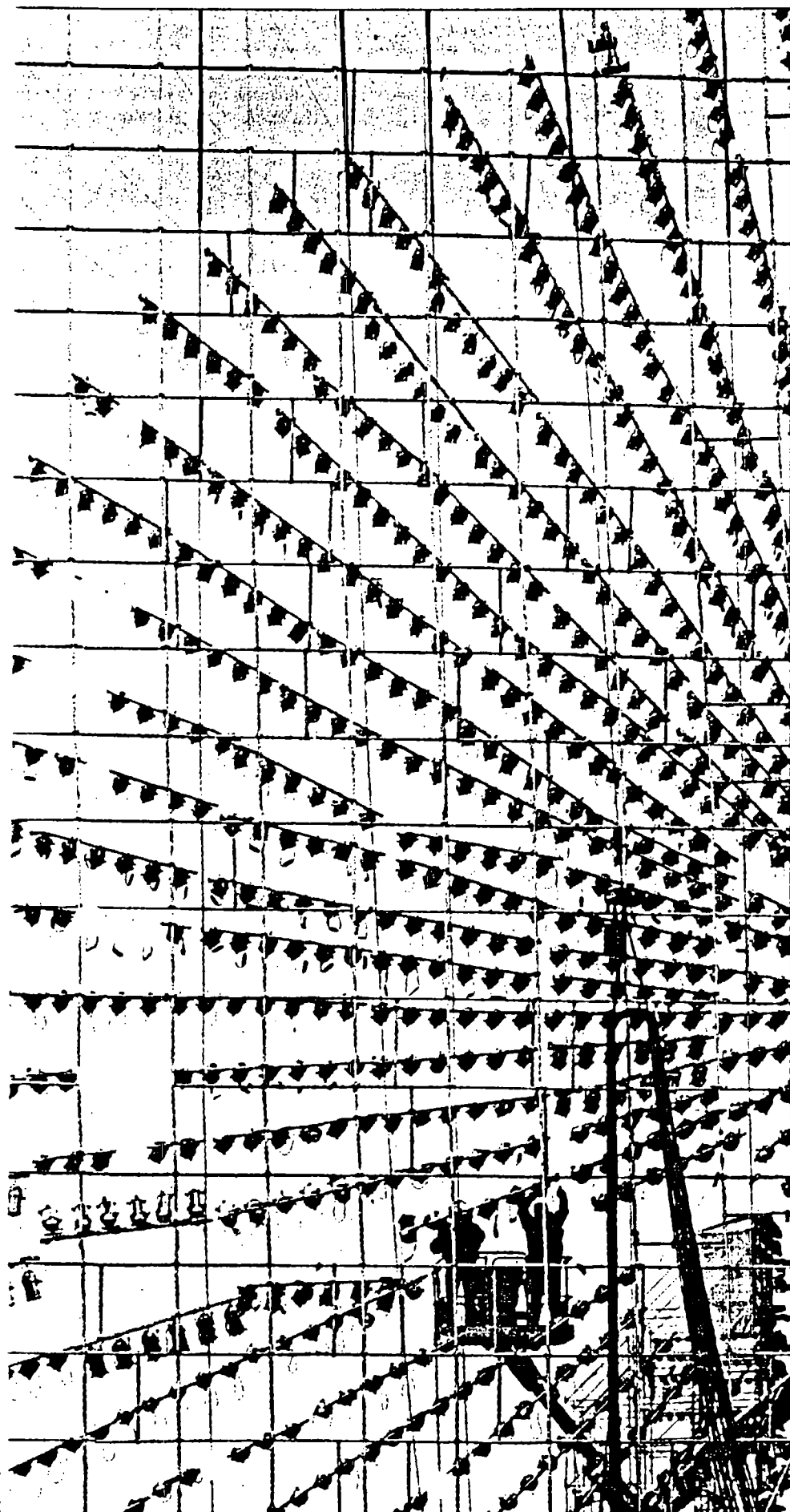
Holiday Street Closings

Some sections of streets in the District will be closed, starting today. A map showing the closings appears on Page B5.

See FUNDS, B5, Col. 4

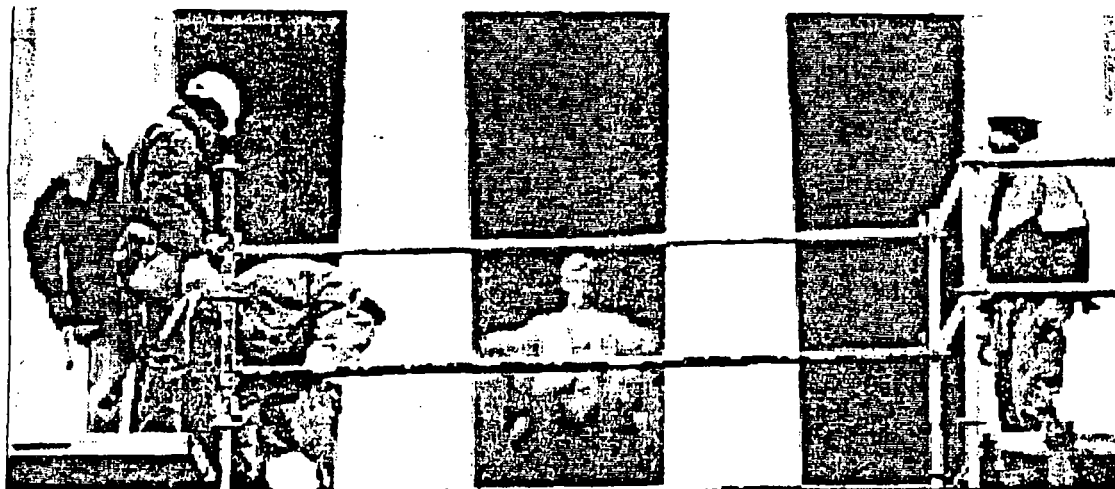


Dave and Vickie Spencer, visiting Washington from Newport News, Va., huddle for warmth near the Lincoln Memorial, which is closed to the public during the preparations for the Year's Eve extravaganza.



PHOTOS BY RILEY OTTAWAY — THE WASHINGTON POST

vents to a huge grid of lights at the Lincoln Memorial in preparal for the millennium gala Friday.



BY BILL O'LEARY — THE WASHINGTON POST

Workers erect scaffolding as part of the process of transforming the Lincoln Memorial into a giant outdoor stage.

Donations to Fund New Year's Show

FUNDS, From B1

But by mid-December, he and finance co-chairman David Jones knew they would meet their goal and surpass it by a healthy million. It didn't hurt that they pitched the fund-raising as a way to help the entire nation celebrate the millennium—or that other major events elsewhere folded for lack of interest and support.

Three companies contributed at least \$1 million, and the names of Slim-Fast Foods Co., of West Palm Beach, Fla., Cisco Systems Inc., of San Jose, and InfoUSA.com, of Omaha, probably will be displayed prominently at the memorial Friday night.

Three other companies gave \$500,000 to \$1 million, according to sources involved in the planning. On that short list are Discovery Communications Inc., of Bethesda, Lockheed Martin Corp., of Bethesda, and Tommy Hilfiger Corp., of New York.

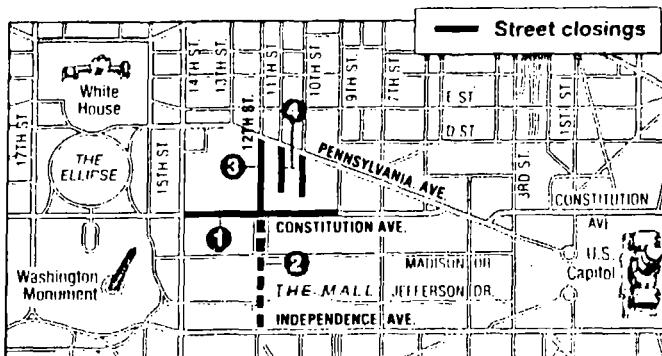
Programs to be distributed Friday, starting at an 11 a.m. opening ceremony with President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton, will list the dozens of others who donated at least \$100,000—including Synergics Energy Development, of Annapolis; the Kovler Foundation of Washington; James Kimsey, chairman emeritus of America Online Inc.; America Online, of Dulles; Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; Jonathan Ledecy, co-owner of the Washington Capitals; and Larry Harris, general counsel for Teligent Inc. of Vienna.

By then, the memorial's transformation into giant outdoor stage will be complete. And before the final bows at 1 a.m. New Year's Day, some 50 stars will have paraded before the audience, joined by almost 450 singers, dancers and musicians in the three-hour production.

Road Closures

A number of street closings will be in effect for this weekend, but some streets are closing sections as early as today. Below are the street closings for the District up to Friday. A more complete guide to street closings, including Friday and Saturday closings, will appear later in the week.

- 1. Today (starting at 7 p.m.)**
Constitution Avenue between 9th and 14th until 11 p.m. Jan. 2.
- 2. Tomorrow (starting at 1 p.m.)** 12th Street Tunnel northbound
- 3. Tomorrow (starting at 1 p.m.)** 12th Street between Independence and Pennsylvania; both reopen at 11 p.m. Jan. 2.
- 4. Thursday (starting at 12:01 p.m.)**
Tenth and 11th streets, NW, between Constitution and Pennsylvania avenues, until 7 a.m. Jan. 2.



THE WASHINGTON POST

The show will be topped by two separate bursts of fireworks that one organizer estimates are costing \$500,000 to \$1 million.

The front steps of the memorial were a hectic, scaffolded scene yesterday as hundreds of workers in hard hats continued construction of the wide stage floor and elevated VIP seating. To the right and left stand the massive light towers that will spotlight performers, and two huge cranes hold a metal-framed sun

that will provide one of the program's most illuminating surprises.

Tourists and gawkers stopped and pointed, and those who followed Lincoln's gaze toward the Washington Monument could see the line of fireworks stanchions down the middle of the Reflecting Pool.

Just seconds before midnight Friday, President Clinton will light the fuse that will race down the pool and ignite a pyrotechnic razzmatazz at the monument.

Stars, pyrotechnics to shine brightly as

BY JANE FULLERTON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — Leave it to the Clinton White House to celebrate the advent of 2000 with a Hollywood flourish set against the backdrop of American history.

That's the plan for New Year's Eve as President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton are set to lead a full day of festivities to mark the beginning of 2000 by

unveiling a time capsule, hosting a White House dinner and attending a three-hour extravaganza at the Lincoln Memorial, culminating in a midnight fireworks show at the Washington Monument.

It's all part of a three-day celebration of "America's Millennium" in the nation's capital that combines big-name entertainment with deep-thought seminars in a spectacle that organizers hope will

fulfill their theme to "honor the past — imagine the future."

"This will be no ordinary party for no ordinary time," Mrs. Clinton said recently in announcing the events. "This is a tremendous opportunity to really unite our nation."

Indeed, it will be no ordinary party for the approximately 320 people invited to ring in the new year by dining at the White House

White House welcomes 2000

— and that's the short list. Another 100 family members of those guests also have been invited, but they'll be dining in a heated tent in the Rose Garden. And yet another 500 to 600 guests will join the White House party for post-midnight dancing.

While White House dinners always include an assortment of big names from the worlds of entertainment, business, government

and academia, this one looks to really pull out all the stops.

"These people are innovators and creators, from the fields of art and history to sports and entertainment, who have greatly contributed to our American culture and heritage," said Toby Graff, a spokesman for the first lady's office.

The illustrious list includes
See PARTY, Page 9A

Party

• Continued from Page 1A

such cultural icons as boxer Muhammad Ali and actress Elizabeth Taylor. Also on the guest list are actors Robert DeNiro, Jack Nicholson and Mary Tyler Moore; playwright Neil Simon; violinist Itzhak Perlman; opera divas Jessye Norman and Kathleen Battle; and historian Arthur Schlesinger.

The millennium dinner will follow the format of a state dinner, with the president and first lady greeting their visitors in a formal receiving line. But so many guests will be present that the meal will be served in both the State Dining Room and the East Room, an arrangement that will require the president to offer two toasts.

After dinner, the Clintons and their guests will head to the Lincoln Memorial for a three-hour gala produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. That site was chosen because of its significance, having been the site of such historic events as Marian Anderson's 1939 concert after being denied access to Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech. It was also here that Clinton celebrated his 1993 inauguration.

This time, the entertainment is scheduled to include actor and singer Will Smith, who will serve as master of ceremonies, along with actors Robert Duvall, Sam Waterston, Diane Keaton and Kathy Mattea; singers Bobby McFerrin, Kenny Rogers, Luther Vandross, Trisha Yearwood, BeBe Winans and Don McLean; Broadway star Brian Stokes Mitchell; producer Luke Cresswell and his 25-member company of the Broadway production *Stomp*, as well as the combined bands, choirs and marching units of the U.S. Armed Forces. The show will be broadcast nationally by CBS.

Here's the catch: While the invitation to join the Clintons may be hot, it's a good bet the weather will be cold.

So what, precisely, should one wear to a black-tie dinner at the White House that includes a three-hour after-dinner show held outdoors in the middle of a notoriously tickle Washington winter?

Silk long johns.

At least that's what White House aides are recommending to their dinner guests. And it's good advice for the rest of the 3,000 invited

guests — the White House diners, along with various diplomats, members of Congress and local elected officials — who'll also be sitting outside for the show, scheduled to begin at 10 p.m. Washington time and last until 1 a.m.

The event is also open to the public, but organizers won't predict how many people will turn out.

Despite the tricky fashion logistics, White House aides and event organizers are confident the invited guests are up to the challenge. And they'll be receiving goody bags with "warming items" — as one aide described them — such as scarves, seat cushions and hand-warmers.

In addition, warm air will be piped under the seats, and heated hospitality centers will be located along the Mall.

While the White House is making arrangements for any guests who don't want to endure the open-air show, most seem to be game for the millennial event.

"I don't think anyone's had a problem so far," said one White House aide.

In the final half-hour of 1999, those willing to sit it out will hear from the president as he makes remarks and will watch the premiere of an 18-minute film, *The Unfinished Journey*, produced by Steven Spielberg.

The film will feature "original music, poetry and images, evoking the highlights and spirit of the last century," according to organizers. Poets Robert Pinsky, Rita Dove and Maya Angelou are contributing original works, while conductor John Williams is composing an original score.

The event will build toward a "midnight moment" fireworks spectacle that organizers say will "mark the time we pass into the new century and new millennium."

But not everyone, even the organizers, agrees with that interpretation of the timing.

On its Web site, the White House Millennium Council, which is coordinating the events, acknowledges that, technically speaking, "the next millennium is not officially reached until January 1, 2001."

That's why the White House is actually celebrating a "millennium year" to accommodate both the partiers and the purists.

Nevertheless, come Friday the show must go on, because, as the council's Web site points out: "Much of the world is planning to celebrate on December 31, 1999, when the calendar flips to the year

2000."

That Web site, which includes details on the festivities, is at:

www.americasmillennium.gov

The pyrotechnic spectacle will be started by the president, who, in the moments before midnight, will light a long fuse at the Lincoln Memorial that will travel the length of the Reflecting Pool to ignite the fireworks at the Washington Monument. At 11:59:50 EST, a countdown of 10 firework cascades will start, ascending the monument to ultimately illuminate the entire obelisk at midnight.

That will be followed by the lighting of a 50-foot-high illuminated "2000" in front of the monument.

Stevens, one of the event's producers, has characterized the display as "a once-in-a-lifetime sight."

Part of the reason it's once-in-a-lifetime is that organizers had to secure a change in the regulations regarding use of the monument to pull off this spectacle. It seems the National Park Service was a bit concerned about the use of pyrotechnics so close to the monument, which has just undergone a \$10 million cleaning.

The idea even elicited a letter of opposition from Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, who chairs a subcommittee overseeing the Interior Department, which oversees the park service. Regula objected to fireworks being attached to the scaffolding that now covers the 555-foot monument.

"A fireworks display attached to the monument is a desecration of the values inherent in our designation of such monuments," Regula wrote in a letter to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

But organizers and White House aides insist steps are being taken to protect the monument. They point out the fireworks are not the large, exploding kind, but "sparkler things, like you set off as a kid," which will be attached to the scaffolding rather than the monument itself.

After the midnight display, the entertainment will continue for about an hour. It will conclude with a fireworks finale originating from barges anchored in the Potomac River behind the Lincoln Memorial, similar to the setup used for July Fourth festivities.

In the wee hours of the morning, the Clintons and their guests, now totaling about 1,000 people, will make their way back to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue for dancing followed by another meal: breakfast.

December 27, 1999, Monday

SECTION: News; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 567 words

HEADLINE: Fireworks cascade to welcome Y2K in Washington

BYLINE: Jeff Nesmith

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- Champagne, music, a fireworks display -- and a touch of anxiety -- will set the tone of the "America's Millennium" celebration on the Washington Mall on New Year's Eve.

The White House office of the first lady, which is coordinating the plans, was predicting last week that 100,000 people would show up for the festivities.

That's quite a drop from the 600,000 originally expected.

The difference is likely the result of continuous cautions from President Clinton and other officials for Americans to be "vigilant" about possible terrorist acts during the holiday season.

A 37-foot-long mobile command center has been stationed on the Mall for use by police, fire and other emergency officials -- another reminder of the vague but real concern about Y2K terrorism.

If all goes well, a daylong celebration will climax with a pyrotechnic extravaganza described by its producer as a once-in-a-millennium cascade of brilliant white "stars" raining down from the 555-foot Washington Monument.

From the Lincoln Memorial several hundred yards away, Clinton will light a fuse 20 seconds before midnight to set off the finale. It will take 10 seconds for the fuse to burn its way to the base of the Washington Monument, currently surrounded by an elaborate scaffold because of refurbishing work.

Then, starting at 11:59:50, 10 successive bursts of brilliant white stars will rain down the sides of the monument, each 55 feet above the one before it.

Finally, beginning at precisely midnight, the entire monument will be covered with "a stunningly beautiful waterfall" of white pyrotechnics, said Philip Butler, who is producing the show for Fireworks by Grucci, a venerable Long Island company.

For a period of 20 seconds, all 10 segments of the fireworks display will burn simultaneously. Then, beginning again at the bottom, they will start shutting down.

An "America's Millennium Gala" show preceding the fireworks will be televised by CBS.

But the millennium events are to take up most of the day, beginning at 11 a.m. with performances on the Mall by youth choirs, the U.S. Marine Corps Band and other performers. The president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will unveil a "National Millennium Time Capsule," containing artifacts representing America at the end of the 20th century, at the 11 a.m. event.

Beer, wine and champagne will be sold at the Mall celebration, but alcohol consumption will be monitored with a wristband accounting system and limited to a four-block area east of the Washington Monument.

