

PHOTOCOPY
RESERVATION

SCHEDULING REQUEST PROPOSAL

HATE CRIMES -
ADL Hatefilter

August 19, 1999

ACCEPT

REGRET

PENDING

TO:

Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President and
Director of Scheduling

FROM:

Ben Johnson
Assistant to the President and
Director, Office of the President's Initiative
for One America

REQUEST:

For the President to demonstrate the Anti-Defamation
League's "HateFilter". The HateFilter protects
children from getting onto hate sites inadvertently.

PURPOSE:

To combat the proliferation of hate and intolerance
through the internet and to highlight positive
campaigns to promote tolerance and non-violence.

DATE & TIME:

September 1999. Time TBD.

AUDIENCE:

Weekly Reader and *Scholastic Magazine* CEOs,
prominent children's advocates, educators, young
people, civil rights community and other groups
engaged in similar efforts.

BACKGROUND:

On August 12, 1999, the President met with key
leaders of the Jewish community, as part of his series
of outreach meetings with various constituencies.
The shootings at the Jewish Community Center in
Los Angeles was an important topic of discussion.
The President heard about the "HateFilter" that the
Anti-Defamation League had developed to combat
the effects of the explosion of hate sites on the
internet and expressed an interest in conducting a
White House demonstration.

During September, the President is sending out messages of tolerance to the 25 million young people who read the *Weekly Reader* and *Scholastic Magazine*. The proposed event will demonstrate a device that will assist parents in protecting their children from hate sites on the internet, as well as highlight the President's messages to young people.

In light of the recent rash of school violence and hate crimes, from Columbine to Bloomington to Los Angeles, it would be a timely message. The event would provide a spotlight on the many positive efforts that are happening across the country to fight intolerance and violence. It would be ideal to tie the demonstration to the timing of the publications of the Presidential messages to young people and to the overall "back to school" season.

DURATION:	1 hour.
RECOMMENDED BY:	Ben Johnson.
CONTACT:	Ben Johnson x 65189.
ORIGIN OF THIS PROPOSAL:	Staff and the Anti-Defamation League

8-17-99

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Copied:
Johnson
Podesta

August 13, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

p.1 to Podesta

FROM: BEN JOHNSON

SUBJECT: OFFICE ON THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE FOR ONE AMERICA
WEEKLY REPORT

ACTIONS

Outreach Meeting with Jewish Leaders: Prior to your meeting with Jewish leaders, I met with them to discuss how we could work together to prevent similar incidents like the tragic shootings in Los Angeles. We agreed to collaborate on issues of race, ethnicity, and justice. They indicated that they would redouble their efforts in support of stronger gun control measures and hate crimes legislation. The office is currently working to place tolerance and diversity messages on all hate sites on the internet.

Incidentally, I understand that you got an opportunity hear about the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) hate filter. September would be a great time for you to demonstrate how the filter works. We could set something up around the time you will be communicating your tolerance message to millions of teenagers via Scholastic Magazine and grade school children through the Weekly Reader.

Black Farmers: As you are aware, the National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) demonstrated against the Department of Agriculture (USDA). They claim that the Department is moving too slowly in processing the claims of black farmers who had opted out of the Pigford Class and in changing procedures for distributing land in inventory. The farmers also feel that the Department is failing to adequately finance the outreach programs for black farmers. According to USDA, only 15 of the 185 farmers who opted out had pending claims that could be processed. Offers are being made or will be made to them within the next 30-45 days.

On the day of the demonstration, the USDA Civil Rights Director met with 30 representatives of the farmers and advised them that no changes had been made relative to land in inventory. She then met individually with 11 farmers who had complaints or wanted to discuss implementation of their settlement agreements. Additionally, several members of the CBC, including Congressman Clyburn, are lobbying for Rev. Joe Lowery to be appointed to the position of Monitor. This position was established by the class action settlement agreement.

C. Podesta
need to
put
them on
this



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ARNOLD FORSTER

August 13, 1999

Mr. Ben Johnson

Asst. to the President & Director,

The White House Office of the President's Initiative for One America
Old Executive Office Building - Room 468
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ben:

As always, it was a pleasure speaking with you this afternoon. I spoke with our Los Angeles Director, David Lehrer, and he is forwarding a written piece about Sunday's Unity Rally to you before the end of the day.

As I mentioned to you, we were very pleased that at yesterday's meeting with Jewish leaders the President expressed interest in conducting a demonstration of the ADL HateFilter for the Press. Tying the demonstration to the timing of the *Weekly Reader* letter, as well as the overall "back-to-school" season is ideal. We are ready to move forward with whatever is necessary from our end to make this happen. Let's touch base after you have discussed the idea with Ann Lewis.

