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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Tom F.
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January 11, 2000

The Honorable Stephanie Street
Assistant to the President and
Director of Presidential Scheduling
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Stephanie:

I hope that this note finds you well. It was wonderful to see you at Michael's event last week! I was so happy to have the chance to catch up with you and hear all the fun news about your own upcoming event...

I also want to formally follow up on our brief conversation about the possibility of the President meeting with the top winners (appx. 50) of Scholastic Art & Writing Awards at the White House on Friday, June 16, 2000.

The Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, similar to this President's administration, share a dedication to provide all children with the tools to succeed and thrive in today's competitive environment. The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, a not-for-profit organization, is a national program that nurtures artistic talent among students in grades 7-12 by recognizing and rewarding their achievements in the visual and literary arts through the administration of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, launched in 1923 by Scholastic Inc., are the largest and longest-running recognition programs for creative young people in this country.

The Alliance for Young Artists and Writers will celebrate the most talented young American artists and writers of the 2000 award winners at a ceremony held at the Kennedy Center on June 17, 2000. The Alliance would be honored if on Friday, June 16, 2000, the day prior to the ceremony, President Clinton would be able to briefly meet with the key winners and their families at the White House and recognize their accomplishments. The group would be made up of approximately 50 people including the top winners, their parents, teacher and key representatives from the Alliance.

As I mentioned to you in our conversation, the past few years Mrs. Clinton has met with the group at the White House, but the Alliance was hoping that this year the President would be able to meet with them.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have provided an important forum for American youngsters whose exceptional talents are often unrecognized by their parents, teachers, and home communities. Because their work is evaluated by some of the country's most accomplished artists and writers, these students understand—many of them for the first time—that they have exceptional talent in a field that is increasingly more important to the future of this country. This recognition is vital not only because it validates their efforts, providing significant encouragement for the pursuit of their creative goals, but also because it builds enormous confidence as they navigate the waters of adolescence. Indeed, many of our awardees have cited the receipt of their Scholastic Award as a major turning point in their lives. Some of the most renowned recipients of Scholastic Awards include: Richard Avedon, Truman Capote, Frances Farmer, Joyce Maynard, Joyce Carol Oates, Robert Redford, David Salle and Andy Warhol.

As one of the premier recognition programs for young people today, The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards offer affirmation for the value of creative excellence that is unequalled. The Awards receive broad local participation throughout the United States, benefiting from a network of 80 regional sponsors who administer the program in local communities. This diverse network identifies and gathers local resources to provide information and feedback to the national office. Each of these local programs identifies and supports the needs of the students and teachers in that community, while ultimately fulfilling the unifying goals of the national organization.

The President of the United States serves as one of the most powerful role models for these young Americans who will be shaping the future of culture, art and design in this new millennium. President Clinton's recognition and validation of these kids during this special few days would only inspire and encourage the future efforts of these winning students as well as their parents and teachers.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. We here at Scholastic hope that the President's schedule would allow him to be a part of this exciting and truly inspirational celebration of America's creative young talent.

Again, I really appreciate your assistance with this request. Please give me a call with any questions. In the meantime, I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tracy LaBrecque Davis', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tracy LaBrecque Davis

Cc: Bibb Hubbard