The Clintons will host a dinner for 1,000 invited guests at the White House. A select 320 guests, including Muhammad Ali and Elizabeth Taylor, will sit down with the first couple in the White House. The rest -- members of Congress and others -- will dine in a heated tent in the Rose Garden.

After dinner, the Clintons and 500 of their guests will go to the Lincoln Memorial for a splashy "America's Millennium Gala," hosted by actor-rapper Will Smith.

In the last half-hour of the year, large projection screens erected beside the Lincoln Memorial will show an 18-minute movie, "The Unfinished Journey," by Steven Spielberg.

The president will speak briefly, then light the fuse.

You may contact Jeff Nesmith at jeffn@coxnews.com.

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

December 26, 1999, Sunday, Home Edition

SECTION: Reader; Pg. 3E

LENGTH: 833 words

HEADLINE: Mall madness: D.C. gala ready to ring

BYLINE: Jeff Nesmith, Staff

SOURCE: AJC

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:

Champagne, music, a spectacular fireworks display --- and a touch of anxiety --- will set the tone of the "America's Millennium" celebration on the Washington Mall on New Year's Eve.

The White House office of the first lady, which is coordinating plans for ringing in the first year that starts with a "2" --- the next millennium won't actually start until Jan. 1, 2001 --- predicted last week that 100,000 people would show up for the festivities.

That's quite a drop from the 600,000 originally expected.

The difference is likely the result of cautions from President Clinton and other officials for Americans to be "vigilant" about possible terrorist acts during the holiday season.

In addition to the customary "lost kids" tent, a new 37-foot-long mobile command center has been stationed on the Mall for use by police, fire and other emergency officials --- another reminder of the vague but real concern of Y2K terrorism.

If all goes well, a daylong celebration will climax with a pyrotechnic extravaganza described by its producer as a once-in-a-millennium cascade of brilliant white "stars" raining down from the 555-foot Washington Monument.

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Then, starting at 11:59:50 p.m., 10 successive bursts of brilliant white stars will rain down the sides of the monument, each 55 feet above the one before it.

Finally, beginning at precisely midnight, the entire monument will be covered with "a stunningly beautiful waterfall" of white pyrotechnics, said Philip Butler, who is producing the show for Fireworks by Grucci, a venerable Long Island, N.Y., company.

For 20 seconds, all 10 segments of the fireworks display will burn simultaneously. Then, beginning again at the bottom, they will start shutting down.

"The monument is a national icon which is held in great reverence," Butler said last week, "and we could never use it as a fireworks stage, except for the scaffolding being there.

"Through a lot of effort on everybody's part, including the National Park Service, we worked out a way to use the scaffolds and not the monument itself for our spectacular. This will never be done again --- unless maybe in the year 3000."

"America's Millennium Gala," a TV show, will be televised by CBS preceding the fireworks.

But the millennium events are to take up most of the day, beginning at 11 a.m. with performances on the Mall by youth choirs, the U.S. Marine Corps Band and other performers.

The president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will unveil the "National Millennium Time Capsule," containing artifacts representing America at the end of the 20th century, at the 11 a.m. event.

Four Smithsonian Mall museums --- the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of Natural History, the Hirshhorn Museum and the National Museum of American History --- will operate at their normal hours, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., throughout the New Year's weekend, Dec. 31 through Jan. 2.

In addition, auditoriums in the Hirshhorn and the museums of American history and national history will present a continuous series of 33 hourlong lectures on subjects ranging from bluegrass music to the future of sports in America.

Tickets are free, but have all been given out on a first-come, first-served basis, a Smithsonian spokesperson said.

Beer, wine and champagne will be sold at the Mall celebration, but alcohol consumption will be monitored with a wristband accounting system and limited to a four-block area east of the Washington Monument.

Streets immediately around the Mall will be closed, and city officials have urged those attending the celebration to use the subway system. Subways will operate until 3 a.m. and buses until 4 a.m.

The Clintons will host a dinner for 1,000 invited guests at the White House. A select 320, including former boxing champ Muhammad Ali and actress Elizabeth Taylor, will sit down with the first couple in the White House. The rest, members of Congress and others, will dine in a heated tent in the Rose Garden.

After dinner, the Clintons and 500 guests will go to the Lincoln Memorial for the splashy "America's Millennium Gala," hosted by actor-rapper Will Smith.

The gala will include entertainment by Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton, Kathy Mattea, Bobby McFerrin, Don McLean, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Kenny Rogers, Luther Vandross, Tricia Yearwood, Sam Waterston, BeBe Winans and Luke Cresswell, accompanied by the 25-member company of the Broadway production "Stomp."

In the last half-hour of the year, large projection screens erected beside the Lincoln Memorial will show an 18-minute movie, "The Unfinished Journey" by Steven Spielberg.

The president will speak briefly, then light the fuse.

GRAPHIC: Photo
Actress Elizabeth Taylor
Photo
Former boxing champ Muhammad Ali

LOAD-DATE: December 26, 1999

December 26, 1999, METRO FINAL

SECTION: TRAVEL; Pg. J6

LENGTH: 1076 words

HEADLINE: CELEBRATIONS AMERICAN STYLE

BYLINE: Bee Staff and News Services

BODY:

Washington, D.C.: There will be lots of flag-waving in the nation's capital, which is throwing a three-day America's Millennium party on the National Mall. New Year's Eve events will feature a stirring show at the Lincoln Memorial, hosted by the Clintons. Stars of the entertainment world, including Quincy Jones and The Supremes, are slated to perform, along with a 100-piece orchestra and the combined bands, choirs and marching units of the U.S. Armed Forces. An 18-minute Steven Spielberg film about the highlights of the 20th century will be shown for the first time. The celebration culminates at midnight with a high-tech sound-and-light display. Meanwhile, the four Smithsonian museums are staging special exhibits and performances Dec. 31-Jan. 2. All are free. For more information: (202) 789-7000 or (800) 294-2100. On the Web: www.washington.org; www.americasmillennium/.

New York: More than 1 million people are expected for what's supposed to be the biggest Times Square New Year's Eve party ever. There's even a new ball that will drop at midnight -- a 6-foot-diameter, 1,070-pound ball covered with 504 Waterford crystal triangles and illuminated by 600 multicolored light bulbs and nearly 100 strobe lights and mirrors. Whew!

The party begins at 7 a.m. with the arrival of the year 2000 in the South Pacific. For the next 24 hours, six gigantic Panasonic Astrovision video screens set up around the square will broadcast live images of the people and cultures of each of the world's time zones. At midnight, the ball drop will be accompanied by a light show, fireworks, puppets, waves of confetti and thousands of balloons. Can't stand crowds? For high rollers there's a party with entertainment by Sting, Aretha Franklin, Enrique Iglasias and Andrea Bocelli. For more information: (800) 692-84-748 NYC-VISIT, or www.celebration2000.com.

Las Vegas: Barbra Streisand's show at the MGM Grand is getting all the press, but there are plenty of other things going on. For classic rock fans, there's the Fremont Street Experience, a trippy light show and rock concert starring REO Speedwagon, Guess Who and Starship. Bette Midler plays the Mandalay Resort and Casino; Pat Benatar is at the Las Vegas Hilton; Rod Stewart is at the Rio Hotel; Hall and Oates are at Caesar's Palace; and Elton John and Tina Turner play the Thomas Mack Arena on Dec. 30. For a complete lineup: millenniumvegas.com or (702) 892-7575.

Chicago: The Windy City is throwing a 2,000-Minute Party, dubbed Dance 'til the Dawn of the New Millennium, at which a dance step commissioned for the occasion, the Milly, will be introduced. At Navy Pier on Lake Michigan, a clock posted on the 150-foot Ferris wheel will count down the seconds until midnight, when the sky over the lake will light up with fireworks and lasers. For more information: (312) 742-2001 or www.chicago2001.org.

New Orleans: The passing of 1999 will be mourned in New Orleans as the Big Easy ushers out the old year with an old-fashioned jazz funeral. Beginning at 10 a.m. on New Year's Eve, a Mass of resurrection (formerly known as a requiem Mass) will be held at St. Augustine Catholic Church. A traditional jazz funeral follows: a full funeral cortege, with dirges playing and a horse-drawn casket, will progress from the church to the gates of the St. Louis No. 1 Cemetery. There, a gate-side ceremony in which "the body is cut loose" will officially put the 1900s to rest. Participants then will march and dance through the French Quarter, symbolizing the good years ahead. For more information: (504) 565-8104.

Anchorage, Alaska: The streets of Anchorage will blaze with light when the city welcomes the new millennium. Lighting one candle from another, residents will march in a parade through the city. The Night of Light also will feature a giant lighted arch leading into a downtown area filled with such displays as an outdoor garden of lights that will seem to turn the night sky into day. For more information: (907) 274-3531 or www.anchorage.net.

Lubec, Maine: The small town of Lubec, Maine, will usher in the new year with fireworks at dawn rather than midnight. Lubec, the easternmost point in the continental United States, is taking advantage of its distinction: Residents and visitors can park cars at the water's edge and face east to see one of North America's first sunrises of 2000. For more information: www.nemaine.com/lubecmillennium.

Louisville, Ky.: It sounds like science fiction: At the stroke of midnight, a "phototonic transmitter" (giant laser), will power up and launch the official Millennium Message of Louisville into deep space. Driven by a massive array of YAG lasers, a collection of humanity's thoughts on the new millennium - sent to the city via e-mail from around the world - will be digitized and beamed into the night sky. For more information: (888) 568-4784.

Philadelphia: More than 2,000 Rockys - identical in gray sweats and navy knit caps - will storm up the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum like the hero of the 1976 Sylvester Stallone movie. The running of the Rockys, at 7 a.m. New Year's Eve, kicks off 24 Events in 24 Hours, a citywide celebration. For more information: (215) 686-2000 or millennium.philadelphia.org.

Key West, Fla.: Key West never drops the ball when celebrating the new year. The Florida city just drops everything else. Thousands will flock to Sloppy Joe's Bar to watch the annual dropping of the conch shell to welcome 2000. The Atlantic Shores Resort invites celebrants to watch as an "alien" is dropped into the resort's swimming pool at the stroke of midnight. If those celebrations are a little too tame, revelers can head over to upper Duval Street, where they can count down as a red, 6-foot-long, high-heeled shoe lowers Sushi, a drag queen, from the balcony of the Bourbon Street Pub/New Orleans House. For more information: (800) 527-8539 or www.fl-keys.com.

Seattle: The party of the century in this neck of the woods takes place at Seattle Center, a 72-acre urban park downtown. The Seattle Millennium Festival, Dec. 26-Jan. 1, is a free family event featuring cultural music and dancing, light shows, a performance by Cirque Eos, a sculptural fire ceremony, art and food vendors and street performers. The celebration peaks at midnight with the launch of thousands of fireworks from the Space Needle.

For more information: (206) 615-0345 or www.seattlecenter.com/millennium.

GRAPHIC: The Queen Mary, a ship turned hotel in Long Beach, is among dozens of California hotels planning New Year's Eve celebrations. The Queen has the advantage of offering front-rail views of the fireworks at midnight.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: December 27, 1999

METRO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1999

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Not a Bad Seat on Mall, Gala Organizers Say

 By SUSAN LEVINE
 Washington Post Staff Writer

The orchestra seats are all taken. If there were a dress circle, it would be filled, too. On New Year's Eve, the closest the hoi polloi will get to the star-packed production at the Lincoln Memorial will be down and out—quite literally—at the edge of the Reflecting Pool.

A map put out yesterday by White House organizers shows that public viewing areas for "America's Millennium Gala" will

start well beyond the drive that encircles the memorial, behind a huge VIP section for such famous faces as Robert De Niro, Elizabeth Taylor and Muhammed Ali.

But the show's co-producer, George Stevens Jr., said distance should matter little for the tens of thousands of people expected on the Mall that night. "We've been very attentive and most interested in making this work for the public," he said.

Four huge video screens will be near the stage and along the south-

ern edge of the Reflecting Pool to provide close-ups of host Will Smith and nearly three hours worth of entertainers. An extensive sound system will carry the music well down the Mall, Stevens said, so that people will have no trouble hearing Bono, Luther Vandross, Usher and Tom Jones—four more performers whose names were added to the program yesterday.

And anyway, by midnight, the best seats in the open-air house will be those facing in the other direction. When the aerial pyrotechnics

begin at 11:59:50, Stevens said with delight, the people farther out will have "the absolute best view of the only, once-in-a-lifetime . . . illumination of the Washington Monument."

In several key ways, the Dec. 31 production will differ significantly from its most frequent comparison, the annual Fourth of July show at the Mall's Sylvan Theatre. That owes in part to the demands of the site: The Lincoln Memorial drops away sharply from its top steps, pushing the public back farther.

The size of the show also has required special staging accommodations.

"It's a very unique situation," said Vikki Keys, a deputy superintendent at the National Park Service.

In addition, given increasingly dire alerts this week about possible terrorist attacks in the United States over the holidays, the gala's organizers have scrutinized their plans. But there apparently has

See GALA, B4, Col. 1

Producers Put Finishing Touches on Mall Bash

GALA, From B1

been no discussion of scrapping the show.

"They've done what they could to strike a balance between security, overcrowding and the reality of the terrain," a White House official said.

U.S. Park Police will be out in force, as will the Secret Service because of the presence of President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton. Metal detectors will be posi-

tioned in certain areas.

"It's not going to be business as usual. Things will be increased as far as visitor protection," a Park Police supervisor said.

People who come—braving low temperatures that typically hover just below freezing on Dec. 31—will have to pass through one of four secured entrances off Constitution Avenue, Independence Avenue or 17th Street. Nearly all of the area immediately around the Lincoln Memorial will be off-limits to

the public, according to the White House map.

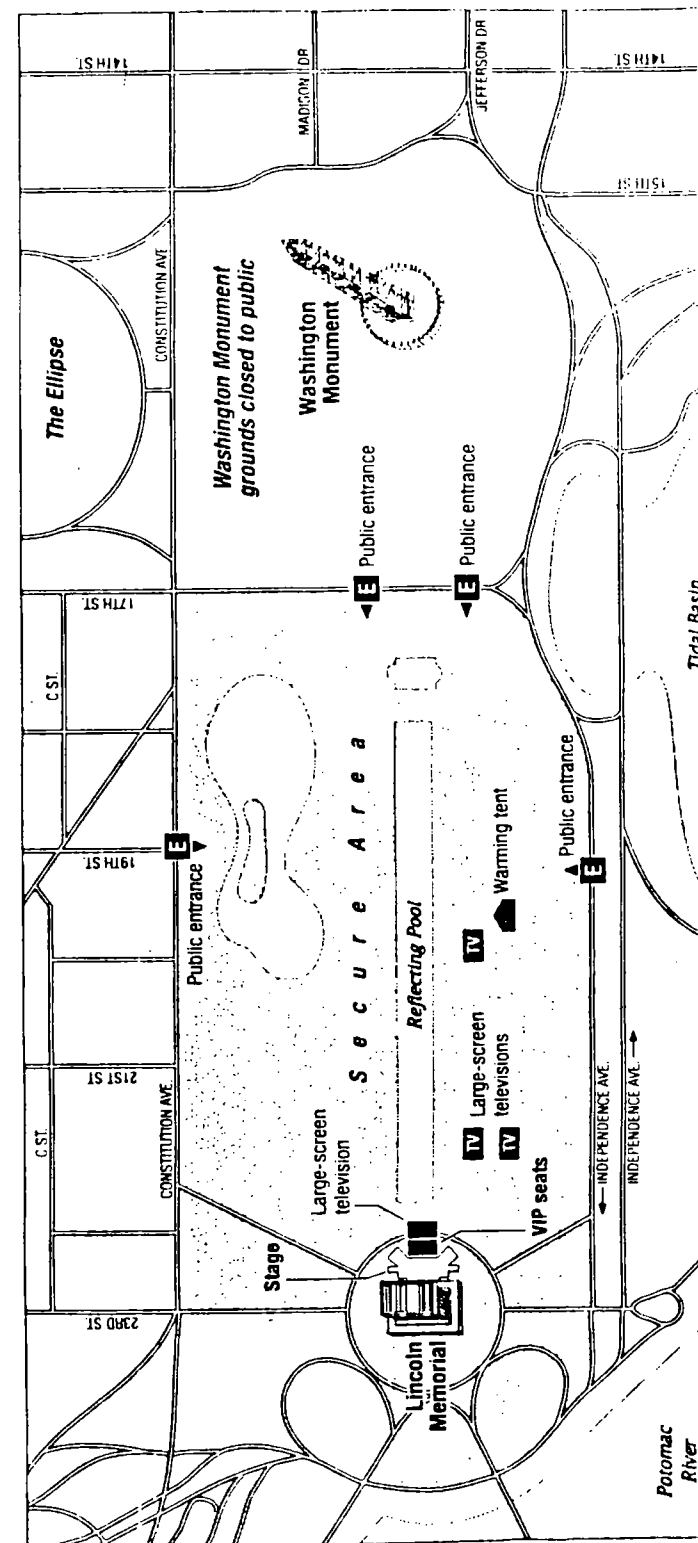
First aid tents will be on either side of the Reflecting Pool, and concessions and souvenirs will be sold from a large warming tent.

As the audience gathers that night, military bands will begin playing at 9 p.m. The Clintons will be bused over with their celebrity entourage at 9:30. The show, broadcast nationally by CBS, will start half an hour later.

Now comes the last-minute fine-

tuning. With only one week to go, construction of the stage is nearly complete, and the fireworks technicians are checking their countdown. Stevens and co-producer Quincy Jones were at the memorial last night looking things over.

"Quincy and I are exhilarated," Stevens said. "We were just out on the stage, looking at the Washington Monument reflected in the Reflecting Pool. . . . It's the best canvas two struggling producers could ask for."



IN THE LOOP

Al Kamen

For George: a Chair, a Wreath and the Works

The planned New Year's Eve millennium fireworks extravaganza, featuring fireworks cascades down the sides of the Washington Monument, is almost certain to be, as event co-producer **George Stevens Jr.** says, "a once-in-a-lifetime sight."

That's because the scheme had to overcome a federal rule against hanging things from the monument and some strong objections from the National Park Service. NPS, after a meeting about two weeks ago between Stevens and NPS chief **Robert Stanton**, nixed the idea of using the Founding Father's monument as a giant launch pad.

NPS officials said a long-standing regulation—enacted to keep the monument off-limits to anti-war, abortion and other demonstrators—barred hanging explosives from the monument.

The Park Service apparently was concerned that pyrotechnics can be a bit dirty and it had just spent more than \$10 million to clean the monument. Also, the Park Service is renting that scaffolding by the day and was hoping to take it down by the end of the year or thereabouts, but this will delay that and the reopening of the monument. And then there was the question of creating a precedent for getting an exemption to the regulation—not for some important political issue with free speech implications or even for some patriotic event—but for a New Year's Eve bash.