So my friend, I hope you get to grab that vacation we spoke about soon and relax a bit. I look forward to speaking with you in the near future (my direct line is 212-885-7801). Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Caryl

Caryl M. Stern-LaRosa

Director, Education Division

& the ADL A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Institute

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 21, 1999

Dear Students:

I am delighted to welcome you back to school. As we approach the year 2000, it's a particularly exciting time to be a student in America. I hope that all of you will take advantage of the many opportunities your schools have to offer.

Many young people have written to me over the past few months about the gun violence that has occurred in our nation's schools. I believe that everyone deserves schools that are safe and secure, and, as your President, I am working with members of Congress and your state and local leaders to find ways to prevent such violence in the future.

You can help us by talking with your parents, teachers, and friends about your concerns and ideas for making things better. Include people of all backgrounds in your activities, and learn about cultures and interests that are different from your own. We all need one another, and we must learn from and respect one another.

Thank you for doing your part, and best wishes for a productive and safe school year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 19, 1999

Dear Students:

I am delighted to sending my greetings. As we approach a new millennium, it's a rewarding time to be a student. I hope that all of you will take advantage of the many opportunities your schools have to offer.

Many young people have written to me over the past few months about the incidents of gun violence in our nation's schools. Everyone deserves schools that are safe and secure, and, as your President, I am working with members of Congress and your state and local leaders to find ways to prevent such violence in the future.

While we do this, it is important for you to tell your parents, teachers, and friends your concerns and ideas for making things better. Speak up in disapproval when you hear intolerant comments. Include people of all backgrounds in your activities, and learn about cultures that are different from your own. We all need one another, and we must help and respect one another.

We can do great things for our fellow citizens, our country, and ourselves if we break down barriers and reach out our hands. Thank you for doing your part, and best wishes for a productive and safe school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

PETER E. BERGEN
PRESIDENT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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pbergen@weeklyreader.com

Mr. Ben Johnson
Director of the President's
Initiative for One America
White House
Washington, D.C.
20502

April 28, 1999

Dear Mr. Johnson,

It was a pleasure speaking with you yesterday. Weekly Reader would be pleased to participate in communicating the President's message to America's children.

Our suggestion would be to insert a letter from the President on White House stationery in the Weekly Reader "bundles" that go directly to classrooms. This letter could then be read by the teacher to the class or photocopied for distribution to all students. Due to the sensitive nature of the terrible tragedy in Colorado, our recommendation would be to insert the letter only for grades 4 and above.

Unfortunately, our publishing schedule for the current school year has already closed. Therefore, we propose inserting the letter in the first issue of the '99 -'00 school year in early September. This might be a particularly appropriate time to insert a positive message on the importance of communication between parents and children, the safety of schools, etc. Perhaps there could even be a suggestion to set up a welcoming committee so that new students wouldn't feel ostracized or isolated.

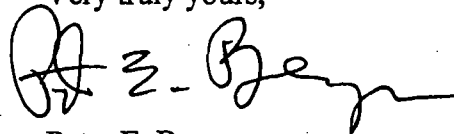
While it would be very difficult to get any print materials into classrooms before September, we would be happy to make our Web site (weeklyreader.com) available to the President. This could be done quite quickly. Students, teachers, and parents have access to the *Weekly Reader* Galaxy Web site daily and we would be happy to present a message from the President.

I'm attaching copies of the Weekly Reader publications whose audience we feel would be appropriate for the President's message.

Mr. Ben Johnson
April 28, 1999
Page Two

I'll be out of the office most of next week, but can certainly be reached by telephone.
Please let me know if you have any questions, or comments on how Weekly Reader can
be of service.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. E. Bergen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "B".

Peter E. Bergen
President / CEO

June 29, 1999

Mr. Ben Johnson
Assistant to the President
Director of the President's Initiative on One America
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

SCHOLASTIC INC.
555 Broadway
New York, NY
10012-3999
(212) 343-6100

Dear Mr. Johnson:

We would like to invite the President to write an open letter to the 10 million teen readers of Scholastic classroom magazines on the issues of tolerance and diversity. We would hope to include this letter as the anchor and opening piece in a special section we are preparing for our readers, for fall publication, in the aftermath of the Littleton tragedy.

Scholastic has provided extensive coverage of Littleton and prior school shooting incidents in many of our magazines. As you know, we address the importance of tolerance and diversity as a fundamental focus of our editorial mission. However, nothing would be more meaningful to our readers – teachers and students alike – than a message from the President to help them discuss their feelings about Littleton and to look ahead to this tragedy's important lesson for individuals and for our society.

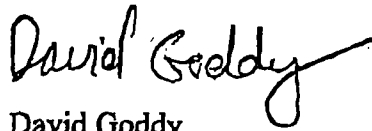
A bit more by way of background: Shortly after the Littleton shooting, we sent two of our top editors to Colorado to interview dozens of people affected by the tragedy. Among those interviewed were parents and students who lost relatives to gunfire, students who witnessed the shooting from the library floor, clergy who have counseled the bereaved, and teachers and principals at the four high schools in the area. Scholastic's editors returned with hundreds of pages of dramatic and moving personal stories. More than that, they returned with a message that we must empower our young readers with a sense of understanding and hope.

In the special section, we will seek to help readers think critically about themselves and others, to develop healthy strategies to address anger and misunderstanding, and to focus on solutions. The special section will be supported and extended by a major special report on our Web site.

We would be delighted to explore with you further our invitation for the President's involvement and to hear your comments about our proposed special section. He has contributed to our magazines in the past and his messages have been greatly appreciated by teachers, students and parents. Thanks so much for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Robinson
President, Chief Executive Officer
and Chairman of the Board


David Goddy
Vice President, Editor-in-Chief
Scholastic Magazines

cc: Karen Finney
Chief of Staff, Office of the President



8-16-99

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Reed
Counsel
Podesta

Reed's Committee

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speech legal? -

Be

HATE CROWDS

Internet

(and add the ~~pp~~
pages on the ADF's
(Hatefilter to this))

diplomats, a simple caring family who are leaders in the community, helping others cope with life."

The service was attended by more than 350 including scores of uniformed postal workers, each carrying a single white rose.

In a gesture that displayed the impact of the shooting on the city and the nation, the service was also attended by Rabbi Lawrence Goldmark, the head of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, and by Congressman Brad Sherman, who read letters of condolence from President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and California Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.

Ileto, who was Filipino-American, was gunned down by Furrow after the white supremacist opened fire on the North Valley Jewish Center, wounding three young children, a teenager and a grandmother.

Villanueva said because of his death, "the world will remember that racial hatred is a terrible thing."

Synagogue Defaced, Police Call it Copy-Cat Crime By Joe Mozingo

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES Congregants arriving at a synagogue in East Hollywood on Saturday were confronted with a swastika and the words "Jews die," spray painted on the front of the building.

Many of those who attend services at Temple Knesset Israel are elderly Holocaust survivors who were horrified by the act of hatred. Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department documented the vandalism and will pass on the information to department's Criminal Conspiracy Section.

"I believe its a copy-cat thing, somebody wants a little press," said Sgt. Sanford Rosenberg, referring to last week's shooting at a Jewish community center in Granada Hills.

He said whoever committed the crime would be charged with felony vandalism for defacing a place of worship and would face increased penalties for committing a hate crime. In the temple's mailbox, officers also found a letter that appeared to be anti-British.

"It doesn't make any sense," one officer said. The letter was confusing, at times saying the British were going to start interning people, she said.

The temple's president, Harvey Shield, is British.

Shield said that in light of the incident he will hire a private security guard for the Holy days in September. Earlier last week, when congregants suggested increasing security after Tuesday's shooting, he said he was reluctant to do so. "My initial response was: 'Let's not overreact so quickly,'" he said. "Now there is no question about it."

Police said they would step up patrols in the area.

The painted letters, scrawled at the entrance to the preschool, were about six feet high. The doors to the temple itself have gates in front of them, making it difficult for potential vandals to reach them, but worshipers could easily see the hateful message as they stepped inside. Shield said about a dozen people saw the swastika before police painted over it.

Hate Group Chat Rooms Full of Static, Little Agreement By Stephen Braun and John Beckham

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON On the web pages and Internet chat rooms that serve as all-night echo chambers for the rants of white supremacists, Buford Furrow's "wake up call to America" may not have roused racists quite as passionately as he had hoped.

At WhitePrideNet a web site that carries a monolithic black graphic of a steel cross and a fiery quote from German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche a recently added "news flash" was blunt in its response to Furrow's alleged shooting Tuesday of three children and two staffers at the Granada Hills Jewish Community Center.

"An act of stupidity carried out by a lunatic," sniffed the site's owner.

From the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing in 1996 through last month's Midwest killing spree by white supremacist Benjamin Smith, neo-Nazi and racist computer devotees have used the Internet as an instant sounding board to fawn over and quibble about the murderous acts committed by their brethren.

But their reactions are rarely unified, a fragmentation as disjointed as the supremacists' volatile belief systems evident again in the days since Furrow walked into the FBI's Las Vegas office to surrender.

"They can't stop talking about it, but they can't seem to agree on what it means," said Jordan Kessler, an Internet monitor for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith who spent seven hours Friday snooping on hate group Web sites from his New York office. "You hear everything from 'Buford's a hero' to 'He's hurt the movement.' What you don't hear is any shred of regret, guilt or shame."