But this will never do, the millennium planners protested. Their exceptionally fine plan would have **President Clinton** light some kind of fuse at the Lincoln Memorial that would go down along the reflecting pool and then over to and up the monument to start the cascades and other explosions. This would be huge, extraordinary—millennial!

So, not to be deterred, the millennium planning folks went to the White House to see if they could roll the Park Service. The story gets a bit murky here. Naturally, there were suspicions of political string-pulling, what with **Steven Spielberg** and other big contributors involved, but White House folks say their lawyers simply referred the planners' lawyers to the Department of Interior. No indication of any call from Clinton to Interior Secretary **Bruce Babbitt**, said an Interior Department spokesman, only questions

from the planners on "how to make this happen." And guess what? Department lawyers scampered down Wednesday—that would be the 200th anniversary of **George Washington's** death—to file a rule revision in the Federal Register to allow the fireworks.

A key point favoring the move is that the rule against using the "restricted zone" around the monument had an "exception" for the "official annual commemorative Washington birthday celebration," according to the filing.

Of course, that "exception" only allows chairs to be set up near the monument and a wreath to be placed inside the monument at the foot of Washington's statue.

Chairs, fireworks. Hey, one exception's as good as another.

Francis, Airborne Till His Wings Get Clipped

Highflying National Transportation Safety Board vice chairman **Robert T. Francis** may be spending more time on the ground next year. His five-year term expires at the end of the month, though he may stay on for a couple of weeks.

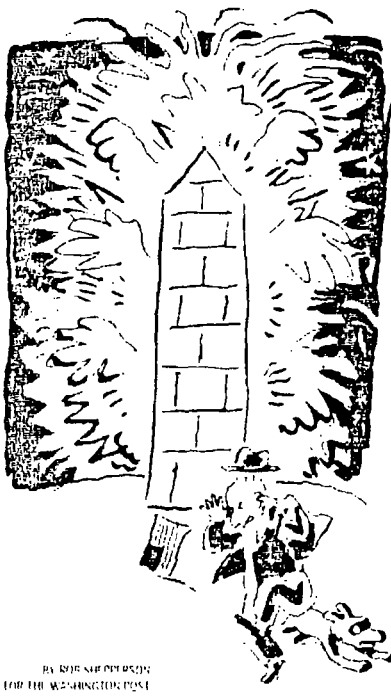
Francis, who hasn't been talking much to colleagues since he learned he was not being renominated—he ruffled feathers by skipping holiday and goodbye parties for senior officials—is

reported to have circumnavigated the globe at least three times to carry out his NTSB duties.

And there was still one more trip to go. This was a 10-day jaunt last month to Paris, Brussels and Toulouse on his way to a speech in Morocco. NTSB paid only \$2,366.18 and the Moroccan government picked up the rest.

NEC and NEC

The National Economic Council is gearing up: **Gigi Georges**, director of government relations for the American Federation of Teachers, is to be National Economic Council chief **Gene Sperling's** overall right-hand policy person on several big issues, including China and the World Trade Organization. Also, California lawyer **David Tseng**, who worked at the Labor Department in this administration and went home to be chief assistant treasurer of San Francisco, returns to be NEC staff director. And, history professor **Sean Dobson**, who worked at the Holocaust museum, is advising on communications and strategy.



Smithsonian Sets Final New Year's Party Plan

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Smithsonian Institution's party planners yesterday issued the final word on their New Year's weekend headliners: The king will be coming, the queen won't.

Legendary bluesman B.B. King will appear the afternoon of Jan. 2 as part of the Smithsonian's "America's Millennium on the Mall" festivities, although not in an outdoor concert as organizers announced prematurely in September. Instead, King will play and talk about the evolution of his music in the far more intimate setting of the National Museum of Natural History's 565-seat Baird Auditorium.

Intimacy has its drawbacks, however. Tickets for New Year's weekend programs became available only on Monday, and those for King already are gone—although Smithsonian officials were not allowed even to utter the initials B.B. publicly until today because of contractual obligations related to the musician's concert last night at

Constitution Hall.

The Smithsonian had hoped for a similar millennial "conversation" with the queen of soul, Aretha Franklin, who agreed months ago to perform Jan. 2 on the Mall. But when budget constraints forced organizers to move the program to three museum auditoriums, Franklin's promoters nixed her participation. The changed venue also led to the cancellation of rock-and-roller Chuck Berry's Jan. 1 show.

"We're disappointed, of course," said Richard Kurin, director of the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies and the man in charge of the weekend's exhibits, readings and lectures. "Because we've changed the nature of the event . . . we feel we cannot do inside a museum what they'd like to do."

Although Franklin and Berry were among the biggest names in the initial lineup, Kurin is taking their loss in stride. More than 50 people—from actor Edward James Olmos and civil rights activist and scholar Julian Bond to scientists at

the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute—are part of the eclectic discussions and performances the Smithsonian will offer Dec. 31-Jan. 2.

About 12,000 people will be able to attend the nearly three dozen events in the auditoriums at the National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of American History and the Hirshhorn Museum. About 5,000 tickets—which are free but required for admission—already have been requested through the Smithsonian's number (202-786-9115 or 202-633-9467 TTY).

"My only sorrow is we don't have places to accommodate larger audiences," Kurin said. Already, tickets also are gone for the Dec. 31 discussion with Neil Gershenfeld of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on future technologies.

One small consolation is that all sessions will be taped for dissemination through cyberspace Webcasts. The schedule, including plans for the outdoor gala that will begin at 10 p.m. New Year's Eve at the Lincoln Memorial, is on the Internet at

www.americasmillennium.gov.

The Smithsonian's program schedule and ticket information also are listed today in the Weekend section of The Post.

Details for the District's "Main Street Millennium" on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 are still being fine-tuned, though city officials said yesterday that a complete schedule soon will be posted on the Internet at www.2000dc.com. The centerpiece of the free D.C. festival, which will stretch four blocks of Constitution Avenue NW, will be the "Millennium Washington Stage" at 12th Street. Music will begin at 11:30 a.m. on New Year's Eve with the Latin band Ivan Cuesta y sus Vallenatos Autenticos, and Big Joe & the Joe Stanley Quartet will swing from 10 p.m. to nearly midnight.

Organizers said yesterday that about two dozen food vendors will offer Jamaican, Indian, Asian and other cuisines in heated pavilions that will spotlight each of the city's quadrants. The city is charging each vendor a \$1,000 upfront fee and will receive 15 percent of sales.

PARTY CLASHERS

Next November, Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani will trade political punches in a battle to win a New York Senate seat. But first, these Capitol Hill hopefuls square off to determine whose New Year's Eve wingding will be wilder.

	VENUE	PICKING UP THE TAB	FINGER FOOD	WARM-FUZZY FACTOR	RAZZLE-DAZZLE	GRAND FINALE
 HILLARY	 Washington, D.C.: The Mall site of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.	Private donors lingered by Terry McAuliffe, the Dems' super shake-down man. 	 A free food fair running along Constitution Avenue.	An 18-minute Steven Spielberg film "expressing the highlights of the twentieth century." 	 Will Smith hosting a concert featuring Aretha Franklin, Chuck Berry, and B.B. King.	Top-secret Midnight Moment sound-and-light display. 
 RUDY	 New York City: Times Square, site of MTV's "I Wanna Be a VJ" contest.	The Discover Card, Waterford Crystal, and Korbel champagne. 	 \$2 pretzels and soft drinks on most corners.	Live big-screen broadcasts of millennium celebrations from cities around the globe. 	 24 separate acts set to go off as each time zone welcomes the new millennium.	The ever popular Ball Drop, followed by an even more impressive subway exodus. 
AND THE WINNER IS...	Rudy Giant digital tickers allow hixtoner to send real-time behavioral edicts to the gathered throngs.	Rudy The first lady may wish she saved the \$12.5 million spent on her shindig for the Senate race.	Hillary Though this White House life will never be mistaken for Martha Stewart, you can't beat free grub.	Hillary Spielberg knows schmaltz. The centennial roundup trumps the 2000 remix of "We Are the World."	Rudy This Broadway repic pleases by setting back by bus, by train, on the Great White Way.	Hillary Partygoers do like tradition, but they love a surprise.

George magazine
Dec / Jan 2000



HOW WILL THEY SPEND NEW YEAR'S?

BILL AND HILLARY CLINTON

The First Couple will mix with the people at ceremonies along the National Mall in Washington.

Then they will attend a show produced by Quincy Jones that will showcase music by John Williams, a 17-min. film by Steven Spielberg and the marching units of the U.S. Armed Forces. Aretha Franklin and Will Smith are among the celebrities who will join the festivities

**DONALD TRUMP**

The man who would be President is throwing a party at the Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla. Gladys Knight will perform

**EVANDER HOLYFIELD**

The former champ will be praying at the World Changers Church in Georgia. Service starts at 10 p.m.

**RICKY MARTIN**

He's leaving La Vida Loca to spend the evening with his family in Puerto Rico

**KIRSTIE ALLEY**

The *Veronica's Closet* star will be in Paris with her boyfriend when the clock winds down

**RICHARD SIMMONS**

"It will be a spotty one for me," says TV's frenetically cheery fitness guru. "It will be me and my Dalmatians listening to Broadway tunes. And, yes, they will be wearing millennium party hats." Maybe he can see if Dave Letterman is doing anything



JOHN MCCAIN
The Republican hopeful will spend New Year's with his family at a cabin in Cottonwood, Ariz.



“I will be spending New Year's at home in Los Angeles with my kids and husband ... just the four of us, something very simple.”

—PAMELA ANDERSON LEE



millennium,” says Imtiaz Muqbil, executive editor of Travel Impact Newswire. In London there's a prospect of empty seats greeting the Queen and the Prime Minister as they open the much vaunted Millennium Dome on New Year's Eve, while all six suites in the New York City Palace's \$25,000 “Splurge of the Century” are yours for the taking.

There are economic reasons for some of these millennial disappointments. Predictions of widespread, money's-no-object revels were just that—predictions, of an event that hasn't occurred since the airplane was invented, the Crusades gave way to package tours and Dick Clark was soldered together in a top-secret government warehouse. So proprietors aimed for the stratosphere and whiffed. Hotels super-sized their room rates; tour operators assessed \$1,000 cancellation fees; property owners in New York City and Miami put up their pads for sublet at five-figure rates (few takers, so far); British star chef Marco Pierre White tried and failed to auction off private parties at his restaurants at Sotheby's in London. Even in this boom time, the millennium is, like Yogi Berra's fabled night spot, so crowded nobody goes there.

New Year's Eve, of course, is known for disappointment, freighted with the pressure to be the wildest night of the year but often ending in ennui, regret and beer stains. Is this one simply shaping up to be a letdown on a millennial scale? Not necessarily. Party planners and business people predict that customers will start filling hotels, parties and restaurants in the next few weeks—especially if prices drop enough.

BUT MORE IMPORTANT, AN UNDERBOOKED New Year's is a letdown only by a fairly consumerist measure, one that assumes you can divine enthusiasm and millennial spirit in terms of buzz and box office, units moved and luxury suites occupied. People are not so much dismissing the event as trying to determine how to mark it in a way that's meaningful to them. So a lot of people are making low-key, local plans, like neighbors and single dads Bruce Rave and

Charlie O'Dowd of Albuquerque, N.M., who are planning a minimalist block party. “We'll set up a tent with a kerosene heater for the old people and probably me too,” says Rave, 45. There will be meat cooking on propane grills—no electricity at this Y2K-themed party—and plenty of soccer, football, basketball and Hula Hoops. “Kids and adults playing together in the street—a family day,” says O'Dowd, 48. “We had this type of party constantly when I was growing up, and I want it to be memorable, you know, turn of the century and family and community.”

That's a heavy burden for one little weenie roast. But across the country and the world, people are finding as many reasons to stay in this New Year's Eve as to go out. Most boil down to one thing: other people. With no basis in nature, the passage of a thousand years is a man-made phenomenon, and so are its attendant worries. The question of how you mark this millennium is partly a question of faith—not reli-

Approximately how much will you spend on this New Year's?

32% \$1 to \$50

29% \$51 to \$300

8% Over \$300

18% Nothing

13% Not sure

METRO

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1999

White House Plans Starry, Starry Night

*Celebrities to Pack Washington
For New Year's Weekend Events*

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

White House organizers finally raised the curtain yesterday on New Year's weekend festivities on the Mall, revealing a cast of performers and speakers including actor Robert Duvall, singer Jessye Norman, basketball great Bill Russell and children's author David Wisniewski.

Although the Smithsonian Institution will host three days of indoor activities—dozens of discussions about subjects both esoteric and everyday—the brightest spotlight will be on the Lincoln Memorial and the nationally televised New Year's Eve show that actor Will Smith will host starting at 10 p.m.

Joining Smith will be country singer Trisha Yearwood, Norman and fellow opera diva Kathleen Battle, Duvall and actors Sam Waterston and Diane Keaton. Also appearing will be gospel singer Bebe Winans, the New York cast of the musical hit "Stomp," Brian Stokes Mitchell, former star of Broadway's "Ragtime," and numerous other celebrities that organizers, intent on the element of surprise, declined yesterday to identify.

But they promised that the three-hour spectacle, the creation of musician Quincy Jones and producer-director George Stevens Jr., will live up to its advance billing and offer a thoughtful melange of 20th-century America.

"It's meant to be moving and uplifting rather than just a musical show," said Paul McCarthy, executive director of America's Millennium, the entity coordinating all Mall events that weekend. The Lincoln Memorial has stood witness to key moments in history, he noted: "The setting where we're doing this puts us at a high standard."

As midnight approaches, a live orchestra will premiere a score by award-winning composer John Williams as images of the American century—tableaux chosen by movie maker Steven Spielberg—play on giant screens on three sides of the Reflecting Pool. New works by U.S. poet laureate Rob-



Scheduled to participate in millennial events, from top: actor Will Smith, actress Diane Keaton, singer Jessye Norman and actor Robert Duvall.

Starry, Starry Night Planned as Part of New Year's Weekend

MILLENNIUM, From B1

ert Pinsky, his predecessor Rita Dove and poet-writer Maya Angelou will accompany the orchestral-film arrangement.

From Dec. 31 to Jan. 2, the Smithsonian's diverse lectures and demonstrations will focus on a trio of themes—"Future Visions" at the Hirshhorn Museum, "American Voices" at the Museum of Natural History, and "Story Circle" at the Museum of American History.

At the natural history museum, the lineup will include musician Ricky Skaggs, who will play and talk about that distinctly American art form of bluegrass, and Susan Butcher, who will recount her repeated championship runs on the Alaskan Iditarod.

At the Hirshhorn, a panel of chefs will prognosticate on the future of American taste, and scientists such as MIT's Neil Gershenfeld will discuss science, technologies, future explorations and extraterrestrial intelligence.

At the American history museum, Sweet Honey in the Rock founder Bernice Johnson Reagon and music legend Ella Jenkins will wax mellifluous, while authors and storytellers for children and adults alike will read aloud.

In addition, an interactive exhibit at the Air and Space Museum will offer visitors a chance to participate in "Launch 2000," a nationwide project challenging students to design the first village settlement on Mars, circa 2030.

Officials estimate that 12,000 people will attend Smithsonian activities, which

have been moved inside because of budgetary constraints. A complete schedule, with the times of all lectures and exhibits, will be available in early December. Previously announced appearances by rock-n-roller Chuck Berry and soul queen Aretha Franklin still are being negotiated.

Also yesterday, organizers of the District's two-day festival along Constitution Avenue NW announced more performers who will help the city ring in the New Year. They include master percussionist Okyerema Asante, the Midnight Movers reggae band, the Keter Betts Quintet and the BET Urban Nation Hip Hop choir.

The president and first lady will celebrate New Year's Eve with a White House "Creators Dinner" to honor some of the country's most prominent figures in sports, arts and sciences. Playwrights Edward Albee, August Wilson, Arthur Miller and Neil Simon will be among them, as well as musicians Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zuckerman, and Marilyn Horne; and dancers Edward Villella and Arthur Mitchell. Artist Robert Rauschenberg, architect Maya Lin, Olympian Carl Lewis and Internet co-founder Vinton Cerf will attend, too.

After dinner, a motorcade will take the Clintons and their guests to the Lincoln Memorial, where they will join a Mall crowd that—depending on the weather—could number 100,000 people, organizers said.

And then, at 10 p.m., come sleet or snow, the show will go on.

Mall's Millennium Bash

Smithsonian's Event Scaled Back, Moved Indoors

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Smithsonian Institution is moving its New Year's millennium celebration indoors and scaling back the scope of the three-day event, a signal that fund-raising has not kept pace with the more ambitious party plans announced earlier by the White House.

Officials say that the Smithsonian activities, featuring prominent figures and programs in the arts, sciences and culture, will be just as stimulating and fun and that the New Year's Eve concert at the Lincoln Memorial and midnight fireworks will go on as scheduled.

Still, bringing the daytime events inside definitely will alter the character of the "Millennium on the Mall," which had been advertised as a panoply of "pavilions and museums stretching along the

Mall from the U.S. Capitol to the Washington Monument."

With just six weeks to go—and deadlines looming even sooner on contracts for performers and equipment—budget issues forced the decision, said Richard Kurin, the Smithsonian's director of the Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies. A major weekend program costs about \$1 million, he noted, whereas the price tag can be three times that

much for an outdoor event at which tents, generators, public amenities and security must be arranged.

Some programs and panel discussions may be combined because of space constraints. The plus, however, is that the indoor setting will be "a bit more intimate and a bit more focused." Also, Kurin noted, "it makes it warmer."

See SMITHSONIAN, B4, Col. 1

Smithsonian Event Moved Inside

SMITHSONIAN, From B1

For now, the Smithsonian plans to use its Museum of American History, Museum of Natural History and the Hirshhorn Museum for an array of performances, demonstrations and talks Dec. 31 through Jan. 2. Baird Auditorium in the Natural History Museum holds fewer than 600 people, while Carmichael and Ring auditoriums at the two other sites have only 270 seats each.

The move parallels a decision last month by D.C. officials to downsize the festival they're planning along a four-block section of Constitution Avenue; instead of three days, their "Main Street Millennium" will take place Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Together, the changes suggest that fund-raising targets for these mega-events were too ambitious or that the work to bring in the bucks started too late. Money concerns have greatly complicated planning—from putting down deposits on tents to confirming guest performers to concerns about losing deposits if venues change or are canceled.

"It takes a large effort that got started pretty late and that's running up against lots of other things," said one official involved with the national celebration.

"We've hustled like hell" to organize the District's festival, said mayoral assistant Sandy McCall. He said \$800,000 is in hand or pledged for an event he expects to cost under \$1 million. In addition, the D.C. financial control board has approved a \$175,000 float loan from the Washington Convention Center Authority to use for millennium-themed programs through 2000.

But McCall concedes the lost opportunity: "If we'd started a year ago..."

Kurin declined Tuesday to say how much money he has received from America's Millennium, the entity coordinating all Mall events among three federal groups.

Its chief fund-raiser, Terry McAuliffe, the same lead money man for the Clinton presidential library, to name just one project, said he couldn't answer any questions about expenditures. He declined to specify how much of his \$10 million target he's met but emphasized that, in the end, the fund-raising will do "exactly what we said we

were going to do."

At a news conference with Hillary Rodham Clinton in late September, organizers pegged their budget at \$12.5 million. America's Millennium executive director, Paul McCarthy, indicated this week that television rights cover the rest of the funding. CBS purchased the rights to broadcast the star-spangled New Year's Eve show, which is being produced by composer-musician Quincy Jones and filmmaker George Stevens Jr. Neither the producers nor the network will say how much CBS paid.

"You have to work it incrementally, and it all comes together in the end," McCarthy said, voicing confidence in McAuliffe's ability to deliver the money. "Any privately funded program is a challenge."

McCarthy supports bringing the Smithsonian events indoors. "Not having to deal with the weather... probably will be a good thing," he said. "I think it's going to come together excellently."

Additional details of the New Year's Eve weekend program may be announced next week, organizers said, letting the general public know who is performing—as well as when and where. Some of the stars in the audience VIP section Dec. 31 may attract just as much attention: McAuliffe said Muhammad Ali, Robert DeNiro and Martin Scorsese have accepted invitations to be the Clintons' guests that night.

Although the District hopes to spend most of 2000 commemorating its bicentennial as the nation's capital, McCall said, the money raised so far will pay for the two-day New Year's festival on Constitution Avenue between 10th and 14th streets NW.

Most of that funding is coming from sponsorship commitments, he said. Pledges from five individuals and corporations make up a quarter of the \$800,000, including one contribution of \$100,000. Except for District Cablevision and America Online, which are sponsoring media and technology tents, McCall wouldn't identify contributors.

The reluctance of city and White House organizers to release more specific budget numbers and the names of sponsors and other contributors contrasts with the approach of Maryland 2000, the organization marking the millennial year in that state. The group has

posted a sponsorship list on its Web site and, a spokeswoman said, raised about \$850,000 of its \$1 million goal.

Staff writer Angela Paik contributed to this report.

Washington Post
11/19/1999



BY FRANK JOHNSTON—THE WASHINGTON POST

Vinod Gupta is the lone individual donor identified by organizers of Mall festivities.

Businessman Is One in a Million With Mega-Gift

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Washington's millennium celebrations could use a few more folks like Vinod Gupta.

The Omaha businessman is the only donor to the New Year's festivities fund who has been identified by officials organizing the White House-promoted events on the Mall. His seven-figure contribution was announced very publicly—at a September news conference with Hillary Rodham Clinton. Since then, those federal officials and also the District officials putting together a separate city-sponsored party on Constitution Av-

enue NW have declined to name any other individuals who are helping to pay for the three days of celebration.

Which leaves Gupta, and his \$1 million check, alone in the spotlight.

"I've been blessed with a lot of good fortune," he said, as if that alone might explain why he decided to help stage the White House show in such generous fashion. He'd called the first lady's chief fund-raiser, Terry McAuliffe, to ask how he could assist, and was told money would be nice. "I figured, a million dollars is a million dollars, but what the hell."

Gupta is no stranger to fund-raisers. He's given much and often to Demo-

cratic candidates and causes during the last eight years, including U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey (Neb.), Bill Clinton, Al Gore, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the Democratic National Committee. In 1997, public-interest groups accused him of buying his way into the running for the consular general post in Bermuda. The job went to someone else.

The 53-year-old Gupta is a philanthropist of some note in Nebraska, where he founded the company now called InfoUSA Inc., and in his native India, where his parents still live. His village of

See MILLION, B4, Col. 1

For Millennium Celebration, Donor Stands Alone in Spotlight

MILLION, From B1

Rampur Manhyaran, about 100 miles north of New Delhi, had no electricity, roads, toilets or phones when he was growing up. He left in 1967—with \$58 in his pocket, according to his biography—to attend graduate school at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

The village still doesn't have reliable electricity, but it soon will open a technical trade school for women with another \$1 million gift by Gupta. He's given twice that much to the Indian Institutes of Technology, where he received an

undergraduate engineering degree, as well as \$2.5 million to the University of Nebraska.

InfoUSA, which markets business and consumer databases, today is a \$300 million firm with some 2,000 employees, and Gupta owns houses in Omaha, Colorado, California and Hawaii. Come Dec. 31, though, he'll be on the Mall. His donation should guarantee him a choice seat for the glitzy evening show and fireworks at the Lincoln Memorial.

"I would have loved a quiet New Year's Eve," he said. "But this is definitely worth it."

November 15, 1999, Monday, ALL EDITIONS

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LENGTH: 527 words

HEADLINE: NATION'S CAPITAL PROMISES ''BIG BASH'' TO GREET NEW YEAR;
WILL SMITH, ARETHA FRANKLIN AND CHUCK BERRY ARE SOME OF THE STARS WHO HAVE;
COMMITTED TO PERFORMING AT ''AMERICA'S MILLENNIUM: A CELEBRATION FOR THE;
NATION.''

BYLINE: BY BOB DART COX NEWS SERVICE

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Promising ''no ordinary party'' for ''no ordinary time,'' first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton invited America to a Y2K bash in the nation's capital.

''Music of our century will be rocking and rolling, swinging and soaring through the air,'' said Hillary Clinton in announcing details of a three-day event called ''America's Millennium: A Celebration for the Nation.''

On New Year's Eve, actor and rapper Will Smith will host a show at the Lincoln Memorial that will be televised live on CBS, beginning at 10 p.m. The program will include an 18-minute film highlighting the 20th century that will be produced by Steven Spielberg. Half an hour before midnight, the movie titled ''The Unfinished Journey'' will premiere on giant outdoor screens as an orchestra plays an original score by composer John Williams.

Organizers of ''America's Millennium'' said in a statement that ''great stars of the entertainment world will perform'' but would only confirm appearances by Aretha Franklin, Chuck Berry and Mickey Hart (former drummer of the Grateful Dead). Producer George Stevens Jr. conceded that many top entertainers have long been booked for millennium appearances - Barbra Streisand, for example - but he predicted plenty of celebrity power at the Washington event.

The show will be ''extravagantly entertaining,'' Stevens vowed. He said the show will be an ''expression of what this country is all about.''

Stevens, the producer of the movie ''The Thin Red Line'' and the creator of the television events ''The Kennedy Center Honors'' and ''Christmas in Washington,'' will co-produce ''America's Millennium Gala'' with composer and musician Quincy Jones.

Organizers said President Clinton and the first lady will attend the Lincoln Memorial affair. The televised event in Washington will rival the traditional Times Square New Year's Eve celebration in New York.

Hillary Clinton, Stevens and District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams announced the millennium plans recently at the Old Executive Office Building, next door to the White House. They said \$ 12.5 million has been budgeted for the national events, with funding coming from private donations and the sale of TV rights. The celebration will begin on New Year's Eve of 1999 and last through Jan. 2, 2000.

In addition to the national celebration, Williams said the District will sponsor a ''Main Street Millennium'' block party along Constitution on Dec. 31. Despite fears that the Y2K bug might render some computers useless, the mayor vowed that ''lights won't go out'' and ''all systems are going to work.'' He urged tourists to book hotel rooms early.

Hillary Clinton said ''America's Millennium'' will include the unveiling of a national time capsule that will ''show future generations how we lived and what we valued most in our time.'' At the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, located near the White House, giant screens will show millennium celebrations and events from around the world.

The arrival of the new millennium will be heralded by a ''Midnight Moment'' of fireworks and a laser light display between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.

LOAD-DATE: November 17, 1999

METRO

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1999

Obituaries
Federal Diary
Weather
Sports
Arts
Real Estate

Millennium Celebration For the City

Constitution Ave. Block Party
to Star D.C. Food and Music

SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Sandy McCall is looking for a few more stilt people, so, some wandering minstrels and magicians, a corps of jitterbuggers, another theater troupe or two. And definitely Thomas Paine.

They're all needed for "Main Street Millennium," the New Year's celebration the District will put on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. The family-friendly festival, details of which are released over the weekend, will be held along Constitution Avenue NW and is intended to showcase some of the best sights and sounds of the city at the local—meaning real people—level.

The extended block party will include two major performance stages, community exhibits focusing on the past and the future, and a "town hall" wall on which participants will post their hopes for Washington in the 21st century.

"This is a work in progress, but we have a very definite vision for these blocks," said McCall, a special assistant to Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) and the man charged with pulling everything together.

The 20-hour food-and-music festival is the city's counterpart to the three-day spectacle the White House and Smithsonian Institution are hosting on the Mall at weekend. Although the District is a declared participant in that event, officials in the Marion Barry administration had announced that the District would throw its own affair, too—in part to kick off a year of celebrating Washington's bicentennial as the nation's capital. Unfortunately, no one got around to any real plan-

District Party Strives for 'Simplicity'

MILLENNIUM, From B1

ning or fund-raising until summer. And in any case, it would have been hard to compete with Will Smith and Steven Spielberg and the other, still unannounced, Hollywood celebs who will play the Lincoln Memorial as the final hours of 1999 count down.

Instead, a nine-person crew of mayoral staff members and contract consultants has opted for a more modest program offering entertainment and education, introspection and prognostication, neighborhood pride and unscripted fun.

"There's so much hype around the millennium now," McCall said. "We want simplicity."

For a cost of "less than \$1 million," which organizers say will be paid for mostly through private donations, the simplicity will stretch from 10th to 14th streets NW. The big stages will be at both ends and will feature rhythm and blues, swing, jazz, gospel and even a mariachi band. Already confirmed are Nap "Don't Forget the Blues" Turner and Mary Jefferson and the Orioles, names that helped put Washington on the musical map during the '50s and '60s.

Seven heated tents, ranging from 4,000 to 10,000 square feet, will house exhibits and food booths.

Through photos and archival documents, four of these pavilions will highlight the communities that make up each quadrant of the city, their history and development—which could be, organizers point out, the first time some city resi-

dents get a true-to-life glimpse of other city neighborhoods. Another tent will present technology, another multimedia.

The food at the city festival may be the biggest draw for those who otherwise might only attend the Mall extravaganza, according to McCall, who talks of the "synergy" local planners are trying to achieve with White House and Smithsonian coordinators. "People are going to go back and forth to the Mall," he predicted.

At several spots along Constitution, "speakers' corners" will be available for anyone wanting to step onto a platform and hold forth in public discourse à la London's Hyde Park. Wandering through the crowd will be the likes of patriot Paine, suffragist Susan B. Anthony and abolitionist Frederick Douglass, folks who will focus on reminding their audience of the rights and liberties for which other Americans have fought and died.

At least that's the idea, and organizers—who will not disclose how much has been raised in contributions—seem fairly confident that will be the case in 60 more days. They say about two-thirds of the musical acts are booked, nearly half of the historical reenactors secured and all the tents, generators and other necessary infrastructure under contract.

Still, acrobats continue to be sought, and performers who do their thing on stilts apparently are in short supply. McCall gave his business card to a saxophone player he chanced upon outside Union Station on Friday morning and

asked him to call (202-727-8449). He's still waiting but hopeful.

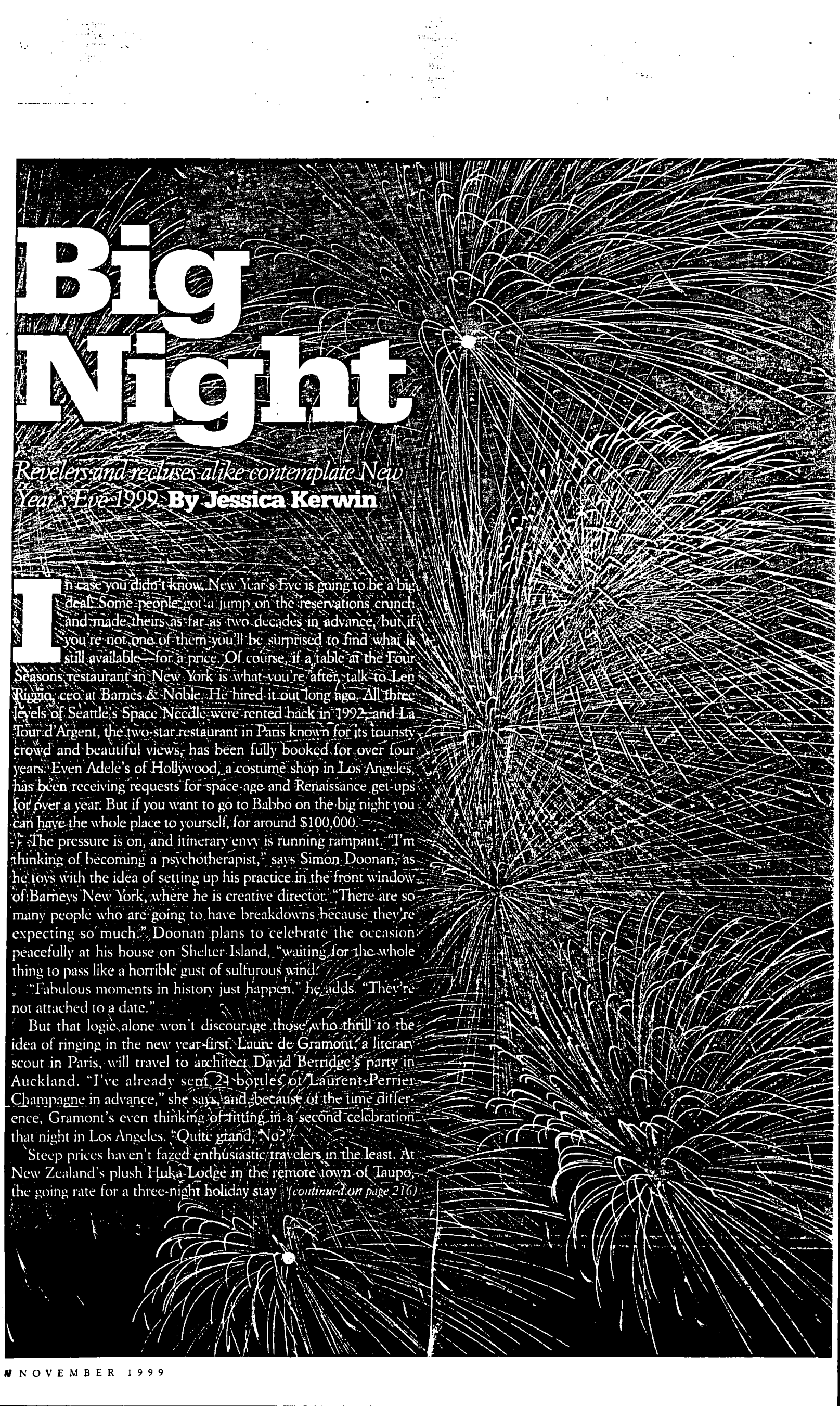
The District's planners are not the only ones trying to book performers at this late date. Last week, a spokeswoman for the White House said additional details of the Mall celebration, including the nationally televised show that actor Will Smith will help host New Year's Eve, might not be released until late this month.

What that means for the scope of that gala is unclear. Definitely, the District's event will be a scaled-down party. Initial proposals were for a three-day festival that would have cost several times the current projected budget. In August, the city broke off negotiations with a prospective organizer. Last month, worried over possible complications because D.C. appropriations had stalled on Capitol Hill, the millennium staff decided the city would largely go it alone.

"They moved forward because, as McCall put it, 'This is what grown-up cities do. They celebrate incredibly rare experiences. . . . We are determined to be a grown-up city.'"

The first invitations have been printed. "Main Street Millennium," they read. "Friday, December 31st, 1999: 11 a.m. to 12 midnight. Saturday, January 1st, 2000: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. . . . Admission is free."

Blues singer Turner, who considers Washington his adopted home, expects the plans to work out fine and make for two fabulous days. "I'm honored to do it," he said Saturday. "It will be a good mechanism for pulling people together."



Big Night

Revelers and recluses alike contemplate New Year's Eve 1999. **By Jessica Kerwin**

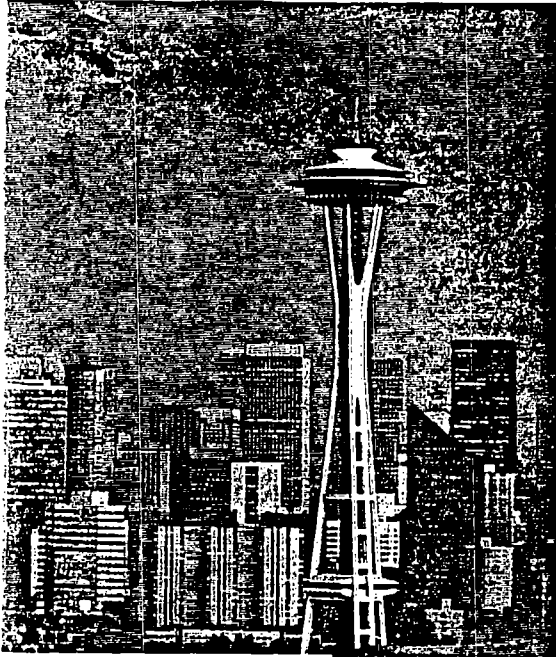
In case you didn't know, New Year's Eve is going to be a big deal. Some people got a jump on the reservations crunch and made theirs as far as two decades in advance, but if you're not one of them you'll be surprised to find what is still available—for a price. Of course, if a table at the Four Seasons restaurant in New York is what you're after, talk to Len Ruggio, ceo at Barnes & Noble. He hired it out long ago. All three levels of Seattle's Space Needle were rented back in 1992, and La Tour d'Argent, the two-star restaurant in Paris known for its touristy crowd and beautiful views, has been fully booked for over four years. Even Adele's of Hollywood, a costume shop in Los Angeles, has been receiving requests for space-age and Renaissance get-ups for over a year. But if you want to go to Babbo on the big night you can have the whole place to yourself, for around \$100,000.

The pressure is on, and itinerary envy is running rampant. "I'm thinking of becoming a psychotherapist," says Simon Doonan, as he toys with the idea of setting up his practice in the front window of Barneys New York, where he is creative director. "There are so many people who are going to have breakdowns because they're expecting so much." Doonan plans to celebrate the occasion peacefully at his house on Shelter Island, "waiting for the whole thing to pass like a horrible gust of sulfurous wind."

"Fabulous moments in history just happen," he adds. "They're not attached to a date."

But that logic alone won't discourage those who thrill to the idea of ringing in the new year first. Laure de Gramont, a literary scout in Paris, will travel to architect David Berridge's party in Auckland. "I've already sent 24 bottles of Laurent-Perrier Champagne in advance," she says, and because of the time difference, Gramont's even thinking of fitting in a second celebration that night in Los Angeles. "Quite grand, No?"