As some skinheads argued in chat rooms this week over whether Furrow was a secret government agent or simply a "punk" who walked "sheepishly into the FBI office UNARMED," as one anonymous messenger grouched, more vitriolic extremists were hailing Furrow for purposely targeting innocents.

From his Nationalist Observer Web site, San Diego neo-Nazi militant Alex Curtis beckoned followers to a hotline phone number trumpeting his approval of Furrow's "lone wolf" tactics. Furrow, who once worked as a security guard at the Aryan Nations compound in Hayden Lake, Idaho, reportedly told FBI agents that he had stormed the day care center as a "wake-up call to America to kill Jews."

"This is known as the hit-and-run," Curtis oozed in faux-radio announcer mode over his hotline, "and will probably become a favorite among Aryan combatants."

Internet hate sites have mushroomed from a mere handful just four years ago to nearly 245 these days, said Joe Roy, who directs intelligence operations for the Southern Poverty Law Center, a watchdog group that monitors and pursues legal actions against neo-Nazi and Ku Klux Klan factions. Racist-oriented chat groups which often are difficult to monitor and record because their members are quick to challenge strangers who roam into their meetings have proliferated so quickly, "there's no way to know how many there are," Roy said.

So-called "white pride" sites now commingle in a thriving Gothic wasteland that mirrors the Internet's mainstream growth. Supremacists can plug into a dizzying array of options buy martial anthems from skinhead rock groups like Berserker and No Remorse, download scores of "Jew jokes" and print out designs for anti-Semitic "cyber tattoos."

Some sites offer sound bites of rhetoric from the short-wave radio broadcasts of such race-obsessed Christian Identity pastors as James Wixstrom and Pete Peters. James Latham, a Costa Rica-based monitor for Radio for Peace International who taps into weekly broadcasts aired by nine right-wing extremist stations, said Peters and other white supremacists "typically go into denial after these kinds of crimes. They'll turn it around and say it was the government who set up the whole thing."

Just hours after police and media reports began linking the chaotic Granada Hills shooting scene to Furrow and his neo-Nazi past, racist chat groups were seething with arguments and anonymous calls for more violence.

On the "AltPolitics.White-Power" news group, a writer who identified himself as "David Johnson" issued this invective:

"Be afraid, Jewboy, let the executions begin...All Jews in Amerika must leave or die."

Because news groups are open to anyone, the message was soon answered by a flurry of furious replies. "Yes, and you can keep showing us how 'superior' you are by shooting some more grannies and preschoolers," mocked "anOOmie." Only one other racist joined in to support Johnson, and he too was quickly overwhelmed by Web "flames."

At night, however, in the secrecy of more guarded chat rooms on the Internet Relay Channels, white supremacist sympathizers with pseudonyms like "Dr. Mengele" and "Aryna" talked openly about their admiration for Furrow even if some questioned his timing, tactics and targets.

On a "KKK" chat room on the IRC the Web's unchaperoned real-time meeting rooms conversations seethed with arguments and anonymous calls for more violence. Near midnight Thursday, a white supremacist who called himself "Modulus" wondered if "people are starting to wake up," perhaps prodded by the Granada Hills shootings.

"I guess I'm a pessimist," replied "DeadNextDoor." "I only see it martyring the Jews even more."

A few minutes later, both of them chirped brightly about how to hasten Armageddon.

Modulus: "We must start killing more powerful Jews with help from the CIA."

DeadNextDoor: "I agree ... but we'd have to kill them in droves ... or be very selective about who we aced."

Suddenly, a "KKK" site guardian who signed on as "Surviv" warned: "Stop it 'bout the killing here or be banned." Even in such free-access sites, it seemed, some extremists worry that heated talk of racist murder might jeopardize their access to the web.

Despite such cautions, their presence on the Internet is unshakable. Kessler laments that obscure klan groups and neo-Nazi sects that once had difficulty paying for newsletters for their own sparse membership can now "beam out their drivel to 100,000,000" Web users.

Columbine High Tries to Quietly Welcome Back Students

By Julie Cart

Los Angeles Times

LITTLETON, Colo. Officials at Columbine High School have gone to great lengths to ensure Monday's back-to-school ritual comes off just like a normal school day. Although normal hasn't been seen here in some months, it's the tranquil state this suburban campus yearns to return to.

To that end, the reopening of the once-crippled school will meld traditional welcome-back greetings with a pep rally aimed at "Taking Back the School" banishing images of the shooting and bombing rampage on April 20 that left 15 dead and catapulted Columbine into the international spotlight.

School officials insist they will set the tone for the year and conduct the day's rally, flag raising and ribbon cutting with as much privacy as they can gain.

While the school may look the same to the arriving students, much has been altered beyond the repairs to bullet- and bomb-