Steep prices haven't fazed enthusiastic travelers in the least. At New Zealand's plush Huka Lodge in the remote town of Taupo, the going rate for a three-night holiday stay (continued on page 216)



Big Night

(continued from page 212) climbed to \$11,750 before it sold out in mid-summer.

Nearby Sydney is a popular destination for Hollywood's celebrants. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman will be sailing its harbor with a crowd of friends. *American Beauty* director Sam Mendes is going Aussie, as is John Leguizamo. "Yeah, baby," says the actor. "I'll be the first one to see the New Year."

Of course the millennium—the perfect excuse for a trip to the tropics—has rockers and socialites alike seeking warmer climes. Mick Jagger has charted a course for Mustique and will set sail with all six of his children, while Jackie de Ravenel will spend the holiday "*en famille*," in the Bahamas at Lyford Cay. Expect Bali to be packed with those who require a little spirituality with their sun.

Egypt is also big on mystical appeal. That's where members of the Millennium Society, who raise money for an international scholarship program, will throw their black-tie gala, riding to the foot of the Great Pyramid of Cheops. The event has been in the works since 1979.

But just as many have planned excursions to exotic locales that are, well, a little more socialite. Nancy Hammond will hit a party in Cuernavaca, Mexico, while Tori Spelling Hawaii with her brother. "It's such a spiritual and beautiful place," says Spelling. "It seems like the right place to ring in a new century."

It's a popular notion. While the Lodge at Koele and the Māhela Hotel in Lanai—where Bill Gates staged his lavish wedding—each have a handful of rooms available, the bulk of their accommodations snapped up in 1994 when a couple from New Jersey decided to stay there with 198 guests.

Some claim, however, to be leaving their plans to fate—they're just holding out. "I just know all the things I'm *not* doing," says CAA superagent Bryan Lourd. "I know I'm late—but these things take time to come together."

Rupert Everett foresees a night playing bartender wherever he ends up in the U.S. "I'll be making myself a vim 'n' vodka," he says. "It's impossible to go anywhere because everything has been booked, years—in advance."

China Chow—homebound? "I don't know," sighs the actress. "I know some people who are going to Hawaii, and so many of my friends are going to New Zealand. But maybe I'll just end up at home."

Indecision will hold back some of society's most dedicated travelers, but others hesitate to travel because of the risk that the world's

"Fabulous moments in history just happen," says Doonan.

Simon Doonan: Seeking shelter on Shelter Island

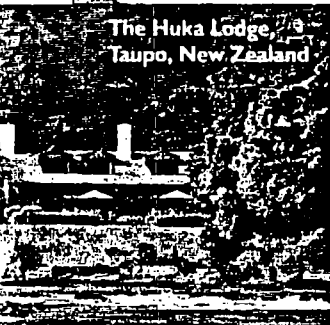
Above: Seattle's Space Needle. Right: Sydney-bound Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise. Below: The celebrated cuisine at Babbo in New York.



The Mena House Oberoi

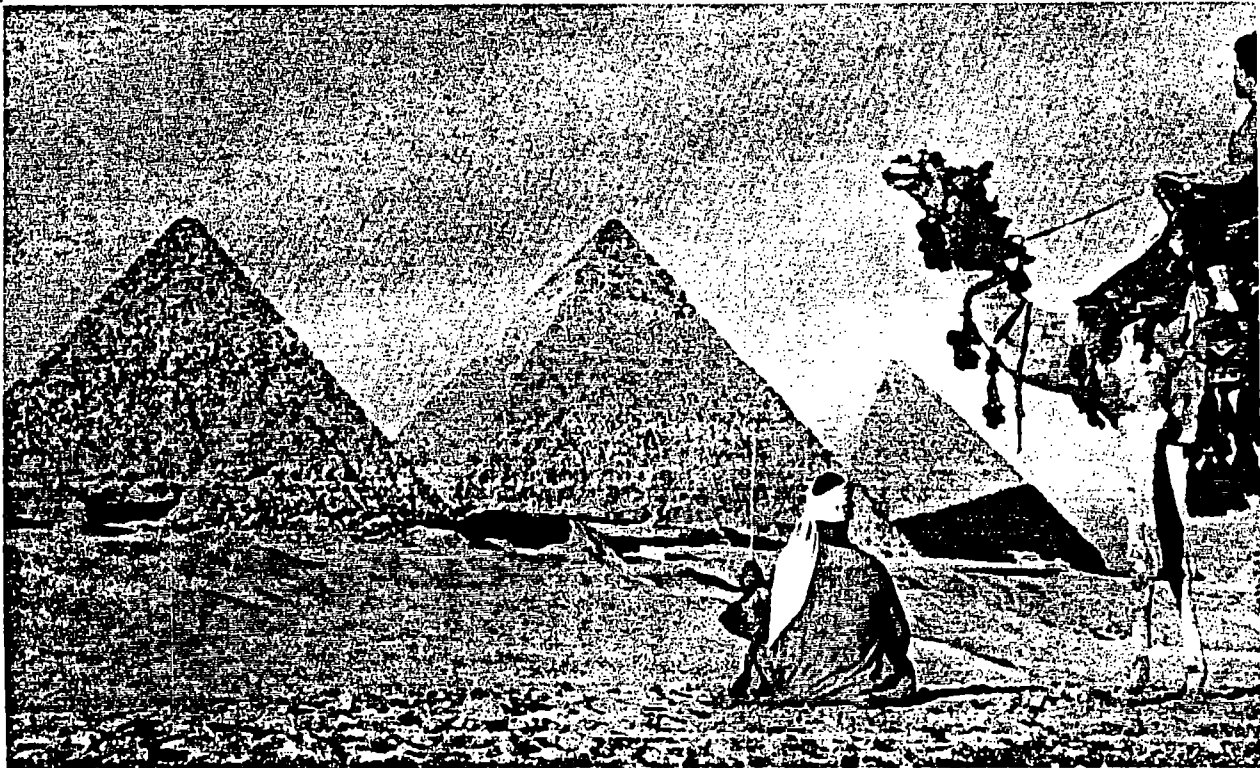
Big Tip

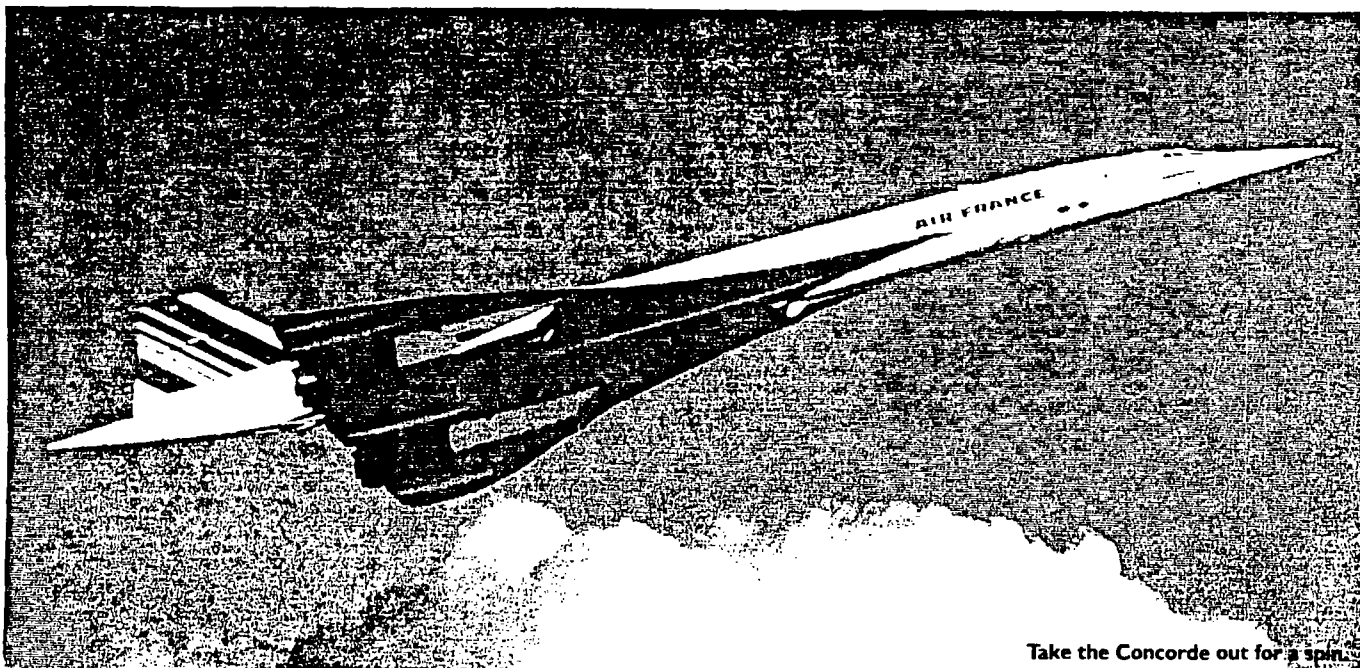
The best place to watch the unveiling of Cheops' restored golden peak during festivities at the base of the pyramids in Giza, Cairo, is from the terrace of the luxe Mena House Oberoi's gilded Churchill Suite. Too bad it's been booked since 1988.



The Huka Lodge, Taupo, New Zealand

Right: Revelers will ride to the pyramids on camelback for gala festivities there on New Year's Eve.





Take the Concorde out for a spin.

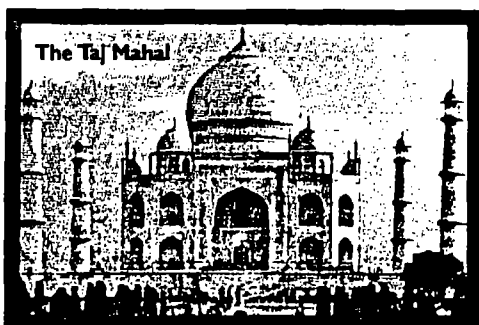


could suddenly go on the fritz. Beauty queen Gale Hayman, who regularly spends New Year's with her husband, Bill Haseltine, in Europe or India, has decided to stay Stateside, taking a house in Southampton instead. "We're bringing our cook from New York," Hayman reports, "and we're celebrating with friends. This year we didn't want to take a chance."

New York socialite Nina Griscom will also celebrate American style, in Palm Beach with her husband and daughter and a group of friends that includes Vera Wang and Arthur Becker. "I do have my flight reservation, which is something," she boasts.

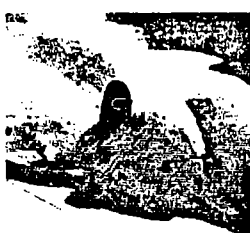
New mother Aerin Lauder Zinterhofer, of the cosmetics dynasty, has made plans to be in Palm Beach as well, but flight reservations are the least of her concerns. "I'll get excited about the New Year as long as I have a babysitter," she says.

Enticing travelers to remain in the U.S. has led its top resorts to come up with some outrageous and



The Taj Mahal

Entertainment runs hot and cold: At left, the view on Hawaii's island of Lanai, or on the slope with Delaney Snowboarding Camp, below.



Big Flight

A stop at the Taj is on Intrav's route for a privately chartered Concorde tour of the world. For \$75,000 participants will spend 18 days traveling at twice the speed of sound and landing in some of the season's hot spots, including Honolulu, Sydney, Hong Kong, Delhi, the pyramids of Egypt and Kenya.

ingenious package deals to suit every reveler's whim. Casa Palmero in Pebble Beach is offering use of the entire 24-room estate for a three-night stay spanning the holiday and will include tee times for 24 players on the area's famous golf courses. For the \$200,000 asking price, they'll throw in spa treatments and a multi-course dinner for 48. Meanwhile, the Bernardus Lodge in Carmel Valley, where rooms are running \$5,000 to \$6,000, will ply guests with wine from their vineyard and many, many more to taste, as well as Kiehl's products, down comforters and fireplaces in the suites.

If you're in the mood for something a little louder, another solution: Spring for concert tickets. Sean "Puffy" Combs has rented out the Miami Arena for the night, and it can seat up to 16,500, while Barbra Streisand's concert for 10,000 at the MGM Hotel in Las Vegas has nearly sold out with tickets running as high as \$2,500. Patti Smith will rock New York's Bowery Ballroom.

But if you've got *really* adventurous friends, Kevin Delaney, of Delaney Snowboarding, will train the lot in the techniques that made him the International Snowboard Federation's overall world champion. Meet Delaney on one of his favorite mountains, Copper Mountain in Colorado or Mammoth in California, for a three-day course, or he'll send a staffer to a mountain near you.

"I'd like to tell you that I'm going to be in New Zealand and then I'll Concorde to London for a second millennium celebration and then on to New York for a third—what a night that would be," muses Kevin Spacey. "But I'll probably just stay in New York." He won't be alone. Over 1.5 million people are expected to pack Times Square and another billion people worldwide are expected to watch them on TV.

"I'll get excited about the new year as long as I have a babysitter," says Zinterhofer.

Aerin Zinterhofer: Off to Palm Beach.



Big Night

The view from the Presidential Suite at New York's Four Seasons Hotel, and Times Square, a rendezvous point for 1.5 million, at right.

"Spending the night quietly makes the most sense," says Bening.

Annette Bening: Keeping it simple

A fantastic view of it all is the least of the amenities offered by New York's Four Seasons Hotel in its Presidential Suite package, up for auction to benefit the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The starting bid is \$75,000 for a five-night stay, which includes the use of a limo and a dinner for eight prepared by a private chef and served in the suite's dining room. Not to be outdone, the Ritz-Carlton in San Francisco is offering up use of a chauffeured Jaguar, 24-hour butler, daily massage and vineyard tours, during a three-night stay in the Presidential Suite for \$100,000.

In Paris, however, you can party like the Sun King—that's what Greek billionaire Tino Goulandris will be doing. He's rented the Petit Trianon at Versailles for his party, but the

doors of the main palace will also swing open for a separate party for 1,600 guests, who will pay \$2,500 a head, and are encouraged to dress like French royalty for the occasion.

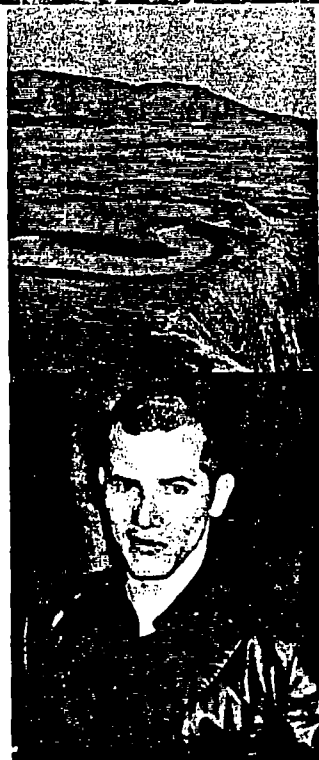
For something a little less regal, four million glittering and feather-bedecked people are expected to take to the streets of Rio de Janeiro and the beaches at Ipanema and Copacabana, swinging the city into full Carnivale mode.

The Savoy, one of London's grandest hotels, will celebrate with a different kind of decadence. The first reservation inquiries came in the 1970s for its party, which will boast free-flowing Château Mouton Rothschild and Château d'Yquem in rare vintages.

Sofia Coppola, who has just had a wine named after her by her father's Niebaum-Coppola winery in the Napa Valley, will go right to the source. "Most likely I'll be up at the winery," she says, "where there's lots of wine and pasta." The real party, in Coppola's imagination, will be wherever Prince is, she suspects.

Marcia Kilgore, creator of New York's popular Bliss Spa, is planning her own soiree at a new apartment overlooking the East River in the hip DUMBO waterfront district of Brooklyn. She's hoping that guests can watch the fireworks from there and toast each other with Dom Perignon. Kilgore, whose business was recently bought by LVMH, may have an easier time putting her hands on the the luxury giant's top-tiered champagne than others.

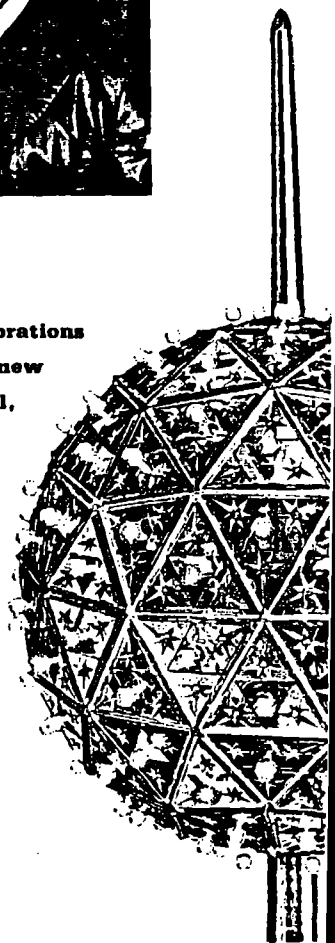
For those with a taste for the finest but who lack corporate connections, Christie's is hosting a series of auctions in the months leading up to the big event, not only for prime champagnes, but ports, Madeiras



Left: Part of the package at Casa Palermo in Pebble Beach. Below left: John Leguizamo.

Big Ball

The climax of the New Year's Eve celebrations in Times Square will come when the new ball, designed by Waterford Crystal, drops down its 77-foot flagpole at midnight. Waterford describes the ball—which has already been unveiled, toasted and toured around town—as a geodesic sphere that is six feet in diameter and made of more than 500 pieces of crystal arranged into seven-point stars, to represent the seven continents.





"I'd love to tell you that I'm going to be in New Zealand," says Spacey. "I'll probably just stay in New York."

Kevin Spacey: Hometown boy

and cigars. Some bottles of 1900 vintage Bordeaux will go for an estimated \$4,000 to \$6,000, according to Christie's Edward Brooks, while a rare limited-edition humidor of Opus X cigars from the Dominican Republic might pull in an estimated \$20,000. With regard to his own cellar selections, "I'm going to be making some impetuous choices," Brooks says.

Not so for Jacqueline de Ribes, who has been known to dance the night away in Paris. "I've never been a New Year's Eve party girl," she insists. "I hate all the noise, and this year will be more cozy than ever—a fireplace ambience, not torrents of champagne."

That means more bubbly for the hordes of caterers and event planners scrambling for the stuff. It's almost as hard as find as a waitstaff, a valet parking company or a band.

As if those challenges weren't enough, Jeffrey Best, an event planner in Los Angeles, had to come up with five and a half tons of sand and 20 belly dancers to work a Moroccan-themed gala in Orange County as well. "Waiters who usually charge \$25 an hour are charging \$125 with an eight-hour minimum," he says. "Snake charmers who are usually charge \$300 are

\$1,000, and belly dancers who are usually \$250 are asking \$1,000 an hour.

"All the tents are gone, all the generators are gone, all the bands are gone," he concludes, "but if you want to get ripped off, you can still have a party."

Betsy Bloomingdale will avoid the catering conundrum altogether and hit the kitchen. "I'm going to be at home for the millennium with all my family," she says. "We always have champagne, caviar and chili. It's homemade, from a family recipe."

According to Alyse Sobel, another Los Angeles event planner, creating a homey atmosphere is a priority among her clients. "No one's doing black tie," she reports. "They want to create an atmosphere that's low-key, and they want their guests to be comfortable." Another trend is to find ways to include children at parties that are traditionally for adults only. Sobel has created a separate decor and entertainment for the adults and for children at a private party for 150 in a Hollywood home.

Andre Balazs, owner of the Mercer Hotel in New York and the Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles, is also taking a low-key approach to the holiday. "My theory is that everyone wants to go home and get away from it all," he says. "We're deliberately not doing anything." Balazs plans a true getaway and will see the new millennium from a beach far away, he says.

For some, however, there's no place like home. Bill Blass for one will be tucked away at his country house with his dog Barnaby when the clock strikes midnight. "I shy away from big parties," Annette Bening concurs. "Spending that night quietly with my family makes the most sense. Simple and quiet."

In Washington, D.C., Hillary Clinton and Sally Quinn will play dueling hostess at the two biggest parties in town. Hillary is planning a major bash with a star-studded cast of performers on the Mall, to be followed by supper at the White House and more reveling in a heated tent on the South lawn where guests will be invited to party down until 6 a.m.

Quinn, who took a break from her annual New Year's Eve party

Big Deal



Marriott's Desert Springs Resort and Spa has come up with the simplest way to entertain everyone. Rent out the entire 400-acre resort, its two golf courses, 25 tennis courts, five swimming pools and 13 restaurants for a two-night stay and they'll throw in unlimited spa treatments, a lobster dinner, party with three live bands and champagne brunch for all your guests. They'll even pick you up in a private jet, all for only \$1,999,999.

Big Night

last year, says she decided to revive the tradition after getting a slew of SOS phone calls from desperate friends. "I wasn't going to do it," she admits. "I didn't want to get into competition with everyone's grand millennium plans. But then about three months ago, everyone started calling saying, 'We don't want to rent an island, charter a yacht or lease a castle. We just want to stay home.'"

Quinn's regular guests include British Ambassador Christopher Meyer and his wife, Catherine, Andrea Mitchell, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. "If people have lots of fabulous plans, that's great," says Quinn. "I don't believe in the millennium anyway."

And she won't be bothered if journalist friends like Mitchell, who has been put on standby to work New Year's Eve, have to drop out at the last minute "because of the potential of a major meltdown."

To work or not to work is the question facing many whose company and services the elite count on. "All my friends are going to Bali," says salon owner Laurent D., "but I'm booked like crazy, and I just bought a loft in New York, so I'll be working."

Besides coordinating the Metropolitan Opera's annual party for the night, Bill Tansey, one of New York's premier party planners, is setting up a private dinner in a tower overlooking Manhattan and pressing his clients to make their decisions regarding entertainment. "After June 15 the prices doubled," Tansey says, though those rates were high to begin with. "There's a prominent family who called in the spring and said they wanted to do something big for the millennium," he says, "but in the end they just couldn't afford it—and these are people you would assume could entertain in any way they chose."

"It depends on how badly they want it," Tansey concludes. "Some have a mission and a bank account; others are content to spend a quiet night with friends." Tansey counts himself in the second camp, although New Year's Eve will find him, too, working.

Master of French cuisine Alain Ducasse, who has received thousands of calls for reservations at his eponymous three-star Paris restaurant, has decided to close his doors for the night—at least in Paris. His Louis XV in Monte Carlo (also boasting three-stars) will be open, and Ducasse himself will be in the kitchen.

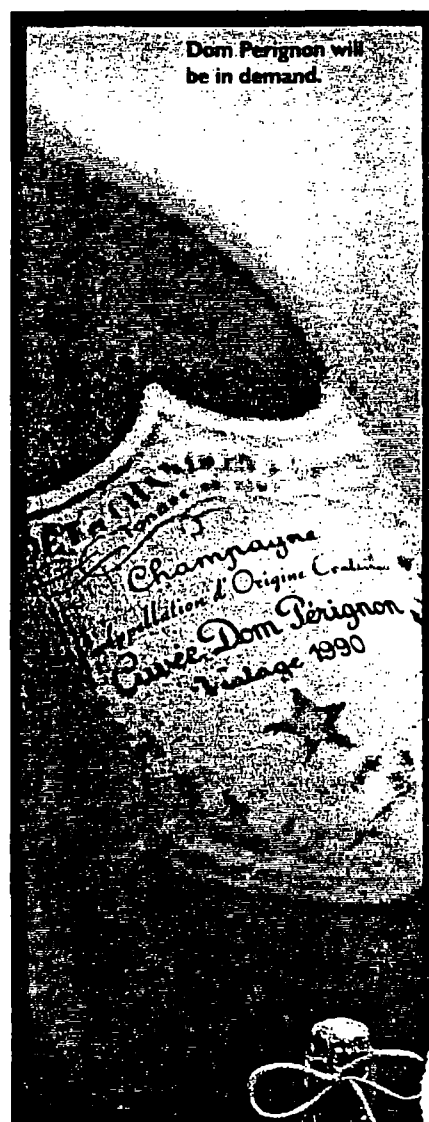
Despite the fact that neither the menu nor the prices has been set, the dining room has been booked for nearly a year. New Year's Eve will also find Los Angeles celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck working away. "I'm going to be working as always," he says, "but hopefully I'll be drinking champagne, and then having wild sex."

Richard Branson, owner of Virgin Atlantic Airways, will kick back in the Virgin Islands, and has decided to ground all the company's flights for the night to give his employees time off as well. The doors of Chez Panisse, Alice Waters' famous Berkeley, California, restaurant, will also remain shut for the night, but Waters will fête her customers for the whole week prior with a menu re-creating the cuisine of Paris circa 1900.

Throwing millennium parties before the actual millennium, in fact, has become a huge trend. Hot London florist Stephen Woodhams said he's hardly had any requests for big bashes on New Year's Eve. Instead, many of his clients are holding their big parties as early as October. "I'm going to several myself," Woodhams reports. "No one can decide what they're going to do on New Year's Eve. I think there are just going to be all these sad people roaming the streets wondering what parties they can go to."

Maybe they'll get tired of wandering and check in to the Four Seasons Hotel in London. The hotel has created the ultimate millennium-free zone: a suite complete with a pre-1950s style menu, pre-Fifties black and white movies available—and total soundproofing. ●

The Bernardus Lodge's vineyard in Carmel Valley



Big Bubbles

For a classic look on the big night, stick to D.P. Other champagne bottles are going in for designer makeovers: Jean Paul Gaultier has laced up Piper-Heidsieck's \$100 bottle in red vinyl, at right, and the house of Christian Dior has teamed up with Champagne Pommery to create a silver isothermal magnum-sized backpack for transportation of its bottle. Veuve Clicquot has gotten in on the act, giving bottles of the 1990 vintage La Grand Dame champagne a slick treatment: Each is packed in a Lucite case with Louis Vuitton leather handles.



Big Night

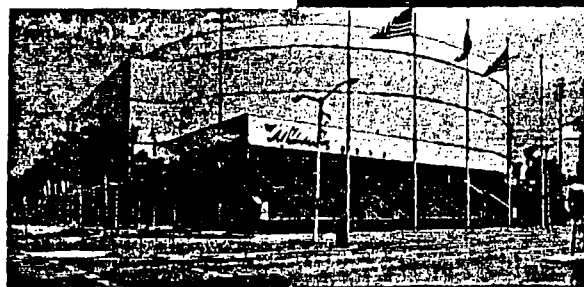
Mick Jagger:
Setting sail for
Mustique



Marcia Kilgore:
Putting on a
party



Sydney will pull
out all the stops.



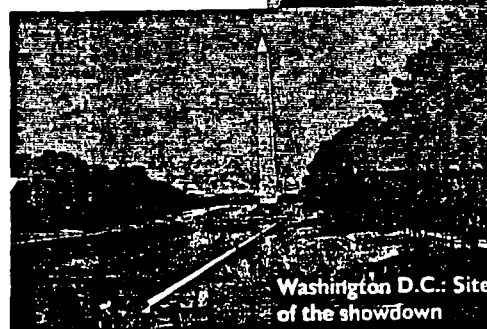
Above: Puffy's
party palace the
Miami Arena,
and the host,
at right.



San Francisco's
Ritz-Carlton
Hotel



Sofia Coppola: Get
thrice to a winery.



Washington D.C.: Site
of the showdown



"I'll be making
myself a vim
'n' vodka,"
says Everett.
"Everything's
been booked
months in
advance."

Rupert Everett: Home—alone?

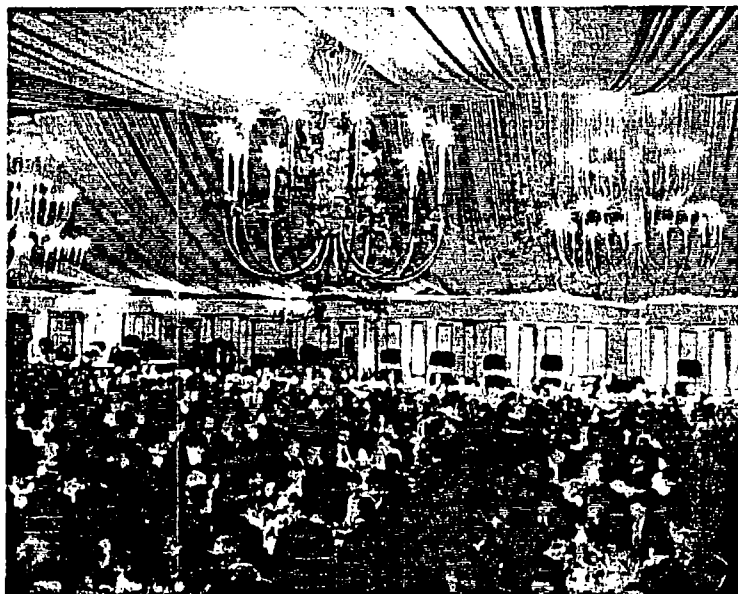


Capricia Penavic Marshall

WHITE HOUSE SOCIAL SECRETARY



Capricia Penavic Marshall has been the White House Social Secretary since the fall of 1997. She oversees every event inside the White House and on its grounds. *Above:* Marshall and the First Lady. *Above right:* NATO Commemorative Dinner held in April. *Left:* Marshall with President and Mrs. Clinton. *Below:* The First Couple and NATO Secretary General Dr. Javier Solana.



Are there any notable events that you are planning for the holidays, specifically the millennium?

Mrs. Clinton feels it is important that the nation's capital celebrate the changing of time with a national celebration. It will be a joint effort between the White House, the Smithsonian, the National Park Service and a host of other institutions. On New Year's Eve, everyone will gather on the Mall, then move into the streets of Washington, D.C., where there will be rows upon rows of food vendors. Then there will be a parade back to the Mall with an extravaganza featuring a variety of acts, as well as a film about our country. After the countdown, there will be laser lights and fireworks. The whole thing will be very grand and spectacular, but it will also be safe and friendly. Most New Year's Eve parties are about adults. This will focus on the family.

What is a typical day at work like?

There isn't a typical day of work here in the social office! I can get a call at 11 P.M. that the President will need something planned for 8 A.M. the next day. I try to get into the office by 7 or 7:15 A.M. Often, we have events occurring simultaneously. Mrs. Clinton may have an event in the East Room, while the President is in the Rose Garden. Sometimes events are within two hours of one another. Sometimes I don't leave until 12 at night.

What advice would you give someone who is planning a party of his or her own?

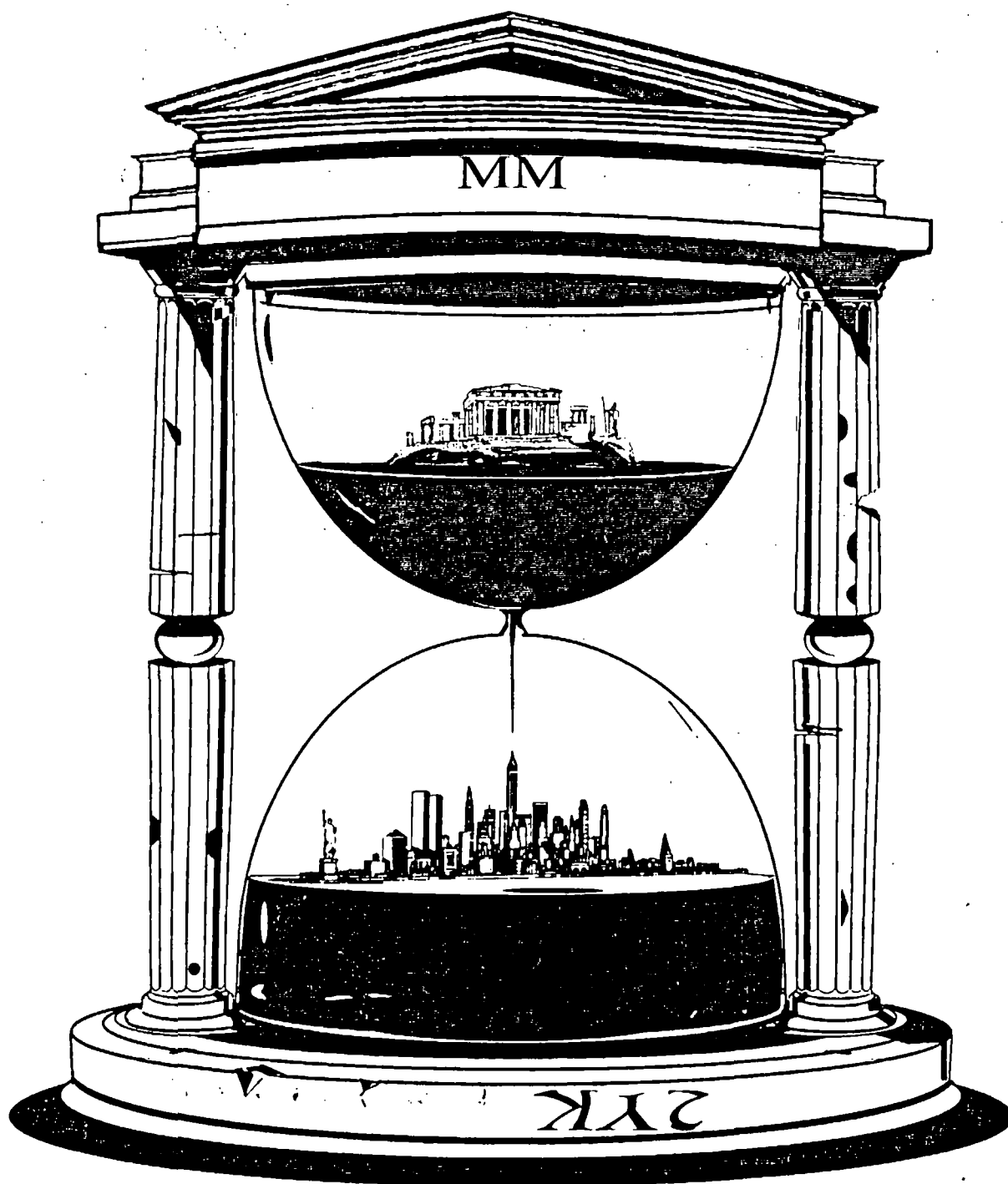
The greatest lesson I ever learned from Mrs. Clinton is to keep it simple. You want your guests to feel comfortable. If they feel relaxed, they will enjoy the event. If your party is simple yet elegant, people will enjoy it more.

—Amanda Rock

OUTLOOK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1999

The Moment?



BY ISTVAN BANYAI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

We've Already Missed It.

by JAMES RESTON JR.

It is abundantly clear that this country has already missed out on the glorious opportunity that was the Millennium. In the endless blather about Y2K, in the correctly or incorrectly spelled commercialization of the word, in the trivial topic of whether the new age begins in 2000 or 2001, in the worry about champagne supplies and the focus on the big bashes in Times Square and on the Mall, there will be no meaningful millennial experience for the American people. The failure of imagination is total and across the board: from the political leadership to the scholars, from the priests to the media. Look broad if you want something for the mind or the soul or the heart. Go to England or Rome or Israel or even Canada.

The turning of a millennium should be a time of grand reckoning. Symbolic dates call for symbolic acts, and these dates and acts can acquire real, concrete meaning if they are used as an excuse—and an opportuni-

ty—for innovative thinking. What better reason than the passing of 1,000 years in the calendar will we ever have for grand dreams about the future and for a solemn reevaluation of the past? Coming to terms with the past can position a society for the future; it frees the imagination and allows us to dream.

This millennial season should have been the time for American artists and visionaries, builders and thinkers to take center stage, but there has been no effort to mobilize them. As a result, the wealthiest, most powerful nation on Earth will leave little permanent behind to mark the moment. American politicians speak as if the millennium were a decaffeinated Bicentennial, with cheap renamings of existing projects as "millennial." To official Washington this seems to be a time yet again to boast about American political institutions. Talk about Old Glory and the Declaration of Independence is safe and palatable, even if it really has nothing to do with a 1,000-year block of time.

Potentially, the millennium is the greatest teaching moment of our

The Need for Markers to Greet the Dawn

MILLENNIUM, From B1

philosophers, the poets and the priests who might guide and inspire us? We have a president whose personal disgrace and corruption so degraded the level of polite conversation in America that he can scarcely be expected to transport the nation through a glorious and uplifting moment of history. We have no minister of culture or influential endowments for the arts and humanities to fill Clinton's vacuum; and Hillary Clinton, who was supposed to be in charge of America's millennium and launched the White House Millennium Council to "encourage a wide variety of projects and events that celebrate our historical and cultural legacy," is now preoccupied with sewers in Schenectady, N.Y.

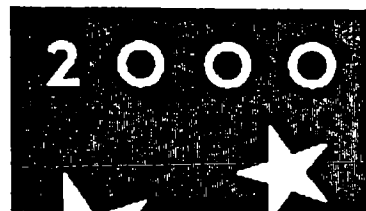
A steely-eyed look at the last 1,000 years of American history, as a whole, might have been part of our millennial experience. Look at what a "divine" institution is doing. The Roman Catholic Church is engaged in a process it calls historical purification as part of its solemn celebration. For its spiritual well-being at this jubilee year, and to position itself for the Third Millennium, the Church has intentionally revisited the darkest episodes of its past: the cases of Galileo, Jan Hus and Joan of Arc as well as its sorry record of acquiescence in the antisemitism during World War II.

Couldn't this country use a touch of historical purification itself? Would it be so difficult for America to confront its own dark side, slavery and the genocide of the American Indian, and to find some mechanism, at the year 2000, to absorb those scourges once and for all into our national consciousness? Perhaps a Japanese-style apology is not the American way, but, with a little will and imagination, some form of consequential recognition and acknowledgment could be found.

Several weeks ago, we had a good example of an acknowledgment that can lead to renewal and resolution: the groundbreaking for a museum on the Mall devoted to the American Indian. This may in fact be the most important single millennial act of this year, since, after all, 600 of the past 1,000 years in America belong to Native Americans. But no one thought to tie the event to the millennium, and the Clinton administration has made no effort to include Native American in its celebration activities. A museum to the American Indian on the Mall honors the victims and recognizes with admiration and respect the richness of the native culture and the diversity of the peoples who were destroyed. That is an opportunity to teach, and to lay to rest long-standing animosities.

To view our history and world history through a 1,000-year lens forces the mind toward new and original pathways. But precious little scholarship on the millennium has emerged from the American academic community. The books that have been published on the millennium are, for the most part, few and lightweight. With the exception of U.S. News's special edition in August about the year 1000, the news magazines and four major television networks have focused on the century rather than the millennium, since their craft is photo-driven.

Even the Christian clergy seems oddly unwilling to draw attention to its own holy text, the anxieties about an apocalypse and an end time are embedded in



What Is Going On?

The White House Millennium Council was created with the theme "Honor the Past—Imagine the Future." Highlights of its projects follow:

The president and first lady have begun hosting **Millennium Evenings** at the White House—a series of lectures and cultural events with scholars and artists that are accessible to the public via cybercast over the Internet and broadcast via satellite.

In coordination with the Department of Transportation, the council plans to recognize more than 2,000 existing and new **Millennial Trails**, supporting the development of trails through new federal and state funding, and private partnerships.

As one of its **International Millennial Events**, the council is encouraging the creation of sister-city relationships with communities overseas.

With its **Save America's Treasures** project, the council plans to stimulate private efforts to preserve our national heritage and history. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is providing leadership by inviting individuals, foundations and corporations to participate.

The council has created **Millennium for Kids** Web sites, including an "Inside the White House" newsletter, an EPA Explorers' Club and FEMA for Kids.

—compiled by Outlook

Source: The Millennium Council Web site at www.whitehouse.gov/initiatives/millennium/index.shtml

an embarrassment, or worse, as a provocation. The Eastern Orthodox Church does not even read Revelation from the pulpit, because the book is open to such diverse interpretation. In the Catholic Church, the book is part of the three-year liturgical cycle of Sunday readings—and that third year does not fall in the year 2000.

Revelation's hopeful passages in Chapter 21, which promise that "a New Jerusalem will come down from God . . . and God shall wipe away all tears . . ." may occasionally be evoked in the next few months. But how about the lore of Gog and Magog, the Antichrist and the False Prophet, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, the Seven Seals, the Mark of the Beast, 666 or the Whore of Babylon? It is as if American clergymen hesitate to address these wild allegories, because they fear more incarnations of David Koresh or Heaven's Gate. The fascinating parables of the Book of Revelation, it appears, will be left largely to the novelists.

With no guides and mentors here, we have to look elsewhere. Great Britain leads the way in preparations for the millennium. In 1992, that nation established a commission of its best minds to define what the millennium was, how Britain should mark the occasion, how its millennial activities might be paid for. Britain has treated the coming of the year 2000 as an occasion to spruce up the whole nation. By tapping the proceeds of its national lottery, it is offering every little village an opportunity to refurbish a local theater or park or historical site and make that refurbishment a millennium contribution. Prime Minister Tony Blair has already given a millennial lecture at Oxford University. The Millennium Dome, bigger than our Georgia Dome in Atlanta and devoted solely to education, is nearly complete at Greenwich. A millennium seed bank has been established to gather the seeds of the world into a single place to demonstrate the biodiversity of the world at this magical time. The Royal Mail has issued a series of millennium stamps that commemorate the inventors, the explorers, the entertainers, the workers and the scientists of British history. And Britain talks comfortably about giving its people a "millennium experience."

What is the United States doing? No buildings. No stamps. No presidential lecture at Harvard. No innovative or visionary ideas. America in the *fin de siècle* of the 1890s did far better with a century's end than we're doing with the end of the millennium. Then there was an explosion of plays, art, music and books, including Edward Bellamy's smash success, "Looking Backward." There was the monumental glory of Chicago's 1893 World's Fair and the spirit of inventiveness characterized by Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell.

Perhaps it's not too late. The precious little dispute over whether the new millennium actually begins this coming January or the January of 2001 may house an opportunity. It gives us another 15 months to do something worthwhile.

Here are a few eleventh-hour suggestions. The United States is the only major Western country without a cabinet-level minister of culture or national heritage. Only in the South of William Faulkner and Thomas Wolfe are Americans secure in talking about their literature and their regional identity. Other regions of the country have as rich a literary and artistic tradition; they just don't know how to talk about it. In

the new millennium, if this country is to stand for anything more than its wealth and democratic ideal, Americans need to become comfortable with the word "culture."

The millennium could be viewed as a kind of bar mitzvah or confirmation for a youthful nation that must blossom into a mature civilization in the next millennium. In the 1960s, France showed what could be done for the creative life of a nation when a figure of great artistic stature, Andre Malraux, became its minister of culture. An American figure with Malraux's stature and Malraux's mandate could teach all sections of the country how to do that and could teach his or her own president how better to promote American culture, without its sounding undemocratic. William Styron or Arthur Miller or Reynolds Price or Eudora Welty come to mind as candidates for the job.

We can forget about President Clinton as our coxswain for this boat ride, but Congress could play a role. In the year 2000, it might hold the occasional historical debate and thus fulfill its calling as an educational as well as a political body. This is the time to revisit America's Founding Myth, for instance. In 1892, Congress designated Oct. 12 as Columbus Day, since Columbus "discovered" America, and in 1968 it decreed that Columbus Day be a federal holiday. But Columbus did not discover America; he discovered a few Caribbean islands, and then set about to enslave the native population. Consequently, Columbus Day, now freighted with embarrassment and misinformation, has become a sop to the Italian-American community, and is the least widely observed federal holiday we have.

It has been established, through carbon dating, that a far earlier European presence in North America came with the Viking explorer Leif Ericsson in the year 1000 A.D. Canada has created a national park at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland to commemorate the site of the first Viking settlement. And it is widely accepted that the third Viking voyage was led by a woman, Gudrid Thorbjarnardottir, the wife of Leif's younger brother, who for a time lived on the island of Manhattan and gave birth to the first known European-American child.

Congress has acknowledged Ericsson's claim; it should now debate a resolution to broaden and invigorate the current federal holiday as Discoverers Day. Ericsson and other explorers of the Americas, Ponce de Leon, Hernando de Soto, John Smith, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, John Wesley Powell, Merriwether Lewis and William Clark, the Polynesians who settled Hawaii, Sacagawea and, perhaps, Thorbjarnardottir herself, should take their places alongside Columbus in a wider celebration of exploration and the pioneering American spirit. And the official holiday should embrace the present-day explorers, the astronauts and astronomers, who are giving us a vastly expanded concept of humankind's place in the universe and cosmos. NASA should name a space shuttle mission after Ericsson next year to draw attention to the shift.

It is time to stop the silly talk and to have a real national conversation about the meaning of the millennium for America. In this fleeting moment, the past and future are majestically magically intertwined. It should not be all too difficult to slip us in a champagne fog or in the daze of a temperamental computer screen.

Millennium, Schmillennium

Demand Low for Highest-Priced New Year's Bashes

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Three nights at the St. Regis Washington, with airfare and posh lodging for 12, limousine service, in-room massages, a cooking class, symphony tickets and a seven-course dinner—\$110,000. Two nights in the Pentagon City Ritz-Carlton's presidential suite, with his-and-her 18-karat gold watches, a chauffeured Jaguar, daily salon service and the obligatory seven-course dinner and ballroom extravaganza—\$100,000.

The run of the entire 40-room Tabard Inn near Dupont Circle, with a private party and the feast and live bands to go with it—\$50,000. An "Evening of a Lifetime" at the Kennedy Center, where rooftop patrons dine and dance and receive "special commemorative gifts." Only \$2,000 a person.

Looking for the bash to end all bashes this New Year's Eve? Apparently not.

With rare exceptions, the most lavish, over-the-top enticements to greet the new millennium in style are going begging across Washington and its suburbs. Only 74 days before the epochal night, the priciest promotions have few



BY MICHAEL ROBINSON-CHAVEZ—THE WASHINGTON POST

The oenophile's New Year's Eve dream dinner at Sam and Harry's will cost \$19,999.99 for four. takers, and rooms and restaurants remain wide-ly available—to the disappointment of their marketers.

The bids "just weren't as great as we thought they would be," conceded Jeremiah Cohen, co-owner of the Tabard Inn, which has opted to throw a more typical New Year's Eve dinner

See PARTIES, A8, Col. 1

PARTIES, From A1

celebration since the rental bids it received came in well below the \$50,000 minimum.

Rather than folks splurging with abandon—the common prediction a few months ago—they're being more careful. "Ultimately," Cohen said, "a lot of people would rather spend that money on their kid's college education or a longer vacation."

Donna Desormeaux, spokeswoman for the D.C. Convention and Visitors Bureau, sees a more fundamental problem with such offerings as a \$12,000 spa celebration for 40 in Bethesda or a \$75,000 Potomac River cruise (sans food).

"The average Joe doesn't have this kind of money," she said.

The convention-size New Year's Eve events, with thousands of tickets, began serious advertising just this month. And those at the big-name hotels and restaurants insist they'll toast a full house when bubbly starts flowing. Potential revelers are merely shopping around, they explain, or just beginning to focus on what they really want to do that night.

"People are making their plans real slow," said Katherine Kerley, who helps handle publicity for the St. Regis Washington, the Westin Grand and the Westin Fairfax. As of last week, the Westin Fairfax had sold just three of its \$1,299 "Y2K" packages and not one of its \$1,599 "Sweet '99" packages.

Now that the White House has begun releasing details of its three-day celebration on the Mall, Kerley and others think reservations will pick up. But Kerley does worry that expectations about this New Year's—"The Last Great Party of

the Millennium" reads one typical promo—are almost counterproductive.

"There's so much pressure to do something awesome, you just don't do anything at all," she said.

Strange times indeed, and sociologist Bronislaw Misztal predicts they one day will be analyzed, not at all favorably, for the extreme marketing frenzy and commercial hype. "All of this is profoundly irrational," declared the Catholic University professor, who studies social movements and the political and moral effects of rapid change.

To Misztal, it is scant consolation that no one has yet shelled out 100 grand for the Ritz-Carlton package, because some couples are paying \$3,000 to spend New Year's at the Hay-Adams Hotel across from the White House, or more than \$2,800 for dinner and a single night's lodging at the Inn at Little Washington near Warrenton.

Come January, he said, "there will be lots of consumer counseling."

A few soirees already are being modified. The Kennedy Center several days ago "refocused" its New Year's Eve plans. Instead of \$2,000 a person, partygoers will pay \$250 to \$350 each to dine on the terrace and then repair to the grand foyer for dancing. Tickets to any performances are, of course, extra.

Millennium or not, survey after survey has forecast a definite public apathy. A poll this summer by Blockbuster said 45 percent of those questioned intended to be home on New Year's Eve. The Travel Industry Association took a head count and found that more than 60 percent of Americans had

no plans to leave town for the holiday. A third poll, released last week by the light-bulb company in charge of that big ball that drops in Times Square, noted that 43 percent of Americans would rather stay home and watch television on Dec. 31.

"I'm not going anywhere," professor Misztal said emphatically.

Even Desormeaux, of the convention bureau, confessed: "Personally, I'm no big New Year's Eve person. . . . I plan to be home or with friends."

No one doubts, however, that intense celebrations will occur, whether it's the two women hosting 60 guests aboard the double-decked Miss Christin riverboat for \$7,000, or the black-tie merrymakers assembled in three ballrooms at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel.

"If you look at everything that's included, our price is very, very reasonable," a Willard spokeswoman said of packages that run \$2,000 or more a couple, depending on such

details as whether the glass is full of Dom Perignon or Moët & Chandon.

The entire MCI Center is slated to become a "Millennial City," with more than 11,000 party-maniacs paying \$199 to \$349 apiece to dance, eat and drink on concourse after concourse after concourse. With enough bands to launch a new record label, indoor fireworks and a time-zone-by-time-zone countdown to midnight, organizer Mike Harrigan at Shack Events is confident all tickets will go—though only a few hundred have been purchased since

sales started Oct. 1.

Several blocks south, the more high-minded and high-priced "Party With a Purpose" will take over the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The purpose: to raise \$1 million for 10 Washington area charities, from the Capital Children's Museum to the Congressional Award Foundation. And the party: for \$500 or \$2,000, the majority of which is tax deductible, nearly 3,500 hoped-for guests will dine on international cuisines and watch headliner Rog-

er Daltrey—yes, The Who's Daltrey—lead a classical orchestra, rock band and gospel choir that all perform under the name British Rock Symphony.

Giles Beeker, the trade center vice president, knows he has competition and bemoans all the "over-commercialized" hype. Yet he can't help but offer some of his own. "One of the best events in the world that night," he calls his production.

Not every bank-account-draining affair is still advertising, how-

ever. A New Year's Eve dinner for four at Sam and Harry's will set patrons back \$19,999.99, yet the downtown restaurant already has credit cards holding three reservations.

It will be worth every penny, promises Bill Wernick, the restaurant's vice president, with a magnum of Pol Roger Couvé 2000 champagne and bottles of wines of such quality that superlatives do not do them justice. "The finest white burgundy ever produced," he exulted. "The most wonderful

Sauterne you can find." Cognac of a 1900 vintage.

"It's all about the wines," Wernick said, but rest assured that for this equivalent of a house down payment, folks will eat well, too. For nearly four hours, they will feast on Beluga caviar, Scottish smoked salmon, Swedish sea scallops, Maine lobster.

Wernick began this ultimate oenophile's search 18 months ago and expects the dinner will be great fun. Said he of the evening's prospects, "I'm a little bit in awe."

THE RELIABLE SOURCE

By Lloyd Grove

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1999

Arm-Twisting To the Millennium

Will Smith may have clout in Hollywood, but he got a sharp lesson in power Washington-style this week when his people sent the wrong signals about his participation in "America's Millennium," the White House-sponsored New Year's celebration on the Mall. Two weeks ago, White House organizers announced that Smith would serve as an emcee during the three-day mega-party produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. But on Wednesday, when The Post's Susan Levine phoned the movie star's L.A. office, his manager, James Lassiter, wasn't thrilled. "Will was never confirmed as host," Lassiter insisted, while another of Smith's Hollywood reps—who didn't want to be identified—suggested that the White House had jumped the gun. Organizers were "a little overly ambitious," the rep claimed.

That's when the interesting part began. When Levine phoned around to get to the bottom of this ambivalence, the staff of event chairwoman Hillary Rodham Clinton was caught by



FILE PHOTO/RY BILL O'LEARY—THE WASHINGTON POST

Will he or won't he? Smith, not quite confirmed for New Year's.

surprise. "It's the first I've heard" that Smith was not nailed down, said spokeswoman Toby Graff. Producer Jones's publicist sounded equally flummoxed.

We shudder to think what forces were brought to bear on whom in the ensuing seven hours. All we know is that Marsha Berry, the first lady's communications director, phoned Levine around 8 p.m. to let her know that Lassiter would soon be calling. "Will is genuinely enthusiastic about being there," Smith's manager gushed. "I'm sure Will is going to do anything Quincy wants him to do."

Washington Afro-American

October 8, 1999

SECTION: Vol. 108; No. 8; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 529 words

HEADLINE: Will Smith and Quincy Jones stars of White House millennium party

BODY:

Will Smith and Quincy Jones stars of White House millennium party

Washington, D.C. - A family-oriented celebration of the new millennium will be the focus of three days of activities on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. "America's Millennium" is free to the public and will begin on Dec. 31, 1999 and continue through Jan. 2, 2000. The celebration, which will highlight all that is best about America, is a cooperative effort of the White House Millennium Council, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institute and the National Park Foundation.

On Friday, Dec. 31, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the U.S. Capitol will frame the celebration that will ring out the old millennium, and ring in the new.

President Clinton and the First Lady have asked Quincy Jones and George Stevens, Jr. to produce a spectacular "America's Millennium Gala."

Concluding with a "Midnight Moment;" Steven Spielberg to produce a short film with a score by John Williams for the occasion; and the Smithsonian Institution to organize "Millennium on Mall: Traditions and Tomorrow," a three-day festival for families and children, all with the help of the National Park Service.

The White House Millennium Council charged by the President and the First Lady with leading the nation in a celebration to "Honor the Past - Imagine the Future," drives the activities of "America's Millennium." These events will typify the goals of the Council, which are to educate, inspire and reflect on the creative spirit of America.

"America's Millennium Gala" produced by Quincy Jones and George Stevens Jr. will present a stirring show that will build toward an unforgettable "Midnight Moment" to mark the time when we pass the new century and new millennium. This will be the nation's commemoration of this milestone in human history. Stars in the arts and entertainment world will perform with an orchestra, along with the combined bands, choruses and marching units of the U.S. Armed Forces who will perform outside, in front of the Lincoln Memorial, as celebrants watch from the side of the Reflecting Pool. The entertainment will center on great American music of the century, choreographed to summarize in song and memory the amazing achievements of our country.

A twenty-minute film, "American Spirit," by Steven Spielberg, will depict the highlights of the 20th century. John Williams is composing an original score that will be conducted live with the orchestra as the film is projected on huge outdoor screens. Inspired by Aaron Copeland's "Lincoln Portrait," the Spielberg film will have its world premiere at the Lincoln Memorial.

The "Midnight Moment" will light up the sky as our nation salutes the new century. Stars of the gala, choruses and celebrants on the Mall, will raise their voices in a rousing sing-a-long in the first hour of the new millennium. Over the course of the three days, the Smithsonian Institution will present, "Millennium on the Mall: Traditions and Tomorrows," with literature, entertainment, sports, sciences and technology.

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A Little Too Eager on That 2000 Gig

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Only Tuesday, the White House Millennium Council and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced who will help Washington and the nation ring in New Year 2000: Will Smith! Aretha Franklin! Chuck Berry! B.B. King!

But yesterday, while not quite singing the blues, organizers were acknowledging an unfortunate—and they hope momentary—mistake. The King of Blues, it turns out, is not yet confirmed for the "America's Millennium" spectacular being planned for the Mall. They want him, and he may be willing, but there's no ink on a contract.

The mixup over King began at Tuesday's news conference, when for the first time in months organizers provided details on the three-day celebration weekend. The trouble was, they weren't specific enough. Because most of the discussion was about the plans for Dec. 31—a show to be hosted by Smith, a made-for-the-millennium movie by Steven Spielberg, a techno-glitz light display at the stroke of midnight—it seemed that performers such as Berry were set to appear that day, too.

They're not. Mr. Rock-and-Roll is

to be on the Mall the afternoon of Jan. 1. The Queen of Soul, who's playing the Jacob Javits Center in New York on New Year's Eve, will not show until Jan. 2. As for King, he has engagements in the Memphis area Dec. 31 and New Year's Day and could arrive in Washington, if and when the glitch is straightened out, only on Jan. 2.

"It was the worst kind of mistake," said Richard Kurin, director of the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies, who's heading the planning for the many exhibits, concerts, lectures and demonstrations the Smithsonian intends to put on for those three days. He missed the news conference Tuesday because he was out of town, but much of his day yesterday was spent trying to resolve problems.

Paul McCarthy, executive director of the entity that is trying to coordinate everything among the White House, Smithsonian, National Park Service and National Park Foundation, also was trying to regain lost ground. He lamented that the very thing organizers wanted to avoid—confusion over details—happened.

"We'd prefer to come out with a comprehensive list of all the entertainers and the time slots they're



FILE PHOTO

B.B. King has not been confirmed for "America's Millennium" on the Mall.

in," he said.

Not surprisingly, much is up in the air because the budget for the free weekend celebration is still so uncertain. The bills will be picked up by private donations, and organizers said this week that they have raised about half of their \$12.5 million target. That amount will cover only the events on the Mall, however, not a companion festival on Constitution Avenue that is a cooperative effort with the city.

"What we're trying to do is plan for different levels of programs,"

Kurin said. "If we don't get that kind of money, we'll scale back."

On the music stage on the Mall—the major draw—Kurin wants Franklin, Berry, former Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart and other unannounced performers to do more than play. What if, he mused, they talked about what has influenced them in their music, and how soul or rock might change in the 21st century?

"It would be *tres* cool," Kurin said.

But with barely 90 days to go, time is growing short for booking other acts and contracting with vendors. The Smithsonian has received less than \$1 million through the White House Millennium Council, Kurin said. Despite that, he's hopeful that all three days will be strong draws. "We're negotiating. What can I say?"

The first lady's press office, which is now handling inquiries on the event, said no timetable exists for releasing more information on the celebration. Filmmaker George Stevens Jr. and musician Quincy Jones are producing the Dec. 31 show at the Lincoln Memorial.

And as Stevens said Tuesday, "It's always a great mistake to tell people what you're going to do three months in advance."

Will Smith To Ring In New Year On Mall

Multimillion-Dollar Events Announced

By SUSAN LEVINE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Actor Will Smith will host Washington's ultimate party of '99, the multimillion-dollar New Year's Eve celebration on the Mall for which a who's who of rock, soul and blues music will sing backup, organizers announced yesterday.

"Just imagine for a moment," first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton began at a news conference that provided few new specifics of the free, morning-to-midnight event but much lyrical description of its atmosphere and purpose—"the music of our century rocking and rolling, swinging and soaring."

Some of those tunes will be belted out by Chuck Berry, Aretha Franklin, and B.B. King, who will perform during festivities that will stretch down the Mall and also for several blocks along Constitution Avenue.

Come evening, the spotlight will shift to the Lincoln Memorial, where Smith will lead a show to be produced by musician Quincy Jones and filmmaker George Stevens Jr. And in the century's final hour, as composer John Williams conducts an original orchestral score, an 18-minute movie by Steven Spielberg will highlight major events of the last 100 years before a high-tech sound and light display punctuates the first minute of 2000.

"It will be in the sky and it will be inspiring," Stevens said yesterday.

"America's Millennium," as the family-friendly extravaganza is billed, is being organized by the

See NEW YEAR'S, A17, Col. 1

New Year's Lineup of Performers Announced

NEW YEAR'S, From A1

White House Millennium Council, Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service and National Park Foundation. The city of Washington, which will mark its bicentennial as the nation's capital in 2000, is a partner in the planning.

The initial projection is for a turnout of 600,000 people. Only two gatherings on the Mall have been bigger: President Lyndon B. Johnson's 1965 inauguration and the 1976 bicentennial fireworks.

Already, the price tag has grown to \$12.5 million from early estimates of \$10 million. The total includes the lectures, demonstrations and performances that the Smithsonian will present from Dec. 31 through Jan. 2, but does not account for the city's companion block party along Constitution Avenue—a "Main Street Millennium" expected to resemble a winter carnival of minstrels, magicians, acrobats and food tents between 10th and 14th streets NW. The city has not yet hired a contractor to run its portion.

The entire celebration will be privately funded, organizers reiterated yesterday, saying that with 95 cents to go, half of the \$12.5 million has been raised. Democratic Party fund-raising magnate Terry McAuliffe, who recently offered \$1.3 million from his own accounts to guarantee a New York house mortgage for the first lady and President Clinton, is leading the money effort.

Despite some private concerns that the ambitious and time-pressed plans may exceed funds—the Smithsonian, for instance, has yet to receive a budget for its role—organizers were enthusiastic yesterday. One of the guests they introduced was their first million-dollar contributor, Omaha business executive Vinod Gupta. No other individual or corporate donors were identified, nor was any cost breakdown discussed.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to unite our nation, to capture an extraordinary moment in American and human history," said Hillary Clinton, who was joined at the news conference by Stevens and D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D).

With congressional representatives and local residents participating, the weekend's opening ceremony will take place near the Capitol as a time capsule is sealed with the reflections of national leaders in varied fields. Throughout the day on Dec. 31, Clinton said, the Smithsonian will offer a "digital time capsule" to which visitors can add their thoughts and wishes for future generations.

Producer Stevens, the man behind the annual Kennedy Center honors program and founder of the American Film Institute, gave no timetable for releasing a full schedule of performers. For the moment, the publicity boasts of bands, choirs and military marching units. Stevens acknowledged that many celebrities were booked long ago but said it was not too late to get commitments from others.

"It's a historic opportunity. You can perform in Las Vegas any night of the year," he laughed.

One lure would be the likely worldwide audience. Organizers said CBS will broadcast live from 10 p.m. through midnight, and arrangements to carry the show around the globe are pending. Spielberg's movie, "The Unfinished Journey," will be shown on two giant digital screens to be positioned on either side of the Lincoln Memorial.

Although the Mall will return to normal Jan. 3, the city's bicentennial commemoration will just be starting. James V. Kimsey, chairman emeritus of America Online, is leading the steering committee of city and regional leaders that will plan a year of programs and festivities and raise the private funds to pay for them.

Mayor Williams's special assistant, Sandy McCall, said the calendar of downtown and neighborhood events will not be publicized until January. Kimsey's committee members, however, will be announced by early November.

"When [others] see this new board," McCall predicted, "they'll see there's been an immense vote of confidence in this new mayor and the renaissance of this city."

USA TODAY

September 29, 1999, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

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Pg. 7A

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HEADLINE: Washington will host a millennium bash Gala won't be the same 'Auld Lang Syne'

BYLINE: Susan Page

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- That glittering ball dropping from Times Square on New Year's Eve?

It's got competition.

This year, "America's Millennium" will be marked on the National Mall with a "spectacular high-tech sound and light display" between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, Hillary Rodham Clinton announced Tuesday. The outdoor gala will include an 18-minute film by director Steven Spielberg of the highlights of the 20th century -- that averages out to just under 11 seconds per year -- with an original score by John Williams. Plus an evening of as-yet-unspecified entertainment hosted by actor Will Smith.

And a "Midnight Moment."

"It will not be something dropping from the air," says producer George Stevens Jr. "It will be something lighting up the sky."

The entire affair will be broadcast on CBS, which bought the rights for an undisclosed amount. It's part of three days of celebration including the unveiling of a National Time Capsule and performances over the weekend by Aretha Franklin, B.B. King, Chuck Berry and scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology labs.

Stevens denied reports that most Hollywood headliners already are spoken for on New Year's Eve, although officials acknowledge they are still trying to line up first-tier acts.

The estimated price tag: \$12.5 million, raised by fund-raiser Terry McAuliffe, who is also offering a \$1.3 million guarantee for the first family's new mortgage in Chappaqua, N.Y. About half of the celebration funds are in hand or promised.

Speaking of New York, Hillary Clinton didn't seem eager to field questions about why she plans to spend New Year's Eve in Washington if she's set on becoming a New Yorker for her expected Senate run next year. After posing with a model of the Mall, she left before reporters could ask about the possible political implications. Aides said she had to hurry to New York.

Not to worry, says former New York mayor Ed Koch. "There won't be any New Yorkers in Times Square," he said. "They'll be tourists."

Where will the natives be?

"Home," he says. "Watching TV."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 29, 1999

New Year's fete gets top talent

By Donna De Marco
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Will Smith, Aretha Franklin and Chuck Berry are scheduled to be among the headliners at this year's New Year's Eve party in Washington, the White House and millennium celebration officials announced yesterday.

America's Millennium, the group coordinating the party, hopes to finalize plans by mid-November, said Executive Director Paul McCarthy.

He also said the group, a cooperative effort among the White House, the Smithsonian, the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation, has secured half of the \$12.5 million in private funds needed to stage the three-day extravaganza.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will host the opening ceremony, where a national time capsule with artifacts representing how the nation lived will be revealed, at noon on Dec. 31.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to really unite our nation, to capture an extraordinary moment in American and human history," Mrs. Clinton said in announcing plans for the party yesterday.

Mr. Smith will be the master of ceremonies for the "America's Millennium Gala" — a three-hour New Year's Eve show produced by musician Quincy Jones and television and movie director George Stevens Jr.

The gala will take place at the Lincoln Memorial and be broadcast live on CBS beginning at 10 p.m. The producers are still lining up other performers for the event.

Director Steven Spielberg will present an 18-minute motion picture highlighting the 20th century at the Lincoln Memorial and on CBS beginning at 11:30 p.m.

The film, titled "The Unfinished Journey," with music by composer John Williams, will be shown on

two digital screens on either side of the Lincoln Memorial.

Also planned is a high-tech sound and light display between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. Mr. Stevens declined to give details.

"I think that's going to be something that will reveal itself at midnight," Mr. Stevens said. "But it will be in the sky and it will be inspiring."

He said the Lincoln Memorial was selected as the stage for the New Year's Eve event in part because of its historical significance — it was where black opera singer Marian Anderson performed when the Daughters of the American Revolution barred her from singing in Constitution Hall in 1939 and where Martin Luther King gave his "I have a dream" speech in 1963.

The Smithsonian will present an array of exhibitions at its "Millennium on the Mall" event that will run Dec. 31 to Jan. 2. Highlights are expected to include performances from Miss Franklin, Mr. Berry and former Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart.

"Millennium on the Mall" will also include other family oriented performances, lectures and demonstrations covering the worlds of music, art, literature, sports, science and technology. Children's book author Virginia Hamilton, song leader Ella Jenkins and other literary and scientific experts are scheduled to appear.

D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams also announced yesterday that the city will host a block party called Main Stream Millennium along Constitution Avenue on Dec. 31. That party will feature local and regional entertainment and food.

Officials said the number of people expected at the celebration could range from 100,000 to 1 million partyers.

■ This article is based in part on wire service reports.

AMERICA'S MILLENNIUM

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced plans yesterday for the America's Millennium celebration to usher in 2000:

Where: The Mall, from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol

Headliners: Will Smith, Aretha Franklin, Chuck Berry

Cost: \$12.5 million

Producers: George Stevens Jr., Quincy Jones

Highlights: "The Unfinished Journey," an 18-minute motion picture by director Steven Spielberg at 11:30 p.m.; high-tech display of sound, light and fireworks at midnight

By BRIAN BLOMQUIST *Post Correspondent*

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday sparked a New Year's Eve feud, saying she'll skip the Big Apple's party to be the queen of the millennium celebration in Washington.

The wannabe New York senator urged all Americans to join her for the D.C. gala, which will feature actor-rapper Will Smith as the host, singer Aretha Franklin, and the world premiere of a new film by Steven Spielberg, "The Unfinished Journey."

"That is what we will be doing this New Year's Eve," Mrs. Clinton said yesterday. "This will be no ordinary party."

Mrs. Clinton's campaign spokesman, Howard Wolfson, denied the Washington celebration was aiming to steal New York's thunder as the biggest party night of the year.

"I think there's more than enough room for two New Year's celebrations," Wolfson said.

But in the past, the nation's eyes — and the networks' cameras — have focused on the New York event, and now there's evidence that the star power and political-historical dimension of the D.C. party is diverting attention from the Times Square countdown.

CBS has agreed to televise the Washington party from 10 p.m. until its early-morning conclusion, planners of the D.C. gala said yesterday.

While the New York celebration will have its traditional ball drop — but this time with a Waterford Crystal ball — in Times Square, Washington's party will have a spectacular light and sound show (although planners won't give details).

Mayor Giuliani is set to push the button for the ball-drop in New York, along with a soon-to-be-named star or hero, according to planners with the Times Square Business Improvement District.

Produced by Quincy Jones and filmmaker George Stevens Jr., the millennium gala in Washington will take place in front of the Lincoln Memorial on The Mall.

Controversial Democratic fund-raiser Terry McAuliffe is helping Mrs. Clinton raise the \$12 million to pay for the gala. McAuliffe accompanied Mrs. Clinton yesterday at a Washington event to promote the party.

McAuliffe recently offered to plunk down \$1.35 million in collateral to help the Clintons buy their dream

She'll ring in the new century at D.C. gala

house in Chappaqua, although sources said the Clintons want to restructure the deal so that they can buy the house without their financial angel.

McAuliffe — the power behind the infamous White House coffees — also helped raise money for the Clintons' legal defense fund. President Clinton's 1996 re-election, the Democratic National Committee, Clinton's presidential library and Mrs. Clinton's campaign in New York.

Another key player is Spielberg, who has given big bucks to the Democratic Party and twice lent his Hamptons mansion to the Clintons — most recently when Hillary Clinton was out there raising campaign cash.

One highlight of the D.C. gala will be Spielberg's 18-minute movie, "The Unfinished Journey," which he's making with documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, historians Stephen Ambrose and Henry Louis Gates, and Oscar-winning composer John Williams.

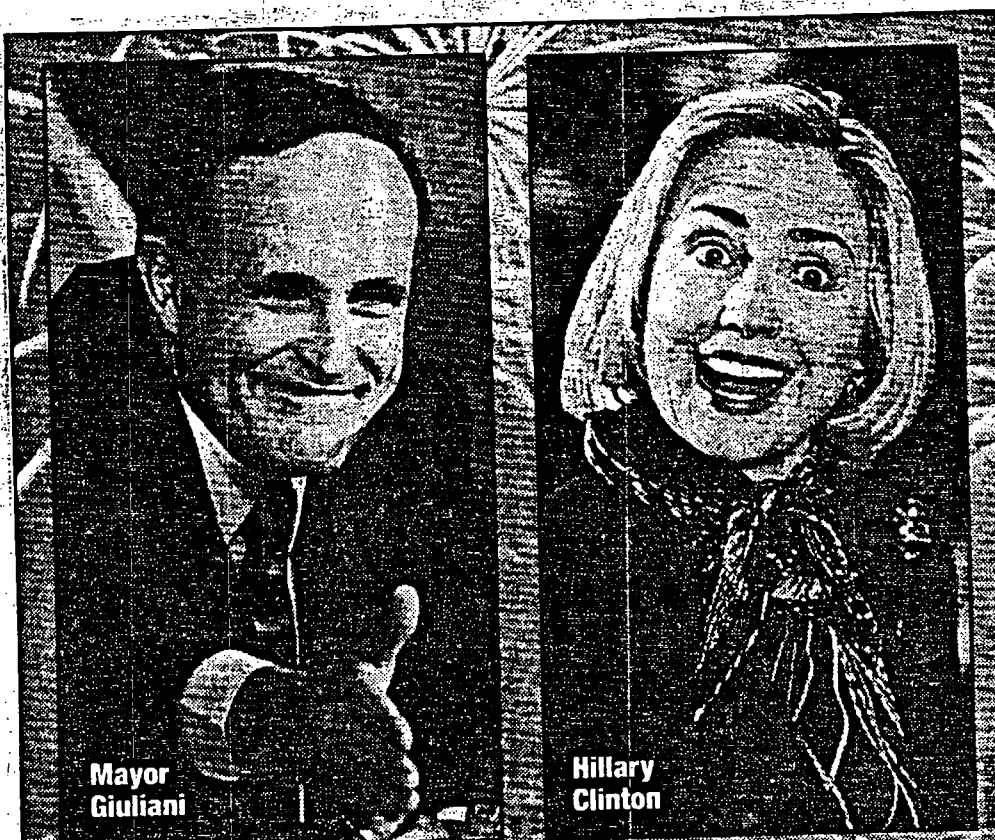
The other is the high-tech sound and light display that will take place at midnight between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

Washington usually is a low-key town on New Year's Eve compared to New York, but Berry said, "This is a special celebration."

"The music of our century rocking and rolling, swinging and soaring through the night air... I extend an invitation to all Americans," said Mrs. Clinton, who heads the White House millennium efforts.

HILLARY'S AWAY FOR OUR Y2K

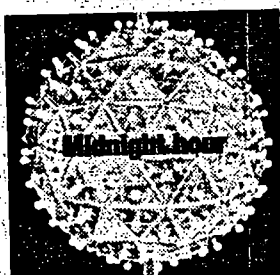
NEW YORK POST, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29



Millennium rivalry

New York

Traditional ball drop, but this time with new, 6-foot-wide Waterford Crystal ball, in Times Square.



Washington

Spectacular light and sound show on the National Mall from the Lincoln Memorial to the Washington Monument; the midnight marker is a mystery.

Mayor Giuliani

Special Political Host

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Unclear who will be the star or hero at Giuliani's side to push the button to drop the ball.

Star Host

Actor and rapper Will Smith

International. There will be celebrations each hour for people living around the world in different time zones, and each celebration will take on the theme of the place entering the new year. Expect to see a puppet of a 22-foot-long elephant in Times Square when the New Year arrives on the Indian subcontinent at 3 p.m. EST.

Tone of the celebration



Educational. Scientists and artists from the 20th century will be featured. A time capsule will be filled with artifacts and letters from children.

Elaborate puppets, including a Chinese dragon the size of a city bus, will perform to the changing themes.

Visual



The premiere of Steven Spielberg's (left) new 18-minute film, "The Unfinished Journey," about America and the 20th century.

Entertainment



Indigenous music; more than 400 dancers, actors, musicians and puppeteers from New York and around the world.

Aretha Franklin, Chuck Berry (with Clinton left), former Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart.